



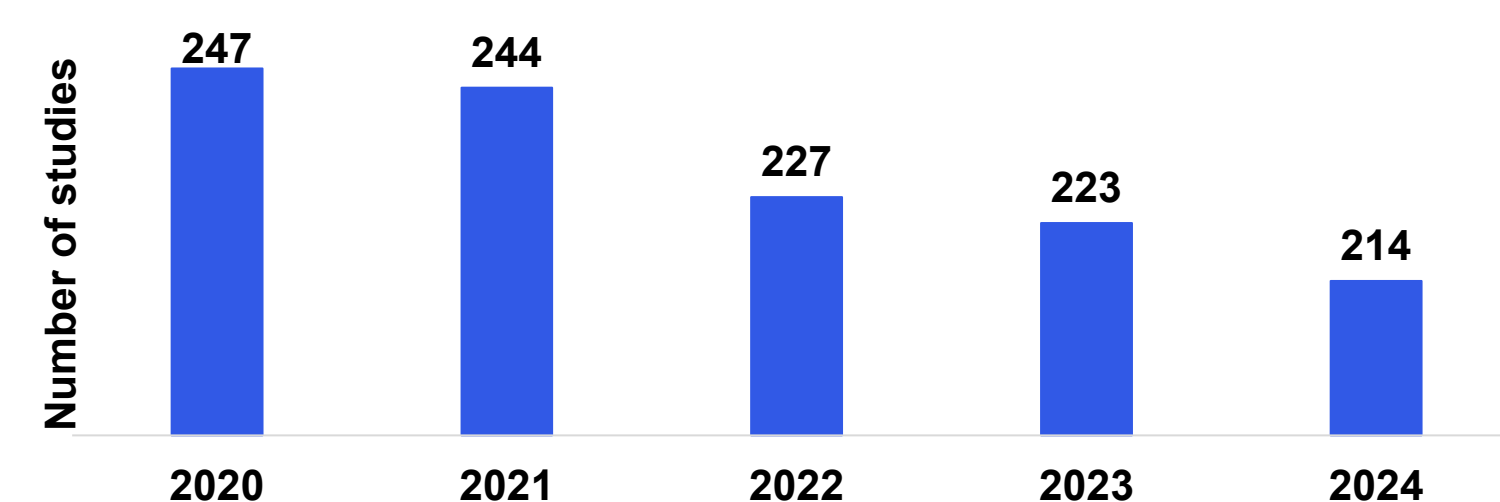
Can you put a dollar value on NCI funded research?

Mary Warren, MSW, Jacquelin Mohr, MS, Leigh Gaffney, MPH, Joseph Klinger, MBA,
Collette Houston, BS, Carol Aghajanian, MD, Paul Sabbatini, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK)

Background

As an NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, MSK receives funding via the Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) which promotes collaboration among NCI research efforts. MSK does this largely through participation in and enrollment to NCI sponsored group studies. In 2022, MSK optimized the portfolio by closing studies with no participants and created standardized criteria for new studies. Our intention was to create a portfolio that would meet the needs of our patient population and ensure accrual targets are appropriately met.

NCI Network Portfolio



The NCI Network Program (NNP) that oversees the portfolio is supported by:

- **NCI grants** - key personnel, pathology costs, travel and OTPS (i.e. labor pools (LPs)). The department and nursing staff are in LPs which are expensed as visits occur.
- **Non grant reimbursements** – payments triggered by data entered in OPEN.
- **Cost sharing** – this refers to MSK support to cover costs after the grants are expensed.

NCI Contribution = NCI grant + non grant reimbursement

	NCI Contribution
2020	\$1,797,189
2021	\$3,885,637
2022	\$3,952,259
2023	\$3,067,880
2024	\$2,803,733

