Hoosier Cancer Research Network’s vision and mission is to form unparalleled relationships between academic, community, pharmaceutical, and biotech collaborators with the goal of advancing cancer research, education, and patient advocacy.

Our highly qualified team provides comprehensive study management and support, from conception and study design through project completion and publication.
For the majority of its 35-year history, Hoosier Cancer Research Network (HCRN) has been one of the best kept secrets in clinical oncology research. Through steady leadership and a responsive organizational structure, HCRN has quietly navigated decades of change in the field of oncology, always keeping the needs of our members at the very heart of our mission and goals. We adapt as nimbly as any organization, yet we remain rooted by our founders’ vision to serve as an unparalleled resource for conducting multi-center investigator-initiated research.

Well, times have changed, and the secret is out. HCRN has become the go-to multi-site collaborator for many of the nation’s top oncology researchers. Just walk the poster aisles or browse the schedule at any of the nation’s top oncology meetings, and we are there.

What is the key to our success? At the risk of sounding cliché, I would argue that it is our people. The staff of HCRN are an exceptional group of research professionals who bring a wide range of expertise to the organization. We have legal and contracting professionals who understand the intricacies and challenges of multi-party research contracts, and budgeting staff who ensure accurate and realistic expectations are set from the start. We have oncology nurses and certified research professionals who work with investigators to draft protocols and manage our clinical trials. We have an expert data team that creates customized databases and validation processes for each study. Our data managers and monitors work closely with our participating sites to ensure data is timely and of the highest quality. Our safety and regulatory staff expertly navigate the many facets of FDA submissions, IRB reviews, SAE reporting, and DSMC management. We have correlative staff who work with our investigators to extract as much knowledge as possible from the samples our patients so graciously donate to advancing scientific research.

Our staff come to us from a wide range of backgrounds and professional experiences. Yes, we have expertise. But we also have heart. Our staff come to HCRN with a desire to make a difference, and to use their talents for the good of all cancer patients. Years in the clinic or the CRO have prepared them well for this service.

When you bring together a group of motivated, compassionate, highly qualified experts under the roof of an organization that has a proven record of success and the ability to adapt to change as well as HCRN does — you just can’t keep it a secret. I applaud the HCRN staff, our member sites and investigators, our funders, and our supporters, for making 2018 the best in our 35-year history. Job well done!
Hoosier Cancer Research Network enjoys a unique synergy with our research collaborators that few others can claim. An Indiana-based nonprofit organization with a nationwide impact, HCRN operates at a crossroads where the interests of academic institutions, health networks, and industry funders merge to create a shared avenue for the development, management, and publication of novel oncology research.

We have done this work for 35 years, and by all measures, we have never done it better than we do now. I want to thank our member investigators, study teams, and the hard-working staff at HCRN for a record-breaking year of activity. Our accomplishments would not be possible without your shared commitment and collaboration.

I would like to encourage all of our members to continue bringing your colleagues and collaborators to HCRN. Your expertise and the full-service operations at HCRN are a powerful combination. We look forward to continuing to provide exceptional research services in 2019 and in the years to come.

Following are a few highlights from our unprecedented year of growth:

**Record numbers of investigators and member sites**

- **253 investigators** are members of HCRN clinical trial working groups.
- **70 academic institutions** are HCRN members.
- **61 health networks and independent clinics** are HCRN members.

**Record engagement with working groups and funders**

- **37 Clinical Trial Working Group calls and meetings** were held in 2018.
- **24 funders** (pharmaceutical, biotech, and other organizations) supported HCRN-managed studies.

**Record numbers of approved LOIs, CTAs, open studies, and accruals**

- **13 LOIs** received budget and protocol approval.
- **20 clinical trial agreements** were fully executed.
- **40 studies** managed by HCRN were open to accrual at the end of 2018.
- **634 subjects enrolled** in studies managed by HCRN.
Clinical Trial Working Groups

Gastrointestinal CTWG

Co-chairs

Steven J. Cohen, MD
Abingdon – Jefferson Health

Bassel El-Rayes, MD
Emory University

Autumn J. McRee, MD
University of North Carolina

“The aim of the GI group is to provide innovative clinical trials that introduce new therapeutic options for patients. The group is very collegial and has a strong focus on mentoring junior investigators in designing and conducting clinical trials.”

