

2024 Impact Report

“ 2024 saw overall accrual to SWOG studies once again approach 5,000 participants, and saw continued SWOG scientific leadership in the NCI’s National Clinical Trials Network. We co-lead the first trial incubated in the NCI’s Clinical Trials Innovation Unit (PROSPECT-Lung), we head up the screening protocol for myeloMATCH, and we have guided the Lung Master Protocol into a more pragmatic and streamlined third generation – Lung-MAP 3.0. We ended the year working hard on applications for the next round of core NCTN operations grants, with a submission deadline early in the new year. So many accomplishments to report, so few allotted pages.”

Charles D. Blanke

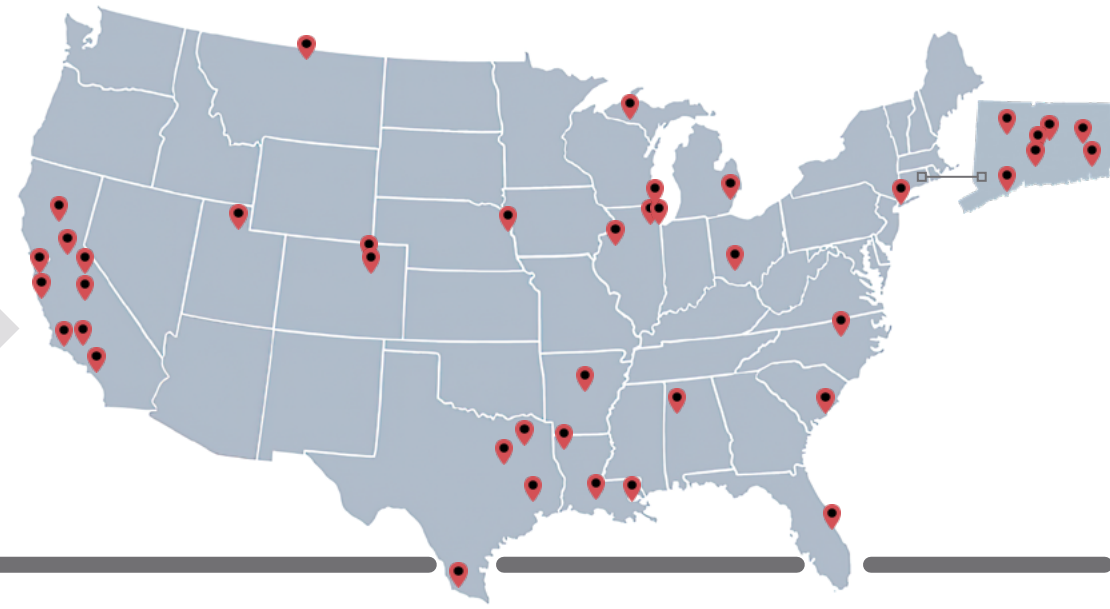
— Charles D. Blanke, MD
Chair, SWOG Cancer Research Network



Our Data

6 SWOG trials activated	19 requests for trial data granted	52% published in high impact factor journals
12 SWOG trials closed	4,794 patients enrolled on all SWOG-run trials, not counting screening registrations	96 oral or poster presentations made
32 clinical and translational concepts reviewed by leadership	87 journal articles published	33% of presentations were oral

41 new member sites



Our Highlights

2024 was a breakout year for the SWOG Latin America Initiative (SLAI). SLAI enrollment to NCI trials has soared, and SLAI member sites took spots on our lists of top accruals and top-performing institutions. Most of our research committee rosters now include Latin American investigators, several of whom have trial concepts in development within those committees. The year also saw the first significant SLAI collaborative efforts in hematology, and the first SLAI co-chair on a SWOG trial in development (S2505).



SLAI leaders and members at the spring 2024 SLAI Symposium



We went live with new interactive dashboards for visualizing and managing data on key performance indicators, such as this view tracking enrollment to Pragmatica-Lung. Dashboard resources are accessible to all logged-in members.

Dr. Karen Reckamp is new chair of Lung-MAP and led our Pragmatica-Lung trial, which reached its accrual goal in a mere 21 months, well ahead of schedule. This trial’s unique design was meant to drive rapid, diverse enrollment at a wide range of sites. Mission accomplished.



In May, the NCI’s myeloMATCH activated a future of unprecedented pan-NCTN collaboration. SWOG leads the screening protocol at the heart of this precision medicine trial, which will link all NCTN treatment studies for patients newly diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia or myelodysplastic syndrome. At the close of 2024, we were preparing to launch our second myeloMATCH sub-study.



