

University of Kansas Cancer Center Launches Midwest Cancer Alliance to Advance Cancer Prevention and Care Across Heartland Region

to improve access to advanced cancer care and foster collaboration across the region, the University of Kansas Cancer Center announces the launch of the Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA).

The MCA capitalizes on KU's strengths in cancer basic, translational, and clinical research by creating a network of hospitals, cancer care practices, and cancer support organizations to enhance access to cutting-edge prevention methods and treatments and increase access to clinical trials that can be delivered at the community level.

"Our goal for this alliance is to make available cutting-edge prevention studies, screening and early detection methods, clinical trials, and treatment options to community oncologists and physicians so that they can provide the best cancer care to their patients right at home," said Gary C. Doolittle, MD, Medical Director of the MCA. "By collaborating and working together, we can reduce the burden of cancer on the Heartland region."

The MCA is a membership-based cancer networking, education, and clinical trials organization serving Kansas and western Missouri. It serves as the outreach arm for the University of Kansas Cancer Center and ensures the advances achieved in the University of Kansas Cancer Center's research laboratories and clinics benefit patients close to home. Hospitals and physician groups are invited to join as community partners, clinical research partners, or major clinical research partners. Depending on the level joined, members have access to a variety of benefits.

All members have access to second-opinion and consultation services, networking events and conferences, outreach programs, and continuing education programs and resources. Clinical research partners and major clinical research partners are eligible to enroll patients at their site in various clinical trials sponsored by the MCA.

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ROY JENSEN, MD, Director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, recognizes that the Midwest Cancer Alliance is an integral part of the cancer center's quest to obtain National Cancer Institute's Designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"To obtain the NCI's prestigious Designation, we must show strong outreach capabilities," Jensen said. "The Midwest Cancer Alliance is the vehicle that helps us fulfill our vision of keeping patients close to home without compromising their access to advanced cancer care."

Ultimately, the MCA allows patients to have better access to advanced cancer care without having to travel far for their care. Cancer care professionals will benefit by having access to more innovative clinical trials and expanding their knowledge base of cancer care by collaborating with others.

The MCA is supported financially by the University of Kansas Cancer Center, membership annual fees, grants, and donations from community and corporate organizations and individuals.