Bassel El-Rayes, MD

HCRN GI Studies Enrolling in 2018

GI14-198
Phase II Randomized, Double-Blind Study of mFOLFIRINOX Plus Ramucirumab versus mFOLFIRINOX plus placebo in Advanced Pancreatic Cancer Patients.
Sponsor-Investigator: Walid Shaib, MD, Emory University

GI15-225
A Pilot Study of Pembrolizumab in Combination With Y90 Radioembolization in Subjects With Poor Prognosis Hepatocellular Carcinoma With Preserved Liver Function.
Sponsor-Investigator: Autumn McRee, MD, University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

GI16-288
A Phase II Trial of Perioperative CV301 Vaccination in Combination With Nivolumab and Systemic Chemotherapy for Resectable Hepatic-Limited Metastatic Colorectal Cancer.
Sponsor-Investigator: Darren Carpizo, MD, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

GI CTWG
at a glance

60+ members

40+ institutions represented

More Info:
hoosiercancer.org/gi
"The genitourinary group has continued to get stronger and stronger with the addition of young investigators who are incredibly enthusiastic about bringing their concepts forward. The environment is supportive, and we work to ensure that the concepts are refined as much as possible on the calls and really make it a true working group. Our focus has been on small- to moderate-size studies that are designed to answer practical questions that are critical to informing the landscape of treatments for genitourinary cancers."

Matthew Galsky, MD

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**GU CTWG at a glance**

- 70+ members
- 50+ institutions represented

**More Info:**
hoosiercancer.org/gu

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**GU14-288**

*Late-Breaking Poster Discussion*  
**ESMO 2018**

*Presented by:*  
Christopher J. Hoimes, DO  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

*Co-authors:*  
Costantine Albany, Clint Cary, Michael O. Koch, Hristos Kaimakliotis — Indiana University School of Medicine; Jean Hoffman-Censits, Eduoard Trabulsi, W. Kevin Kelly, J. Luke Godwin — Thomas Jefferson University Kimmel Cancer Center; Mark Fleming — Virginia Oncology Associates; Joel Picus — Washington University School of Medicine; Radhika Walling — Community Regional Cancer Center, Indianapolis; Matthew Cooney, Pingfu Fu, Arial Nelson — Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; Krupen Patel, Cheryl Eitman — University Hospitals of Cleveland Seidman Cancer Center.

https://hoosiercancer.org/hoimes-presents-hcrn-gu14-188-study-at-esmo/
The Thoracic CTWG has a robust history of completing high impact studies that help guide the treatment of patients with thoracic malignancies. The group is cohesive and continues to grow with the inclusion of young investigators from multiple practice settings. We develop innovative trials to answer the lingering questions that affect real world practices. As therapeutic options increase and immunotherapy is integrated into treatment paradigms for most patients, our focus is to build upon the standards to move toward precision medicine for all patients with thoracic malignancies.

Karen Reckamp, MD, MS
City of Hope and Beckman Research Institute

Thoracic CTWG

Co-chairs

Karen Reckamp, MD, MS
Rachel E. Sanborn, MD
City of Hope and Beckman Research Institute
Providence Cancer Center

2018 Posters and Publications

LUN14-179
Oral Abstract
ASCO 2018

Presented by:
Greg Durm, MD
Indiana University School of Medicine

Co-authors: Sandra K. Althouse, Indiana University School of Medicine; Ahad Ali Sadiq, Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology; Shadia Ibrahim Jalal, Indiana University School of Medicine; Salma Jabbour, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey; Robin Zon, Michiana Hematology Oncology, PC; Goetz H. Kloecker, University of Louisville School of Medicine; William B. Fisher, Medical Consultants, Muncie, IN; Karen L. Reckamp, City of Hope; Ebenezer A. Kio, Goshen Center for Cancer Care; Robert M. Langdon, Nebraska Cancer Specialists; Bamidele Adesunloye, IU Health Arnett Cancer Centers; Ryan D. Gentzler, University of Virginia; Nasser H. Hanna, Indiana University School of Medicine.

