



PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH COOPERATIVE GROUP



Congratulations to the 2015 PCRC Pilot Awardees: Dr. Nipp and Dr. LeBlanc!

After a number of strong pilot applications were reviewed for the 2015 Pilot Award Program, we are thrilled to congratulate Dr. Ryan Nipp (Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center) and Dr. Tom LeBlanc (Duke University School of Medicine) on their PCRC Investigator Development Pilot Grants!

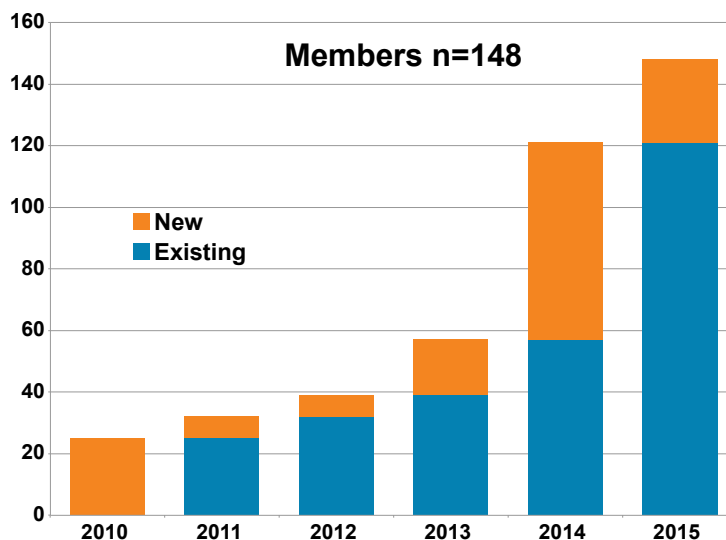
Dr. Nipp's project entitled, *The Impact of Age on Early Palliative Care for Patients with Advanced Lung and Non-Colorectal Gastrointestinal Malignancies*, will perform a secondary analysis of data collected from an ongoing RCT of early palliative care (PC) integrated with standard oncology care versus standard oncology care alone in patients with advanced lung and non-colorectal gastrointestinal malignancies. Given the urgent need to determine which patients benefit most from early palliative care, Dr. Nipp and team aim to determine if age moderates the benefits of early PC. By identifying age differences in the response to early PC, their goal is to begin to address the need to prioritize limited palliative care resources where they are most likely to help. Additionally, an understanding of how age impacts patients' response to early PC will aid in our ability to develop interventions targeted to elderly patients with cancer. Results from this study will inform a larger proposal to understand how best to care for older adults with cancer. Congratulations, Dr. Nipp!

Dr. LeBlanc's project entitled, *Identifying Palliative Care Needs Through Patient-Reported Distress in Myelodysplastic Syndromes: A Retrospective Cohort Study*, aims to describe the unique palliative care needs of patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) for the purpose of informing subsequent interventional studies that will improve quality of care, quality of life, and access to palliative care in this population. To characterize palliative care needs of patients suffering with MDS, Dr. LeBlanc and team propose a retrospective cohort study of patient-reported distress. Distress may have particular effects on successful management of cancer through reducing adherence to therapy and negatively impacting patients'

decision making capacity. Distress has even been associated with reduced survival in patients with cancer. As such, "distress" has recently emerged as a key outcome measure for the quality of comprehensive cancer care. However, the extent and impact of distress in patients with MDS is unknown. Results from this study will inform a larger proposal to impact the palliative care needs of patients with MDS. Congrats, Dr. LeBlanc!

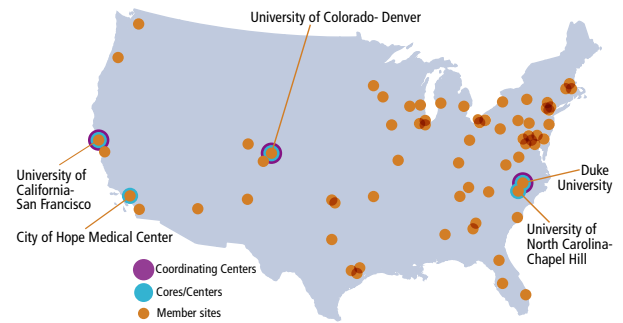
PCRC is Growing – Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our newest PCRC Members – we are so happy you are a part of our growing community, and we look forward to working with you! To access the full list of PCRC Members, visit: <http://palliativecareresearch.org/members/roster/>.



Increasing Number and Diversity of PCRC sites

We are thrilled that PCRC resources and infrastructure continue to expand! The diversity of sites and patient populations across PCRC sites helps investigators meet their goals for population diversity, including, but not limited to: ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and geographic diversity. Investigators should be aware that as part of the NINR U24 cooperative agreement with the PCRC, selection of PCRC sites is not specified prior to submission of grant applications and review. However, and in line with cooperative group research, PCRC multi-site access is assured through a PCRC Letter of Support (post Scientific Review and Steering Committee approval). Want to know more about conducting research with the PCRC? Please visit our website: <http://palliativecarersearch.org/research/investigators/>



