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The Jefferson Oncology Group

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The Jefferson Oncology Group

The Jefferson Oncology Group (JOG), a cancer research cooperative of the Jefferson Cancer Network (JCN), was established in 1998 by Jefferson Health System oncology leaders to increase patient participation in cancer clinical trials. JOG serves to facilitate clinical trial contracts with industry and provides the link for "bench to bedside" science and research for the JCN's more than 12,000 newly-diagnosed patients.

This critical mass of patients in the JCN is a key element that makes possible the creation of a "cooperative" for cancer research (JOG), thereby performing some conclusive trials on its own. Examples of other cancer research cooperatives are the Hoosier Oncology Group in Indiana and the Piedmont Oncology Group based at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina. A unique feature of JOG is a centralized Institutional Review Board (IRB). JCN members have agreed to use TJU's IRB for the JOG clinical trials. This will increase the speed of patient enrollment onto the trials.

JOG, comprised of member institutions of the JCN and its affiliated physicians, is governed by an executive committee (composed of an administrator and physician from each of the JCN member institutions). JCN members include the Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Atlantic City Medical Center, Bryn Mawr Hospital, duPont Hospital for Children, Grand View Hospital, Lankenau Hospital, Mercy Community Hospital, Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia, Methodist Hospital, Riddle Memorial Hospital, Underwood-Memorial Hospital and Wills Eye Hospital. JOG is chaired by Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD, Professor and Chairman of Radiation Oncology at Jefferson and Clinical Director of Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center.

JOG is playing a critical role in helping to establish a regional identity in oncology clinical research. To date, it has begun to establish an identity with industry, with three clinical trials already active, five trials under review and three more in the concept phase. For more information, contact Patricia Dugan at 215-955-1562.

About the Author

Patricia Dugan is the Administrative Director of the Jefferson Cancer Network & Jefferson Oncology Group at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.