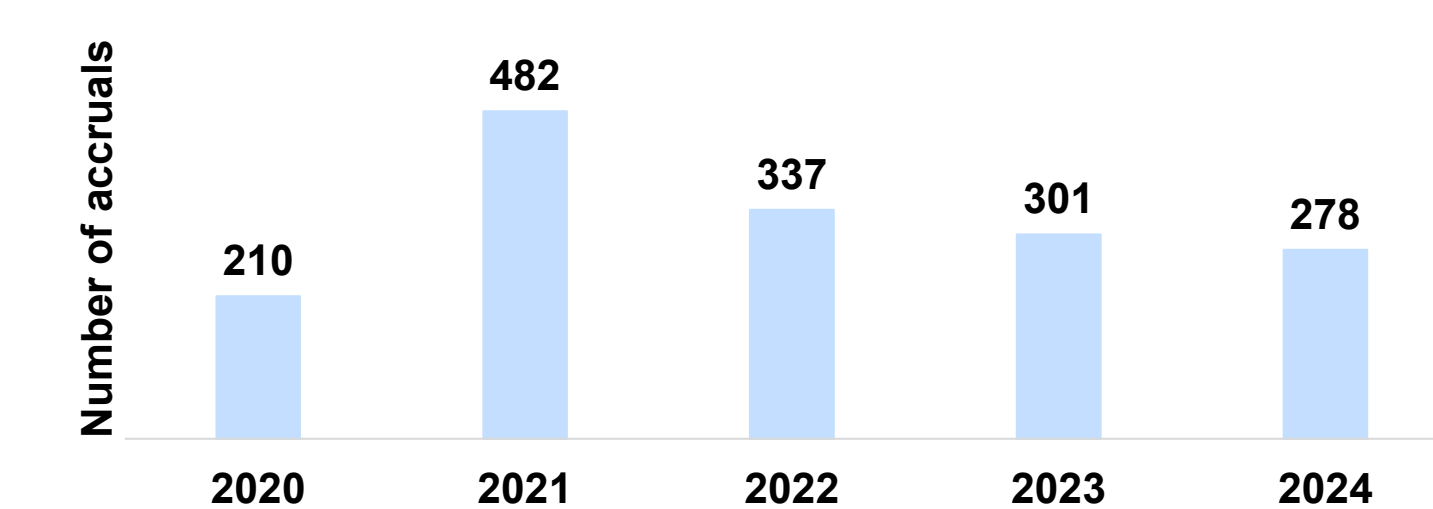
Goal

Our goal is to evaluate the cost of MSK's NNP.

Methods & Results

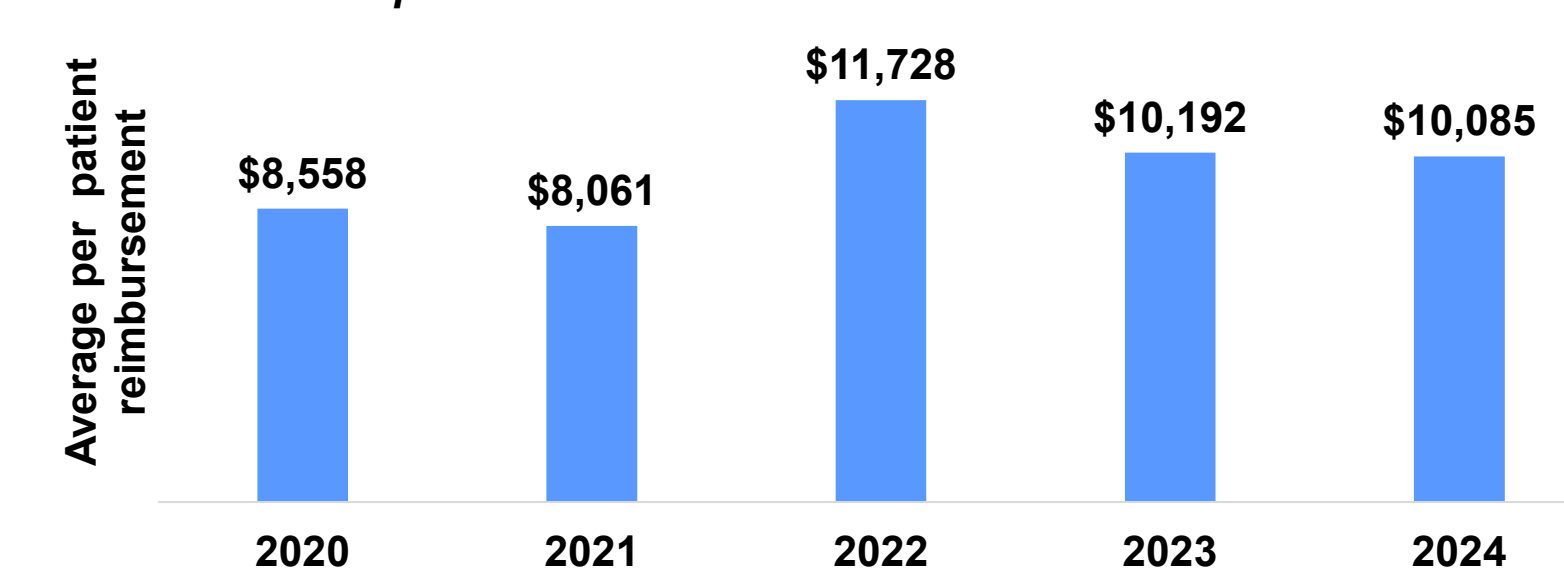
NNP includes the following pediatric and adult NCI Sponsored Groups; COG, PEP-CTN, PBTC, AMC, ETCTN, NCTN and NCI/CTEP. Over the last 5 years, MSK averaged 312 accruals. There are roughly 2000 patients on study, of which 12% are on active treatment.

