

A new distinction for OHSU: NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center



Knight Cancer Institute Director Brian Druker brought good news to the winter celebration Wednesday.

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute has been awarded Comprehensive Cancer Center status, the highest distinction given by the National Cancer Institute. The award comes as the result of an arduous, months-long review process that culminated in a full-day site visit by cancer research leaders from across the U.S.

“As a Comprehensive Cancer Center, we join an elite group of national cancer centers that fully serve the needs of our respective catchment areas, and it is both an honor and a privilege to be among those ranks,” said Knight Cancer Institute Director Brian Druker, M.D. “This is recognition of the hard work that happens here at the Knight every day, to provide not only cutting edge research, but also quality care to those in Oregon who are suffering from these diseases.”

The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute has been an NCI-designated center since 1997. To achieve Comprehensive Cancer Center status, the institute had to meet additional criteria for depth and breadth of research in each of three areas: basic laboratory; clinical; and prevention, control and population-based science.

Comprehensive Cancer Centers must demonstrate substantial transdisciplinary research that connects these scientific areas. They must be effective in serving their region’s population through the cancer research they support. They must integrate training and education of biomedical researchers and community health care professionals into programmatic efforts to enhance the scientific mission and potential of the Center.

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NCI's cancer centers program dates to 1960, when research institutions first received funding from NCI to expand multidisciplinary cancer studies. President Richard Nixon's "war on cancer" legislation, the National Cancer Act, formally established the centers program in 1971.

Centers in the program receive core grants, which provide essential funding for the infrastructure of their major scientific programs, and support grants, which help to address areas like the development of shared research resources and provide developmental funds to advance scientific goals. Each cancer center re-competes for its core grant every 5 years.

NCI currently lists 47 Comprehensive Cancer Centers. Among them: MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard University, Johns Hopkins Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Posted by: Joseph Rojas in [Knight Achievements](#), [Research awards](#)

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