

Cancer Research Meets **Compassion**

Focus ON THE Search

Clinical trials advancing the quest for cancer treatment, management, and prevention.

Western States Cancer Research NCORP ■ Winter 2020-21 ■ Issue 34

Upcoming Events

Rebels with a Cause 2021 Fundraiser May 7, 2021

Location: Lamar Street Center in Arvada, CO

Watch for more details!

Please Remember WSCR-NCORP as We Say Goodbye to 2020

There is still time to make a gift in the 2020 tax year.

- Go to our website, westernstatesncorp.org and click on the Donate button;
- Call **720-475-5728**; or
- Mail your gift to:
1325 S. Colorado Blvd.
Suite B-400
Denver, CO 80222

Thank you!



WSCR-NCORP is a member of the **Community Health Charities.**

Please consider supporting WSCR-NCORP in your workplace giving program.



Drive for a Cure 2020 a Big Success

What's better than golfing? Golfing AND helping to cure cancer!

Ten teams of WSCR-NCORP friends and family joined us at our annual benefit golf tournament on August 10, 2020. Special precautions were put into place ensured a safe and enjoyable experience for all!

We raised just over **\$28,000**, all of which makes a big difference for cancer research.



34

The number of patients that WSCR-NCORP Consortium Hospitals and Medical Centers have enrolled in clinical cancer studies since August 1, 2020.

- 2 Utah
- 2 Montana
- 2 Washington state
- 28 Colorado

WSCR-NCORP Board of Trustees

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Our Mission

To provide the people of Colorado, Montana, Utah, Washington state and Alaska the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the medical research conducted through cancer clinical studies.

Our Purpose

To serve as an NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), as designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), to enable the people in their local communities to participate in cancer prevention, cancer control, and cancer treatment research through local physicians, community hospitals and clinics.

Our Vision

The marriage of clinical research and compassion via the progress we help affect through community oncology research.

For More Information

Contact one of the following staff at 303.777.2663.

Lisa Switzer, MA
CEO and Executive Director

Laura Gabbay
Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer

Nicholas DiBella, MD
Principal Investigator

 Find us on Facebook at [endcancerco](https://www.facebook.com/endcancerco)

Message from Lisa Switzer, MA

CEO and Executive Director

On behalf of our team, we hope this finds you and yours safe.

Western States Cancer Research NCORP has been busy this year! The Board's strategic planning process, supporting patients on clinical trials, adding new staff, and holding a successful charity golf tournament during COVID-19 has given us a lot to share with our friends.

We couldn't do this important work without you – thank you very much! With the holiday giving season upon us, we felt like this was a great time to re-launch our *Focus on the Search* newsletter. There will be both print and electronic editions to make it accessible for all. Stay on the lookout for it in either your email or post office box.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of access to health care in general and the impact of historic inequities and racism on communities of color, which have been hardest hit by the virus. During the pandemic, services have continued for patients who were already participating in a current cancer treatment trial, as well as for those patients who became seriously ill. Yet, new trials that had not yet opened or had not enrolled patients were temporarily postponed until after the CDC and NCI deemed it safe to resume research.

We have maintained a full roster of staff throughout this public health crisis, most of whom have been working remotely, continuing our work and supporting our patients who are participating in clinical trials is paramount. We are working on a new Strategic Plan to help us expand our focus on under-resourced cancer patient populations and on the rural parts of the states we serve. Leveraging a recent opportunity when several NCORPs across the country reorganized, we acquired new sites in the West over the past two years. Currently we partner with hospitals,

community clinics, and physicians/ oncologists throughout **Colorado, Montana, Utah, Washington state and Alaska.**

We meet as a full team twice a month via Zoom so we can see each other and check in. Although much of our meeting time has to do with the work we do, some of it is playful, and some of it is motivational. Self-care makes care for others easier. As I said to the team this summer, we must be kind to each other during the upcoming conversations and in the coming days. Courage and compassion remain the watchwords for us as we move into 2021.

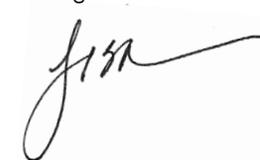
With the end of this year almost upon us, we hope you will include WSCR-NCORP in the charitable donations you plan to make in 2020. There is so much work to do. Your support now helps us make clinical trials available to patients living in their own communities throughout western regions of the United States. You can make secure online donations for any dollar amount that is appropriate for you, even as modest as five dollars, at <https://www.coloradogives.org/westernstatesncorp/overview>.

Every dollar you donate goes a long way to support our cancer clinical trials.

I always welcome hearing from our friends so don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or thoughts about how you'd like to support the patients participating in our clinical trials this winter.

Wishing you and yours a happy (and safe) New Year.

With gratitude,




Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

WSCR-NCORP Launches Implicit Bias Project Steering Committee in 2020

At WSCR-NCORP we have been very intentional in creating a culture of compassion for our staff. We are an open and affirming, inclusive team. In response to the civil rights violations and violence against people of color across the country this year, we decided to start an **Implicit Bias in Healthcare Project** involving our entire staff. In upcoming communications, we will be providing links to the research our team has been conducting on the topic. In the meantime, you can learn more by going to our website and clicking the Implicit Bias in Healthcare tab at the top of the page.