Our patient advocate committee implemented a new model for incorporating advocate expertise into our trials from the earliest design stages. *Pitch the PAC* sessions bring a dozen or more advocates with diverse backgrounds and expertise to review a proposed trial concept. The review helps ensure study teams consider the needs of all potential participants as they develop their protocol. The PAC held six such sessions in 2024, and study teams are already queued up for 2025 slots.



Drs. Joseph Unger (l) and Ian Thompson (r) led a team that published a large-scale analysis of prostate cancer treatment, the most comprehensive assessment yet of how substantially these risks increase relative to those faced by an untreated control group. The published data should help men everywhere make better-informed decisions about whether and when to undergo prostate cancer screening.



SWOG teams published definitive results from two practice-changing trials in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in October: the S1826 trial in Hodgkin lymphoma and the S1011 surgical trial in muscle-invasive bladder cancer. Our DART trial published guideline-changing findings in yet more rare cancers including adrenocortical carcinoma and sarcomatoid lung tumors. And our S1714 team identified which factors can best predict a patient’s risk of peripheral neuropathy from taxane-based treatment.

We restructured our NCORP Research Base committees in 2024, in response to the changing landscape in cancer survivorship research and other factors. The four current committees are Cancer Control and Delivery; Palliative Care; Prevention, Screening, and Surveillance; and Symptom Management and Survivorship. This consolidated structure lets us more efficiently allocate resources, while the updated committee names more accurately reflect evolving research scopes.



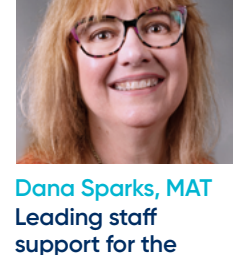
SWOG S1712 results, presented in September by Dr. Kendra L. Sweet, may help more patients with chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) achieve treatment-free remission. The trial found that adding ruxolitinib to standard tyrosine kinase inhibitor treatment significantly increased the proportion of patients with chronic-phase CML who experienced a deep or complete molecular response by the 12-month mark.

THE HOPE FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

No Shortage of Heroes

Behind every successful report from the Foundation, there’s the hero who made it possible. We are surrounded by heroes: brave patients, tireless doctors, committed caregivers, strong families. We take a moment now to recognize those unsung heroes who push us in our roles at Hope through the germination of an idea, or the translation of a passion; the intelligent identification of a gap in cancer research, and the pragmatic vision to pitch a solution. These heroes are the individual SWOG members who came to Hope and said, *I have an idea, can you help?*

SWOG’s membership has no shortage of heroes. This year their inspiration sparked meaningful, measurable steps forward for cancer research. Some of these gains addressed immediate needs, while others built on established scientific successes:



Dana Sparks, MAT
Leading staff support for the ESITC since its creation

Early career cancer clinicians need training, funding support, and mentorship to generate new breakthroughs. It’s a no brainer, but a challenge to realize no less. In the twenty-five years since its inception, the Early Stage Investigator Training Course (ESITC) has supported 126 promising, future oncology leaders. And it paid off. Look to our executive leadership and study chairs today and you’ll find ESITC alumni in all directions.

Winning grants are expensive. Researchers need expertise to write cancer grant proposals and keep their work moving forward. After roughly a decade, we’re now seeing the incredible fruits of the Virtual Grant Writing Workshop. Past participants have reported the course helped them develop their proposals and win support. From funded pilot studies, K awards and R01s, to awards from other prestigious organizations like ASCO and the Komen Foundation, the return on the investment in this great idea has been remarkable.



Kathy Crew, MD, MS
Designed and leads the Virtual Grant Writing Workshop



Christa Braun-Inglis, DPN, APRN & Jamie Myers, PhD, RN
Established and lead the APP Task Force

Advanced practice providers (APPs) like physician assistants and nurse practitioners are now recognized as key drivers of research and patient care. Because regulations are evolving to include them, APPs require support in their expanding roles. As one of the newer visions we’re helping to carry out, the MAPP program, a mentoring intervention for APPs, is poised to help assemble a supportive community of APPs across our network and accelerate NCI-sponsored studies.

The essential heroes in all our stories, of course, are the donors. They are the prime movers behind everything we accomplish in support of SWOG and its mission. If you count yourself among them – and I hope you do – *we thank you*. Let’s make more great ideas a reality in 2025.

Johanna Horn
President & CEO

HOPE BY THE NUMBERS 2024

\$2.8 MILLION Funding approved in support of SWOG research	160 Travelers funded to attend group meetings	14 New peer-reviewed research proposals awarded	\$13.2 MILLION Site payments administered on behalf of SWOG through SWOG CTP
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