SWOG
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Policy Memorandum No. 1 | **Page 1 of 2 pages**
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SWOG GROUP MISSION STATEMENT

SWOG's mission is to significantly improve lives through cancer clinical trials and translational research.

In fulfilling this mission, SWOG:

- Conducts Phase III clinical trials to determine which new regimens may improve outcome (including survival and quality of life) in participants on our studies and may be generalizable to people 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 among various participants and disease groups appropriate to the Cooperative Group setting.

- Conducts studies of interventions for cancer prevention and symptom management. Addresses questions related to survivorship issues and comparative effectiveness.

- Collects, stores and provides access to high-quality, well-annotated human specimens collected from and representative of all people with cancer and other participants 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.

Guiding Principles within SWOG include:

- Quality Research. The best science drives our 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 Care. People with cancer are our absolute highest priority. The Group strives to ensure that patient care and quality of life will be enhanced by participation in Group clinical trials.

- Ethics of Human Research. We demand integrity, accountability and ethical behavior. 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 people to decide health care issues for themselves; *Beneficence*, respecting a person'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.

- Diversity is a strength. We embrace and encourage diversity in both leadership and membership, as a means to more effectively solve difficult problems in cancer. The Group promotes equal opportunities regardless of gender, race and ethnicity in the conduct of clinical research.

- Mentoring. We foster and mentor early stage investigators to continue our mission in subsequent generations. Diversity of both mentors and early stage investigators of various backgrounds is a priority.