

Cancer Research Institute



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Mission

Cancer Research Institute (CRI) is dedicated exclusively to the support and coordination of laboratory and clinical efforts that will lead to the immunological treatment, control, and prevention of cancer. CRI is committed to translating basic discovery into real-life applications in the clinic, to overcoming hurdles to academically led clinical discovery efforts, and accelerating discovery through collaboration.

Strategy/Approach

CRI offers support for scientists at any stage of their career and levels of scientific inquiry, from basic research to coordinated clinical trials. CRI also sponsors scientific conferences, recognizes community leaders who have made a positive impact on cancer research, and connects patients to clinical trial information and educational resources.

Through its clinical investigation programs like the CRI Laboratory Investigation and Training Programs, Cancer Vaccine Collaborative, and the Coordinated Cancer Initiatives, CRI convenes, directs, and funds an international array of scientists and clinicians who work together more efficiently toward shared goals. Additionally, CRI works to improve patient care by making cancer immunotherapies part of the standard-of-care in oncology. Its Cancer Immunotherapy Consortium provides a platform that allows stakeholders – scientists and clinicians, industry leaders, and governmental regulatory representatives – to advance the field by working together to achieve solutions to scientific and developmental challenges.

CRI also supports the development of promising new cancer immunotherapies through its **Cancer Vaccine Acceleration Fund (CVAF)**, a new venture philanthropy program designed to provide catalytic funding, scientific leadership, and valuable clinical resources for Phase I/II clinical trials. CVAF aims to kick-start development of several promising vaccines each year to drive approval of an expected two or three new, highly effective therapies for patients over a 10-year time period.

Research Portfolio

CRI funds research aimed at furthering the development of immunological approaches to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer.

Laboratory Investigation and Training Programs

- **Student Training and Research in Tumor Immunology Grants** support graduate student education and training in tumor immunology.
 - *up to \$60,000 over two years*

- **Irvington Institute Fellowship Program of the Cancer Research Institute** supports the further development of postdoctoral research scientists.
 - *up to \$164,500 over three years*

Translational Research Programs

- **Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program Grants** enable investigators at tenure-track assistant professor level or higher to explore clinically relevant questions aimed at improving the effectiveness of cancer immunotherapies.
 - *up to \$100,000 per year for two years*

Clinical Investigation Programs

- **Coordinated Cancer Initiatives Strategic Funding Program** mobilizes experts in different scientific disciplines to collaborate in key areas.
- **Cancer Vaccine Collaborative** supports and coordinates a global network of clinical trial sites testing cancer vaccines.
- **Cancer Immunotherapy Consortium** provides opportunities for collaboration among pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and academic institutions engaged in cancer vaccine research and development.
- **Cancer Vaccine Acceleration Fund** is a new CRI venture philanthropy program designed to speed clinical development of promising cancer immunotherapies.

Other Research Programs

- Through its **Designated Grants Program**, CRI issues awards and administers funding for outside donors who have requested their gifts be directed to certain research areas, for example: investigations of tumor biology, immunology, HIV/AIDS, and other subjects. It also provides support for the online journal, *Cancer Immunity*, the publication of the Academy of Cancer Immunology.

Partnership Practices

CRI has formed working and fundraising **partnerships** with corporations, academic institutions, and associations.
CRI partners with biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

Financials

CRI is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. The most recent financial information available is from 2012.¹

Year ending 6/30/12:

- Revenue: \$15,791,065

¹ Information obtained from Foundation Center Directory, <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org>, July 2013.

- Assets: \$51,037,681
- Grants paid: \$7,234,566
- Expenditures: \$16,035,693
- Total giving: \$10,893,566

Key Accomplishments

- Since its founding in 1953, CRI has provided almost \$200 million in financial support to nearly 3,000 scientists worldwide. The investigators have used this funding to conduct laboratory studies, build research teams, and launch clinical trials.
- During Fiscal Year 2011, CRI awarded \$11.8 million in new training and research grants to 39 scientists worldwide.
- The Institute added another program, its Student Training and Research in Tumor Immunology (STaRT), a training program to support graduate students planning to pursue a career in cancer immunology.
- Keeps overhead from fundraising and administrative costs to a minimum; in 2011, CRI dedicated more than 86 percent of its operating budget to its programs.
- Earned “A” grade from the American Institute of Philanthropy for fiscal disclosure and efficiency.
- Cancer Research Institute has earned the GuideStar Exchange Seal, indicating its commitment to the transparency of its organizational information to donors, funders, those they serve, the public, and regulators.
- The first vaccine for cervical cancer was discovered by CRI-funded scientist Dr. Ian Frazer.
- Over the past decade-and-a-half, CRI scientists and others have established through clinical and laboratory studies that: the immune system protects against cancer development and can check growth of established tumors; cancer-specific markers called antigens are recognized and targeted for attack by the immune system; patients whose tumors show signs of infiltration by immune cells fare better than patients whose tumors do not; and therapies that strengthen the immune response confer clinical benefit on cancer patients. Taken together, these advances in cancer immunology have provided a firm theoretical basis to test the validity of cancer vaccines as a therapeutic strategy.
- Through Cancer Immunotherapy Consortium, a network of more than 100 biotech and pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions, contributions made to the field include guidelines for minimal reporting of studies using immunological assays, harmonized guidelines for conducting immunological assays, and the development of improved criteria for monitoring the effectiveness of cancer immunotherapies in clinical trials.
- Clinical Accelerator, launched in 2012, has secured access to five highly promising immunotherapies, which will enter clinical trials.
- First annual Cancer Immunotherapy Awareness Month launched in June 2013. Included five webinars

from leaders in the field and Wear White for a Cure Day on June 7.

Leadership

The institute is governed by a **Board of Trustees** that is supported by a **Scientific Advisory Council** and a **permanent staff**.

- **CEO and Director of Scientific Affairs:** Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, PhD, jtormey@cancerresearch.org
- **Director of Grants Administration & Special Events:** Lynne A. Harmer, lharter@cancerresearch.org
- **Director of Marketing & Communications:** Brian M. Brewer, bbrewer@cancerresearch.org