Overview

Cancer Diagnoses and Clinical Research

- Approximately 6,500 adults and children are newly diagnosed with cancer each year at UCSF. Diagnoses span all cancers. The most prevalent types include prostate, breast, brain and nervous system, lung, and cutaneous melanoma. Patients make more than 100,000 visits annually to our facilities.

- At any given time, more than 250 cancer clinical trials are open. Fourteen percent of adult patients and 54% of pediatric patients are enrolled in clinical trials. The Cancer Center’s portfolio includes trials for treatment (including Phase I/first in human), prevention, screening, and supportive care.

Selected Facts and Figures

- The UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (HDFCCC) is proud to be a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer center since 1999. Of the over 1500 cancer centers across the country only 47 have achieved comprehensive designation — the NCI’s highest ranking. The NCI recognizes UCSF’s excellence in basic research, clinical research, population-based research, outreach and education, and our ability to integrate these diverse approaches into clinical practice.

- UCSF consistently ranks among the top U.S. biomedical research institutions in cancer-specific federal funding. In 2016, UCSF received more than $92 million from the National Cancer Institute.

- UCSF is among the top 5 cancer research organizations in the world in terms of published output and impact according to Elsevier, a global publisher of scientific and medical journals.

- UCSF consistently places among “America’s Best Hospitals” in the annual survey of U.S. News & World Report. UCSF was ranked 10th for cancer care — and first among California cancer-care providers — in the 2017-2018 survey.

Cancer Center Investigators

- The Cancer Center’s more than 400 members — faculty investigators in laboratory, clinical, and population-based research — exemplify the need to attack the cancer problem through collaboration.

- Cancer-related research and clinical care are priorities for UCSF. Approximately one quarter of full-time faculty members work in cancer research or patient care.

Collaborations

- Cancer Center leaders have led or participated in four Stand Up to Cancer (SU2C) Dream Teams, for prostate, breast, pancreas, and lung cancer.

- UCSF leads the ATHENA Breast Health Network and the WISDOM Study, a groundbreaking project that explores whether using a personalized risk approach to screening is as safe and effective as annual mammography. ATHENA serves more than 150,000 women receiving breast care at all five University of California medical centers and their affiliates.

- We are a member of the Children’s Oncology Group (COG) Phase 1 & Pilot Consortium, an elite National Cancer Institute consortium of institutions selected to lead studies of potential pediatric cancer drugs. UCSF is one of only three COG Phase 1 institutions in California, and one of only 21 centers in the United States and Canada.

Impact of Biomedical Research

- Cancer Center investigators have developed creative partnerships with dozens of life-science companies to speed the advancement of biomedical research. Current initiatives, totaling millions of dollars in research funding, include strategic partnerships with Novartis, Genentech, SurroMed, Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Celera Diagnostics, Predicant Biosciences, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, Pfizer, and Sanofi.
Precision Imaging of Cancer and Therapy

Advanced imaging technology plays an increasingly critical role in cancer research and treatment. This program helps researchers understand the biology and behavior of different cancers to develop and refine effective treatment approaches.

Key Initiatives

SF CAN
The San Francisco Cancer Initiative (SF CAN) is the first public-private cancer plan for a major city. SF CAN, in partnership with the City of San Francisco and health and community partners, is using interventional strategies to reduce cancer in the city. The HDFCCC conceived of and helps support SF CAN. Online at sfcancer.org.

UC Cancer Centers Consortium
The Consortium is a partnership between the five UC cancer centers with NCI designation. It harnesses the strengths of all five of the state’s leading cancer centers to expand research and improve care. HDFCCC president Alan Ashworth, PhD, FRS, chairs the Consortium.

Precision Cancer Medicine Building
In spring of 2019, UCSF will open the Precision Cancer Medicine Building (PCMB). The technologically-advanced building is designed around patients’ needs and will be the new home for outpatient cancer care and clinical research.

UC Cancer Centers Consortium

Cancer Immunotherapy Program
The UCSF Cancer Immunotherapy Program (CIP) and Cancer Immunotherapy Clinic (CIC), bring together the collective strength of UCSF’s world-class research facilities, the HDFCCC, and an expert team of UCSF clinicians and investigators to provide access to state-of-the-art immunotherapies, for all types of cancer.

Center for BRCA Research
The Center is one of only two hereditary cancer clinics in the U.S. and the only one on the West Coast for people with inherited gene mutations in BRCA1 and BRCA2. These mutations are widely recognized as causes of breast and ovarian cancers. They also increase risk for pancreas and prostate cancers, as well as melanoma.

Molecular Oncology Initiative
The initiative integrates molecular information found in most tumors with the growing number of drugs being developed for specific types of cancer. The team uses the pioneering UCSF 500 gene panel to find mutations in tumors that particular medicines can attack.

Global Cancer Program
Aiming to reduce cancer worldwide, the program harnesses UCSF’s impressive history of global health research to address cancer's devastating effects in low- and middle-income countries. Approaches include basic, translational, and clinical research; educating and training practitioners in other countries; and fostering collaborations around the world.

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