

SIDNEY KIMMEL COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

Introduction and Background

Health System Expansion

Jefferson Health has rapidly expanded to a 17-hospital system, significantly increasing its geographic footprint and patient reach.

SKCCC Regional Research Sites (RRS) Initiative

- The formal expansion of the RRS program began in 2021 with a strategic focus on developing clinical trials across five community-based Regional Research Sites (RRS) and broadening trial involvement across all cancer specialties.
- This effort was marked by the appointment of a Medical Director, followed by an Administrative Director to support operational growth.
- Today, SKCCC supports five active community-based research sites across its catchment area, extending clinical trial opportunities beyond the central academic hub.

We implemented a multifaceted approach to enhance access and improve enrollment in community-based clinical trials.

Goals

Establish system-wide access to clinical trials across the Enterprise by building local research infrastructure and staffing within community sites. Strengthen engagement and education of community oncologists while integrating them with academic physicians to support trial design, execution, and participation to create a unified, system-wide clinical trials program that expands access and enhances high-quality cancer care.

Deliver the most advanced treatment options available at SKCCC to patients in their local communities

Expand clinical trial participation by making trials accessible to patients who might not otherwise have the opportunity to enroll

Support our regional populations by launching clinical trials that address their specific cancer types and stages seen in local catchment area

Accelerate enrollment rates to complete trials more efficiently, thereby advancing scientific knowledge and improving patient care

Solution and Methods

Developed a network of local clinical trials office (CTO) staff embedded at each RRS supported by the main CTO staff to ensure consistent onboarding, training, and troubleshooting to enable shared learning and oversight for managing community-based trial challenges. The onsite staff include Project Manager, CRCs and CRNs.



Assignment of a medical lead at each site to act as the site champion in partnership with the site Project Manager to oversee all clinical trial activity and to educate and encourage local medical staff participation in the identification and enrollment of patients on clinical trials.



Integrate local MDs with the Jefferson SKCCC central hub Multidisciplinary Disease Groups (MDGs) to help align research priorities and develop and expand the research portfolios to ensure it reflects the needs and demographics of the community patient populations.



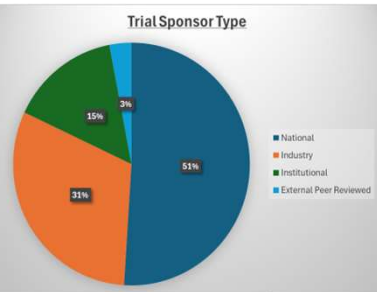
Streamline the process for opening clinical trials at RRS by improving coordination with the central hub. This includes utilizing a single Enterprise PI, centralized Scientific and IRB approvals, and aligned contracts and budgeting processes.



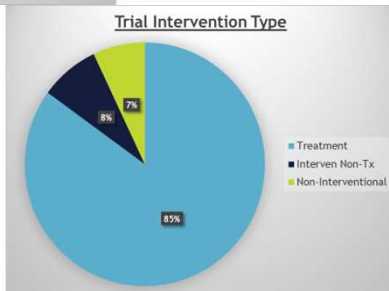
Institution of regular communication amongst the RRS staff across the Enterprise to facilitate sharing of ideas, successes and challenges.



Outcomes

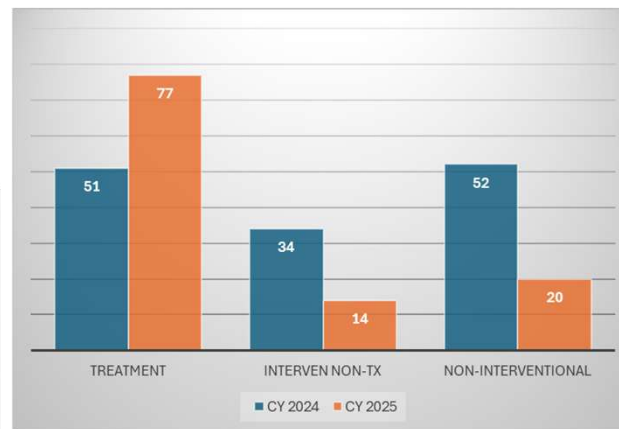


During CY 2025: A total of 81 trials were open across the various RRS concentrating in Treatment Trials



Enrollment for Calendar Years 2024 and 2025

*Decrease in Interv Non-Tx and Non-Interv trials due to closure of high enrolling trials with no replacement



50% Increase in Treatment Enrollments

Lessons Learned and Future Directions

Physician engagement has been essential to building a clinical trial portfolio aligned with community patient needs

Investigator-Initiated trials can effectively increase enrollment and address unmet gaps but often lack funding to support required staffing

Additional education of industry sponsors is needed to ensure logistical support—such as shipping investigational product and lab kits—to community sites

Despite system-wide education efforts, meaningful cultural change required direct involvement from medical and MDG Leads to increase community physician engagement and patient participation

With current threats to trial funding, expanding sponsored trial support will be critical for sustained growth