

Can You Put a Dollar Value on NCI Funded Research?

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1. Background

As a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) receives funding via the Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) which requires collaboration in NCI research efforts. MSK does this largely through participation in and enrollment to NCI sponsored group studies. The NCI Network Program (NNP) which oversees all NCI-funded groups and consortiums operating at MSK is supported by NCI grants, non-grant reimbursements, and institutional resources. In 2021, we reported on the programs new cost sharing initiative and are summarizing our 2024 cost.

2. Goals

Our goal is to evaluate the cost of MSK's effective and efficient NCI Network Program by examining the contributions of the NCI grants as well as institutional funds that support the NNP.

3. Solutions and Methods

The NNP has implemented a variety of quality improving and cost saving measures (reported in 2025 abstract, Evolution of MSK's NCI Network Program). The portfolio is made up of 214 studies, with roughly 2000 patients on study, of which 12 percent are on active treatment. As part of the QA program, 256 participant registrations were reviewed, and 117 risk-based monitoring visits were completed.

In 2024 the cost of the NNP included the following:

- Central NNP Team (n=42)
 - Activation = 1 Research Project Manager
 - Regulatory = 6 Research Regulatory Associates and 1 Regulatory Coordinator (devoted to NCI RCR registrations)
 - Data = 16 Clinical Research Coordinators and 2 Clinical Research Supervisors
 - Long term follow-up = 1 Research Project Associate, 5 Clinical Research Coordinators
 - Monitoring & QA = 5 Monitors and 2 Coordinators
 - Management = 1 Clinical Research Manager and 2 Associate Directors
- Labor pool expenses for disease management teams & clinical trials nursing supporting patient and clinic management
- Other trial costs inclusive of research non-billables, RECIST reads, pathology fees and shipping costs and scan de-identification, grant travel, key personnel named on grant

4. Outcomes

We summarized the NCI and MSK expense for 2024.

NNP adds value through studies not typically offered by our Industry partners and can be measured in successes such as publications, presentations, and new data that leads to practice changing results. So far during the current NCTN LAPS grant period, MSK authors have been listed on 215 publications, 26 of them were in 2024 alone.

Category: Clinical Trial Operations (Trial Start-up, Regulatory, Data Management, IITs) – Completed Project

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

MSK values NCI research and contributes in a meaningful way. Programs like this can't exist without institutional support and NCI funding.

Figure

