

NIH Awards 15.9 Million For Cancer Research Partnership

The Partnership for Cancer Research, Training, and Community Outreach will build upon a previous collaboration between the institutions. The grant will help support key research activities that provide a multidisciplinary, but unified approach to several objectives set forth by MSKCC and CCNY.

"We are looking forward to partnering with CCNY to improve cancer research, training, education, and outreach for underserved communities in the New York area," said Dr. Tim A. Ahles, Director of MSKCC's Neurocognitive Research Laboratory, and U54 Co-Principal Investigator. "We also want to have these successful approaches to address cancer disparities serve as new models for other minority-serving institutions and NCI-designated cancer centers."

"By combining our talents and some of our resources, CCNY and Memorial Sloan-Kettering will be well equipped to build and nurture programs in areas such as cancer research and community outreach that will help address cancer disparities in underserved minority and economically disadvantaged communities," said Dr. Karen Hubbard, Professor of Biology at CCNY, and a U54 Co-Principal Investigator.

The Partnership for Cancer Research, Training, and Community Outreach includes four primary objectives:

Investigators will work to develop translational research programs in cell biology, immunology, and biomedical research. Translational research is a concept in which basic science discoveries are applied in clinical practice and clinical observations are studied in the laboratory.

MSKCC and CCNY will collaborate with diverse communities to help define and address cancer disparities. The proposed Partnership for Community Outreach Program (PCOP) will provide an infrastructure to work with members of the community to identify and prioritize specific areas for action. Other elements of this effort include at least two large-scale annual outreach events and several smaller, topical activities featuring experts on issues such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, and cancer screening.

A collaborative effort will be made to recruit and retain students from high school to the post-graduate level, in particular those of minority backgrounds, who are interested in pursuing careers in cancer research. Enhanced education and training opportunities, as well as increased mentorship and support, will be made available.

The partnership will recruit new faculty members at both institutions. U54 resources will help support appointments in key CCNY divisions. At MSKCC, faculty lines will add to the capacity to conduct community-based intervention research and to the development of the PCOP.

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