NCI Network accruals



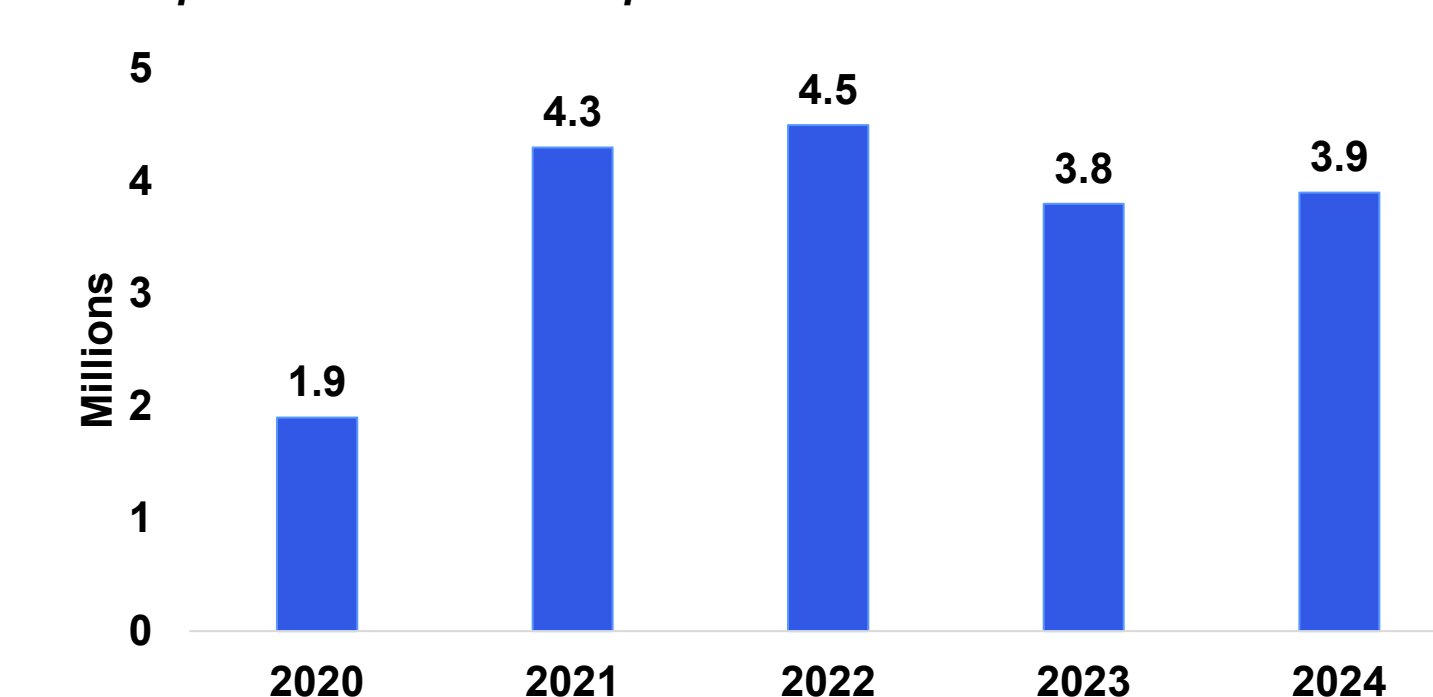
We divided the total NCI contribution by the number of accruals. The average per patient reimbursement does not include reductions from key personnel and travel.