https://hoosiercancer.org/lun14-179-accepted-as-asco-oral-presentation/
## Clinical Trial Working Groups

### Breast Cancer CTWG
- **Co-chairs**
  - Carey Anders, MD, University of North Carolina
  - Filipa Lynce, MD, Georgetown University

- **25+ members**
- **15+ institutions**
  - [hoosiercancer.org/breast](http://hoosiercancer.org/breast)

### Lymph/Leukemia CTWG
- **Co-chairs**
  - Matthew Foster, MD, University of North Carolina
  - Heiko Konig, MD, PhD, Indiana University
  - Stephen I. Park, MD, University of North Carolina

- **25+ members**
- **10+ institutions**
  - [hoosiercancer.org/lymphoma-leukemia](http://hoosiercancer.org/lymphoma-leukemia)

### Melanoma CTWG
- **Co-chairs**
  - Ragini R. Kudchadkar, MD, Emory University
  - Timothy Kuzel, MD, Rush University
  - April Salama, MD, Duke University

- **20+ members**
- **15+ institutions**
  - [hoosiercancer.org/melanoma](http://hoosiercancer.org/melanoma)

### Multiple Myeloma CTWG
- **Co-chair**
  - Attaya Suvannasankha, MD, Indiana University

- **8 members**
- **6 institutions**
  - [hoosiercancer.org/mm](http://hoosiercancer.org/mm)

**Investigators:** Discover the benefits of participating in HCRN Clinical Trial Working Groups. Learn more and join today at: [hoosiercancer.org/join](http://hoosiercancer.org/join)
Nana Peprah began working in cancer research in 2014, when she joined the University of Chicago as a clinical research associate for the breast program in Hematology/Oncology. In 2016, she was promoted to clinical research coordinator, where she remains today. She says having studied psychology and public health has helped her relate and interact with clinical staff, as well as with patients who are under a great deal of pain and stress. Peprah is also sensitive about the health disparities that exist where she lives in the south side of Chicago. Many patients from the area come to the hospital to participate in clinical trials.

“We try to make them aware of the resources available,” she says, so they can have access to new treatments.

2018 Recipient
Nana Peprah, MPH
Clinical Research Coordinator, University of Chicago

About the Award
The Sandra Turner Excellence in Clinical Research Award was established in 2002 by William B. Fisher, MD, through the George and Sarah Jane Fisher Fund to honor the memory of Sandra Turner, the first executive director of Hoosier Cancer Research Network. Recipients exemplify qualities which Sandra Turner possessed, such as sustained professional commitment, contribution to the progress of oncology care, and unflinching compassion.
After graduating with a degree in biology, Anthony Drier's first job was working with a tissue procurement group at the University of North Carolina. The experience opened his eyes to research and prepared him for managing processes and logistics required in clinical trials. Drier’s current role includes coordinating genitourinary oncology studies and facilitating correlative tissue collection with UNC’s Office of Clinical & Translational Research, to ensure tissues are collected and stored appropriately. His work typically focuses on managing biorepository and case sequencing studies. Currently, Drier is coordinating a bladder cancer biorepository study managed by the Hoosier Cancer Research Network, HCRN GU15-217.

**2018 Recipient**

**Anthony Drier**

Clinical Research Coordinator, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**About the Award**

The Sandra Turner Excellence in Clinical Research Award was established in 2002 by William B. Fisher, MD, through the George and Sarah Jane Fisher Fund to honor the memory of Sandra Turner, the first executive director of Hoosier Cancer Research Network. Recipients exemplify qualities which Sandra Turner possessed, such as sustained professional commitment, contribution to the progress of oncology care, and unflinching compassion.
Since his arrival at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Shahid Ahmed, MD, has immersed himself in oncology research. One of the studies he is developing is a randomized study to test whether a diet that mimics fasting decreases the toxicity of chemotherapy while increasing efficacy in lung adenocarcinoma patients. Animal models look promising. During the study, Dr. Ahmed will investigate the effects of diet on normal cells and cancer cells and will look at tumor tissue and circulating tumor cells in the blood. Shadia Jalal, MD, an associate professor and 2013 recipient of the Fisher award, is his mentor for this project.

