

## SOUTHWEST ONCOLOGY GROUP

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**Policy Memorandum No. 1**  
**Subject:** Mission Statement  
**Departments Affected:** All

**Page 1 of 2 pages**  
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### SOUTHWEST ONCOLOGY GROUP MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of the Southwest Oncology Group is to make progress in the prevention and cure of cancer through clinical research.

In fulfilling this mission, the Group:

- Conducts Phase III clinical trials to determine which new regimens may improve outcome (including survival and quality of life) in patients with cancer.
- Conducts Phase II clinical trials to assess whether new agents or approaches have sufficient anti-cancer activity to encourage further study.
- Conducts Phase I clinical trials to pursue novel treatment trials of both cytotoxic and targeted small molecules in special patient populations and disease groups appropriate to the Cooperative Group setting.
- Conducts studies of interventions for cancer prevention.
- Collects, stores and provides membership access to high-quality, well-annotated human specimens collected from and representative of the patient populations entered into the Group's NCI-funded clinical trials.
- Translates new biologic concepts into study designs to improve the effectiveness of treatments and to generate new scientific hypotheses.
- Utilizes quality control and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure high quality data and compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Publishes and presents research results, both within and beyond Group membership.

Principles of the Group include:

- Quality Research. The Group is committed to asking research questions of clinical importance, and to utilizing quality control, quality assurance and data and safety monitoring in addressing these research questions to ensure accurate data collection in the implementation of the research. The Group advocates cost-effectiveness and efficient use of resources as important elements in the design and conduct of quality clinical research.
- Quality Patient Care. The Group intends that patient care and quality of life will be enhanced by participation in Group clinical trials.

- Ethics of Human Research. The Group is committed to the ethical principles detailed in the Belmont Report (developed by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research): *Respect for persons*, allowing patients to decide health care issues for themselves; *Beneficence*, respecting a patient's decisions and protecting them from harm while making efforts to secure their well-being; and, *Justice*, or fair and equal distribution of the benefits and burdens of research.

The Group remains committed to objectivity in clinical research. Potential or actual conflicts of interest are identified among all investigators who interact with Group data, and any identified potential or actual conflicts of interest are properly managed. Any potential scientific misconduct suspected in the Group will be dealt with expeditiously.

The Group also promotes equal opportunities for both genders and all races and ethnicities in the conduct of clinical research.