

Title: NCI Clinical Trials Network (NCTN)
(New RFA)

Contact:

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Objective of Project/Program:

The purpose of this program is to transform the previous NCI-sponsored Cooperative Group Clinical Trials Program from a series of separate organizations conducting cancer treatment trials into a new consolidated and integrated NCI Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Program. The function of the Network is to provide a standing infrastructure and scientific support for the development and conduct of treatment trials in oncology, especially large, multi-institutional, definitive trials evaluating new cancer therapies for both adult and pediatric patients so that new and improved therapies can be introduced into cancer care in the oncology community in a timely manner.

Description of Project:

The Network's ability to conduct definitive, randomized, late phase clinical treatment trials, and development efforts preliminary to those trials, is critical to NCI's overall clinical research program for adults and children with cancer. To accomplish the objectives of the FOA, an integrated Network of Groups conducting multi-disciplinary clinical treatment trials across a broad range of diseases and diverse patient populations is needed. In this Network, Groups will collaborate with each other and with NCI to achieve research objectives. Members of any adult Group will be able to enroll patients on all phase 3 trials and select early phase trials conducted by the Network, irrespective of the specific Network Group which is leading the trial and providing data management and statistical analysis. In addition, selected trials for adolescent and young adults will be open to both the adult and pediatric Network Groups. The Network Groups will also provide trial operations, data management and statistical support for approved, multi-center phase 2 and 3 trials originating outside the Network.

The ultimate purpose for supporting the NCI Clinical Trials Network is to improve therapeutic outcomes for both adults and children with cancer. Key components of the Network are expected to include: (1) Network Groups consisting of Operations Centers and Statistics/Data Management Centers for developing and conducting clinical treatment trials; (2) Translational Science Support Programs for Network trials; (3) Lead Academic Participating Sites for scientific input into clinical trials and enrollment of patients onto Network trials; and (4) Imaging and Radiotherapy Core Services Centers to support evaluation and incorporation of these modalities into Network trials.

In addition, the program may also sponsor appropriate partnership for collaborations on clinical trials with corresponding Canadian clinical trial organization(s).