“The aim of this study is to find out the biological effects of fasting on cells,” Dr. Ahmed says. “Once we know those things, then that will form the basis for larger clinical trials.”

2018 Recipient
Shahid Ahmed, MD
Third-year fellow in hematology/oncology, Indiana University School of Medicine

About the Award
In 2011, William B. Fisher, MD, and other supporters generously established a new award through the George and Sarah Jane Fisher Fund to challenge the next generation of cancer researchers. The George and Sarah Jane Fisher Young Investigator Award honors Indiana University oncology fellows and faculty members who have made significant contributions to clinical or basic science research in collaboration with Hoosier Cancer Research Network.
From the time her late husband, Doug, underwent treatment for myelofibrosis, Becky Armbruster learned how other families were coping and spending time. “You find out that people are sleeping at the hospital because they don’t have the money to stay at a hotel and families are in waiting rooms because there’s no place to stay,” she said.

Armbruster opened The Good House in 2012 to accommodate families with loved ones who were undergoing cancer treatment just a few miles away. Since its founding, The Good House has accommodated thousands of families with a comfortable place to sleep, eat, and gather. The home provides the warm, quiet atmosphere families need at a critical time. A large pool of volunteers help with providing meals, welcome baskets, cleaning, and gardening.

2018 Recipient
Becky Armbruster
Founder of the Good House
Indianapolis, Ind.

About the Award
Terry Hoeppner, beloved Indiana University football coach, lost his battle with brain cancer in 2007. Coach Hep was known for his “never quit” attitude and determination to face challenges head-on. To honor his memory, his wife, Jane Hoeppner, created the Terry Hoeppner Patient Advocacy Award. The award honors individuals who embody Coach Hep’s spirit and determination to champion their cause.
Thank you to all who have contributed to Hoosier Cancer Research Network. We are grateful for your commitment of time and resources to help us fulfill our mission. Your generous support strengthens our ability to fund investigator-initiated research. Learn how you can contribute to cancer research at www.hoosiercancer.org/make-a-difference/.

Contributions Received in 2018

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Rita Bachus — in memory of Stephen A. Schackelford
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Make a lasting difference with a planned gift. Please consider making a gift from your estate to Hoosier Cancer Research Network. Your generosity will help ensure researchers have the support they need to explore critical questions in cancer research. Learn more at: hoosiercancer.org/mylegacy

Did you know you can support HCRN through purchases made through Amazon Smile? When you shop, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase cost to HCRN. Scan the code to the right or visit https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0303542 to get started!
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- Mayo Clinic
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- St. Joseph’s
- Yuma Regional Cancer Center

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- Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center, Jasper
- Oncology Hematology Associates of Southwest Indiana
- Parkview Research Center
- St. Vincent, Indianapolis
- St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital
- Union Hospital, Inc.

**Iowa**
- University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Kansas**
- Cancer Center of Kansas
- University of Kansas Medical Center

**Kentucky**
- University of Louisville / James Graham Brown Cancer Center

**Louisiana**
- Hematology/Oncology Clinic
- Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center
- Ochsner Clinic Foundation

**Maryland**
- Meritus Center for Clinical Research / John R. Marsh Cancer Center
- Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins
- University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center

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- Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center
- Henry Ford Health System
- Michigan Center of Medical Research
- The Cancer Center at Metro Health Village
- University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center

**Minnesota**
- HealthPartners Institute
- Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota
- Mayo Clinic

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- University of Nebraska Medical Center

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- University of New Mexico Cancer Center

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- Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
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- Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
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- UT Medical Branch at Galveston
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- Aurora Research Institute, LLC
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Learn more at: hoosiercancer.org/members