NCI contribution per enrollment



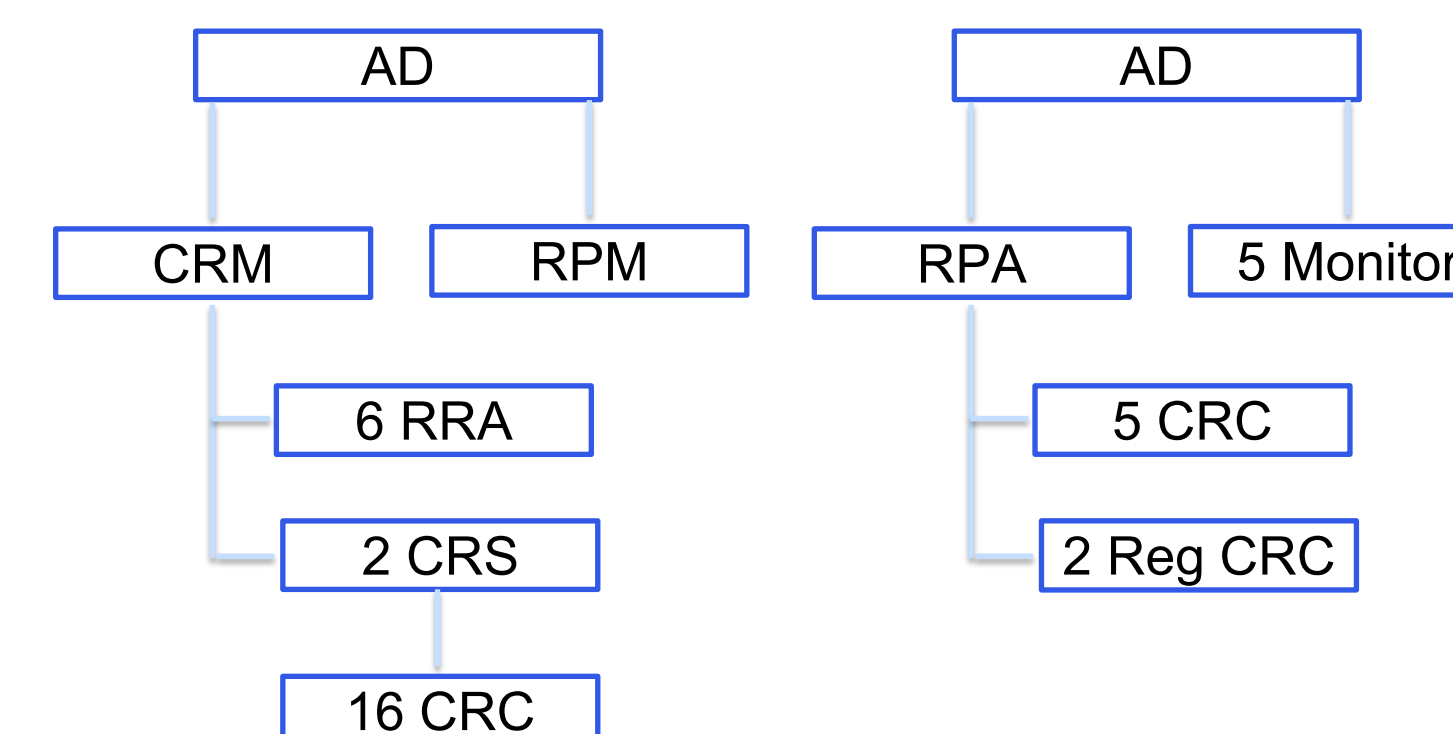
In 2021, Clinical Trial Nursing staff were added to labor pools, driving the increase in expense. Overall, labor pool and other trial expense tracked with accrual metrics.