PCRC STUDY LISTINGS

Study Title	Type	Status	Funding
Patient-Reported Distress in Myelodysplastic Syndromes	Retrospective Cohort	Protocol Development	PCRC 2015 Pilot Award (NINR U24)
Early Palliative Care for Advanced Lung and Non-Colorectal Malignancies	Randomized Controlled Trial (Secondary Analysis)	Protocol Development	PCRC 2015 Pilot Award (NINR U24)
Statin Discontinuation	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)	Secondary Analyses	National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR UC4 & U24)
Pharmacovigilance	Quality	Active; initial sites	CLHC, UC GIM & UCSF*
Best Supportive Care	Implementation	Enrollment Complete	American Cancer Society (ACS)
QDACT-PCRC	Quality	Active	Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)
Statin Guidelines & Practice Patterns	Survey	Active	PCRC 2014 Pilot Award
Pancreatic Care Planning	Intervention	Active	PCRC 2014 Pilot Award
Anticoagulation Therapy	Retrospective Chart Review	Active	PCRC 2014 Pilot Award
Family Experiences of ICU Transfers	Qualitative (Prospective interview)	Active	PCRC 2014 Pilot Award
Caregiver Assisted Pain-Management	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)	Active	NINR R01
Pediatric Social Support	Intervention	Active	NINR R01
Caregiver Support for Pts w. Lung Cancer	Intervention	Active	NINR R01

* Duke University's Center for Learning Health Care, University of Colorado's Division of General Internal Medicine and University of California San Francisco's Division of Geriatrics

Funding Opportunities

Extramural Grant Funding Opportunity

We are pleased to share the news that the NINR Notice of Intent (NOI) to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Exploratory Multi-site Palliative Care Research in Diverse Populations Utilizing the Palliative Care Research Cooperative (PCRC) Group (R21) has been released: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-NR-15-003.html>. The FOA is expected to be published in September 2015 with an expected application due date in November 2015.

Interested investigators should first contact the NINR program officer for this NOI. **Please note that a required PCRC Letter of Intent (LOI) in response to this funding opportunity will need to be submitted as a first step for collaborating with the PCRC.** Stay tuned for updates regarding the PCRC LOI deadline. If you have PCRC questions related to this funding opportunity, please contact Carey Candrian at carey.candrian@ucdenver.edu.

There will be an important informational webinar regarding the Funding Opportunity Announcement:

When: Tuesday, July 28, 2015, 10:00 am (2 hrs), Eastern DT
Join the Meeting here: <https://webmeeting.ucsf.edu/orion/joinmeeting.do?ED=PRvdRzwe9DUWFrFV7dtfpA==>

Access Code: 994 189 110

Audio dial in: +1 415-514-1000 (or you may use computer speakers/microphone)

NOTE: You must have the WebEx Meeting plugin downloaded to your computer in order for WebEx to work. The first time you start or join a meeting, it is automatically downloaded to your computer or can be run as a temporary application. We strongly encourage you to test WebEx before the webinar. To download the plugin or to confirm that you're able to successfully join, click here: <http://www.webex.com/test-meeting.html>

Thank you, Amy Abernethy, and good luck!!

On behalf of the entire PCRC community, we thank Amy Abernethy, founding Principal Investigator of the PCRC, for her ongoing commitment and dedication to enhancing palliative care and end of life research. Amy was instrumental

in envisioning, obtaining funding for, and all aspects of the foundational work that has made the PCRC the resource that it is today. Thank you, Amy, for your vision, innovation, and indomitable spirit! We wish you well in your new ventures and thank you for your continued support.



Pilot Grant Funding Opportunity

We are happy to announce that a new Pilot Grant Funding Opportunity entitled, PCRC Investigator Development Pilot Award Program: Supporting Investigator Development for Building the Science of Palliative Care, has been released. The FOA can be found on the PCRC website: <http://palliativecareresearch.org/funding/funding-opportunities/pilot-funding/>

The goal of the PCRC pilot awards is to provide seed funding for future research activities through the PCRC. Additionally, the awards will offer opportunities for investigators to participate in investigator development activities and be mentored/supported by senior investigators in the field.

Eligibility:

- At least one of the Principal Investigators must be a PCRC member (Full or Junior Investigator Member). To become a PCRC member, please complete an application online (<http://palliativecareresearch.org/members/interested-in-pcrc-membership/>).
- **The Principal Investigator or at least one member of the applicant team must be a Junior Investigator.** The PCRC defines Junior Investigators as individuals who are either at an early stage of their careers or are more senior and have been involved in professional activities unrelated to palliative care research and seek greater research competence and involvement in high-impact, high-quality, collaborative palliative care research.

Key dates:

- Interest Letters are due August 10, 2015 @ 5pm Pacific
- Applications due September 4, 2015 @ 5pm Pacific
- Earliest start date is February 1, 2016 (12-month projects)

If you have questions related to this funding opportunity, please contact Carey Candrian at carey.candrian@ucdenver.edu

PCRC on Social Media

If you haven't already, please stay in touch and follow us on Twitter @PCRCGroup and like us on Facebook: PCRCGroup.

We like staying connected!

www.palliativecareresearch.org



pcrc@duke.edu



[@pcrcgroup](https://twitter.com/pcrcgroup)



[pcrcgroup](https://www.facebook.com/pcrcgroup)

