During this time of Thanksgiving we are grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you all for the hard work and dedication done towards clinical research and the Upstate Carolina NCORP. We wish you and your family a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

The Upstate Carolina NCORP
NCI Match has released a newsletter for November including important and helpful information regarding the trial. A few key items which can be found inside are:

- A word from the study chair
- Open and Enrolling Protocols
- Key Study Personnel

See below access to the full newsletter

NCI-MATCH / EAY131Newsletter

NCI Annual Plan & Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2022

**KEY MESSAGES**

- To pursue the immense opportunities across the cancer research continuum, investments are needed across a multitude of funding mechanisms. Capitalizing on these future opportunities will lessen the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on patients diagnosed with cancer.
- Strong congressional support led to a nearly 20% increase in NCT's budget from fiscal year (FY) 2013 to FY 2019. During this time, a dramatic increase in new investigators entered the cancer field resulting in a 50% increase in R01 grant applications submitted to NCI. Continued infusion of funding into research project grants is necessary to capitalize on today's scientific opportunities.
- The FY 2022 budget proposal will give NCI the ability to support grant commitments and further improve the payline for R01 grants from the 10th to the 12th percentile. Doing so would allow NCI to fund a greater number of meritorious applications and make progress toward achieving the 15th percentile R01 payline by FY 2025.
- With steady and sustained budget increases supporting a cadre of talented researchers, NCI will be able to support promising research opportunities that improve our understanding of cancer and reduce the burden of the disease.

To read more about the budget proposal visit the NCI website [here](#).

Accruals & Biospecimens–Special Entries
CCDR Protocols Opening Soon

WF 1805CD HN–STAR: Implementation and Effectiveness Trial of HN–Star
- AnMed, BSSF, and SMC are participating. Awaiting next steps from Wake Forest.

URCC 18004CD: Understanding the Impact of Drug Shortages On Oncology Care
- AnMed, BSSF, and SMC will participate.
- Next training: Wednesday, December 2 from 1:00-2:30 pm EST (please note the time zone)

URCC 18110CD: Implementing Palliative Care: Learning Collaborative vs. Technical Assistance
- URCC is preparing to open site registration for Cohort 1 shortly
- SMC is participating

Kelsey Hitchins has really hit it out of the park this month! Along with her regular
duties, she has jumped in and is covering 2 Registry trials for the Heme/Onc Team until they are fully staffed. Additionally, she was able to enroll our first patient to two different trials! The trials are: URCC 19085 which investigates the use of TENS devices for chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy and URCC 18007 which seeks to alleviate fatigue following breast cancer treatment using Bupropion vs. Placebo. Way to go, Kelsey!

Q.A. with Kelsey

Audit Update:
- January 20th SWOG LungMAP (AnMed Only)
- January 21st SWOG S1806 (SRHS Only)

New Trials Available to Open

- **EA9181**: A Phase III Randomized Trial of Steroids + Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Induction with Chemotherapy or Blinatumomab for Newly Diagnosed BCR-ABL-Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Adults
- **EA2176**: A Randomized Phase III Study of Immune Checkpoint Inhibition with Chemotherapy in Treatment-Naïve Metastatic Anal Cancer Patients

Diving Into Disparities

On October 13, 2020 Yana and Alaina provided Disparity Outreach at the Gibbs Cancer Center in Gaffney. They were able to educate patients and their family members about clinical research trials and provide flyers on the process of a clinical research trial / drug. Additionally, while on site, Yana and Alaina interacted with Cancer Center staff, providing information about open trials and the importance of our NCORP.

It is important to offer clinical trials to rural patients as participation in clinical research has been shown to close the
outcome gap between patients residing in urban and rural areas. The goal of providing outreach to this population is to increase both trial participation, to break down trial participation barriers, and to educate our community members about research.

Smiling Faces

Do you have any staff you would like highlighted in The Connector? Please submit it by the 10th of the month to Alaina: a kennedy@srhs.com

Click here to visit our website

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