Labor pool and other trial expense



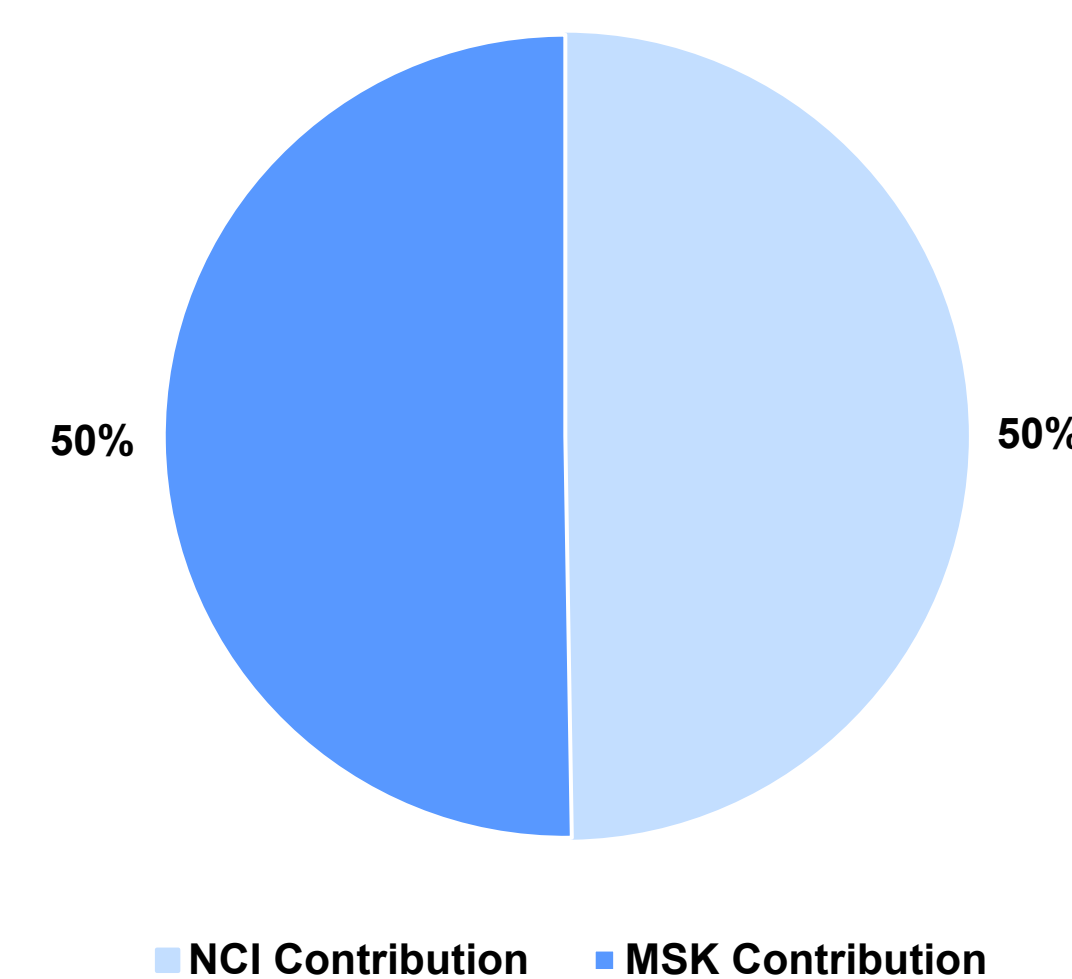
The NNP has implemented a variety of quality improving and cost saving measures (reported in Evolution of MSK's NCI Network Program poster). The team is made up of 42 team members and is responsible for trial activation, regulatory management, data entry, quality assurance, Long Term Follow-Up (LTFU) and financial management. In 2024, the QA program reviewed 256 participant registrations, completed 117 risk-based monitoring visits and oversaw 9 external audits.

2024 central NNP team organizational chart



The NCI grants support three team members on the central NNP team, and the remainder of the team is supported by MSK. We added the cost of the NNP team to the labor pool and other trial expense to arrive at the total program expense for 2024.

2024 breakdown of total expense



Conclusions

NCI sponsored trials require joint funding from the institution and NCI. MSK is equally sharing the cost with NCI. Changes in NCI funding would impact the balance.

Program cost is driven by the time and effort of the department Staff and Central NCI Network team managing participants on these studies. We can attribute some of decrease in cost to the expansion of the LTFU program in 2023, which was an investment from MSK.

The NNP provides the infrastructure to execute NCI sponsored studies while ensuring the efficient use of NCI and institutional resources. The investment to NNP has generally improved the outcomes of our audits.

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.

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

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

Continue to transition studies from department staff to the NNP LTFU program to save costs.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the NCI Network Committee and the NCI Network Team members for all your hard work and dedication on these important trials.