

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CANCER CENTER (NCCC)

2201 Walnut Avenue, Suite 300

Fremont, CA 94538

510.608.5000

www.nccc.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What do NCCC scientists do?

NCCC scientists conduct population-based research into the incidence (number of new diagnoses) of several types of cancer. The purpose of these studies is to investigate patterns of new cancer cases and how they may differ among groups of people (defined by various demographic and other factors). Scientists also conduct research into the etiology (causes) of several types of cancer.

What is learned from studying the causes of cancer?

The purpose of etiology studies is to determine if a particular factor or combination of factors is associated with the development of a particular cancer. For etiology research, we study two types of factors: *environmental factors*, including some that are modifiable life-style choices, such as diet and exercise; and *genetically determined characteristics* that cannot be easily changed.

What is the goal of NCCC research studies?

The knowledge gained from research studies provides a powerful tool for understanding and ultimately eliminating cancer. Thanks to similar studies, we now know many cancers are preventable and have clear direction regarding how to improve the quality of life for individuals living with cancer.

How do you use this research information?

NCCC outreach programs take this research information to cancer survivors and make it available to healthcare providers through conferences and seminars. Our organization actively leads collaborative efforts with academic institutions, medical centers and organizations across the country, providing information that can effect change in policy development, improve delivery of patient care, and discover causes of cancer to prevent future disease.

What new developments can we expect?

NCCC researchers are increasingly interested in studying factors that can be measured at the molecular and genetic level. As the complex nature of cancer development is better understood, more of our studies will investigate how environmental factors work in combination with genetically determined characteristics to affect cancer risk.

Who oversees the organization?

A Board of Trustees that supports the vision of working toward a cancer-free world governs NCCC, an independent nonprofit organization.

How does NCCC make a difference for individuals?

Individuals who call the Cancer Detection Program (*Every Woman Counts!*) hotline, or attend a community program, or read our printed materials or website receive information designed to help them understand their particular situation. Early detection saves lives and learning how to gain control after a cancer diagnosis empowers the cancer survivor to live a stronger and better life. Our goal is to reduce the burden of cancer for everyone.

What makes NCCC different from other cancer organizations?

NCCC is a center of excellence in population sciences and an essential partner in Stanford University's effort to become an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. NCCC researchers have immediate access to cancer registry data that allows them greater ability to respond to the needs of our community. By focusing much of our work in the area of health care disparities, NCCC helps those who need it most. NCCC is a model of regional collaboration and a public health resource.

How do you fund NCCC's programs?

Public funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI) support much of the basic research. However, NCCC is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and must rely on matching funds from the community to ensure the continued level of excellence expected of NCCC by our partners and the community.

What do private contributions support?

Private contributions from the community make it possible for researchers to fully analyze data, develop new studies, and create opportunities for stronger collaboration. These funds sustain the organization's critical resources, allow strategic leverage of grant funds for greater impact, and support programs that educate and inform our community.

Who partners with NCCC?

In addition to Stanford University, NCCC also partners with the University of California campuses of San Francisco, Berkeley, and Davis, Harvard University, and other academic organizations throughout the United States. Our community partners include hospitals, physicians, community agencies, clinics and cancer treatment facilities in the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties.

How can I support the work of NCCC?

You can make a tax-deductible contribution by check or credit card to NCCC through the mail or on our website at www.nccc.org. You may make your gift in honor or memory of a loved one, direct the funds to a specific project or program, or you can support NCCC's strategic initiatives. Please contact Sandi Farrell in the Development office at (510) 608-5003 to discuss special funding opportunities.