Maj. General (Ret.) Elder Granger, MD Joins WSCR-NCORP Board of Trustees



WSCR-NCORP is proud to announce the newest addition to our Board of Trustees, **Maj. General (Ret.) Elder Granger, MD**

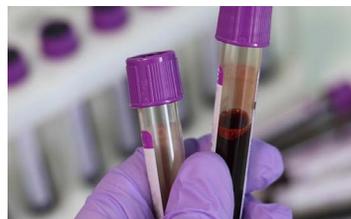
Elder comes to us with a wealth of knowledge about the NCORP world and NCI. He is currently the President and CEO of THE 5Ps, LLC, a health care, education, and leadership consulting organization.

The recipient of numerous awards, decorations and honors, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Elder is an inspiring member of our Colorado community. He is also board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the Board of Hematology and Oncology.

To read more about Elder's accomplishments and background, please visit our website.

WSCR-NCORP is Participating in the NCI COVID-19 Clinical Trial

The NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study, or NCCAPS, is a natural history study of COVID-19 in people with cancer. In a natural history study, researchers follow people and collect medical and other information about them over time to learn more about how a disease and its symptoms develop and change.



Diagnosis and treatment of a disease are not part of natural history studies. The knowledge gained through this study will help doctors better manage treatment for people with cancer and COVID-19 in the future.

As part of the NCCAPS study, researchers will collect blood samples, medical information, and medical images from 2,000 people with cancer who also have COVID-19. Each person will be followed for up to two years to help doctors understand how cancer affects COVID-19 and COVID-19 affects cancer.

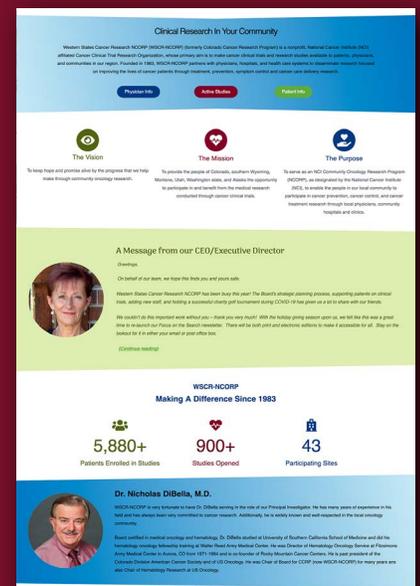
For more detailed information about this study, visit the page describing the study on the National Cancer Institute's website at <https://www.cancer.gov/research/key-initiatives/covid-19/coronavirus-research-initiatives/nccaps>.

Laura Gabbay Joins the WSCR Team



Please help us welcome **Laura Gabbay**, who joined our team in October as our Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer. We are thrilled to have Laura as part of our team. She brings a wealth of knowledge about fundraising and has deep roots in the Denver health and human services sector. If you have an interest in making a philanthropic gift to our NCORP, please don't hesitate to contact Laura at lgabbay@westernstatesncorp.org. She will be happy to discuss the multiple ways your gifts can support our work. Again, welcome, Laura!

Check out our website's new look!



Focus ON THE Search

Founded in 1983, Western States Cancer Research NCORP (WSCR-NCORP), an affiliate of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the NIH, provides cancer patients with cutting-edge treatment options through innovative research and clinical trials in their own communities with their own doctors. At WSCR-NCORP, we work every day to create opportunities where clinical research meets compassion.

WSCR-NCORP's Partner Hospitals & Cancer Centers

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|---|---|
| Banner Health McKee Medical Center | Health One Swedish Medical Center |
| Banner Health North Colorado Medical Center | Intermountain Healthcare |
| Boulder Community Hospital | Jefferson Healthcare |
| Colorado Blood Cancer Institute (CBCI) | Mountain Blue Cancer Care Center |
| Foundation Health Partners | Rocky Mountain Cancer Center – Aurora, Centennial, Littleton, Midtown, Rose, Sky Ridge, Swedish |
| Fairbanks Memorial Hospital | The Women's Imaging Center |

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1325 S. Colorado Blvd.
Suite B-400
Denver, CO 80222

Online Cancer Resources

American Society of Clinical Oncology
www.asco.org | www.cancer.net

Oncologist approved cancer information, including information on cancer research and advocacy.

CancerCare
www.cancer.org

CancerCare programs include counseling and support groups, education, financial assistance and practical help.

National Cancer Institute
www.cancer.gov

National Comprehensive Cancer Network
www.nccn.com

A patient-oriented cancer website based on the NCCN Guidelines which set the standard of care for clinicians around the globe.



If you are interested in supporting our work with a financial contribution, please visit our website or call our office. **Thank you.**

Western States Cancer Research NCORP is a 501-c-3 nonprofit organizations. Donations to support our programs are tax-deductible.

To sign up for our new electronic mailing list, please visit our Contact page under the About tab.

www.westernstatesncorp.org
303.777.2663