



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CANCER CENTER

2018 UPDATE

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE DESIGNATION

Through world-class research and patient care, The University of Kansas Cancer Center is working toward a world without cancer. As one of only 70 National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated cancer centers in the country, KU Cancer Center is committed to providing the highest level of research, treatment, prevention and survivorship services available. The cancer center has 350 cancer researchers and clinicians, including 124 disease-specific oncologists.

Why NCI Designation is Important

NCI designation is only awarded to the nation's premier cancer research and treatment centers. These centers are pioneers in cancer research — recognized for scientific leadership, resources and depth of research in basic, clinical and population science.

NCI Designation Transforms our Region

Each year, approximately 14,500 Kansans are diagnosed with cancer. KU Cancer Center's NCI designation allows these patients to remain close to home while receiving the most advanced cancer care from a deep bench of specialists.

Patients treated at NCI-designated centers have a 25 percent greater chance of survival

After an exhaustive multiyear effort, the NCI renewed KU Cancer Center's designation in 2017, increasing our score from "excellent" to "outstanding" and our NCI funding by 11 percent. In addition, Children's Mercy joined the Stowers Institute for Medical Research as a formal NCI consortium partner.

OUR CHALLENGE

During the next 10 years, the incidence of cancer is projected to increase by 45 to 50 percent. Over our lifetime, one in two men and one in three women will be diagnosed with cancer. It is one of the leading causes of death in both Kansas and Missouri due to several factors:

- Aging population
- Obesity
- Tobacco use
- HPV (human papillomavirus)

Survival rates drop by 50 percent for individuals without health insurance at the time of cancer diagnosis.

Under the leadership of its director, Dr. Roy A. Jensen, KU Cancer Center has set forth a comprehensive vision to address the challenges of cancer in this region.

OUR VISION

Develop paradigm-changing therapeutic advances

Focus on cancer prevention and control strategies

Leverage multidisciplinary discovery and translational programs

Establish an institutional culture that trains the next generation of leaders in cancer research, clinical care and advocacy

Lead the efforts locally and nationally to reduce the burden of cancer

We are making an impact thanks to our public and private partnerships, our innovative collaborations and our thought leadership. Highlights of how we are defining the standard of cancer care include:

DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

We invest in high-potential research to translate innovative ideas into new medical treatments and technologies. Seed funding from philanthropy supports faculty projects selected based on an extensive screening process to identify ideas most likely to result in a product to improve patient care. For example, in February 2018, KU Cancer Center opened a clinical trial for Ciclopirox Prodrug — the first KU Cancer Center-invented, anti-cancer agent that advanced from the laboratory to clinical trials.

FUELING INNOVATION

This is an exciting time for cancer research. We are beginning to see breakthroughs for patients with advanced melanoma, leukemia, lung cancer and many other forms of cancer. Even so, cancer is projected to become the leading cause of death in America by 2030.

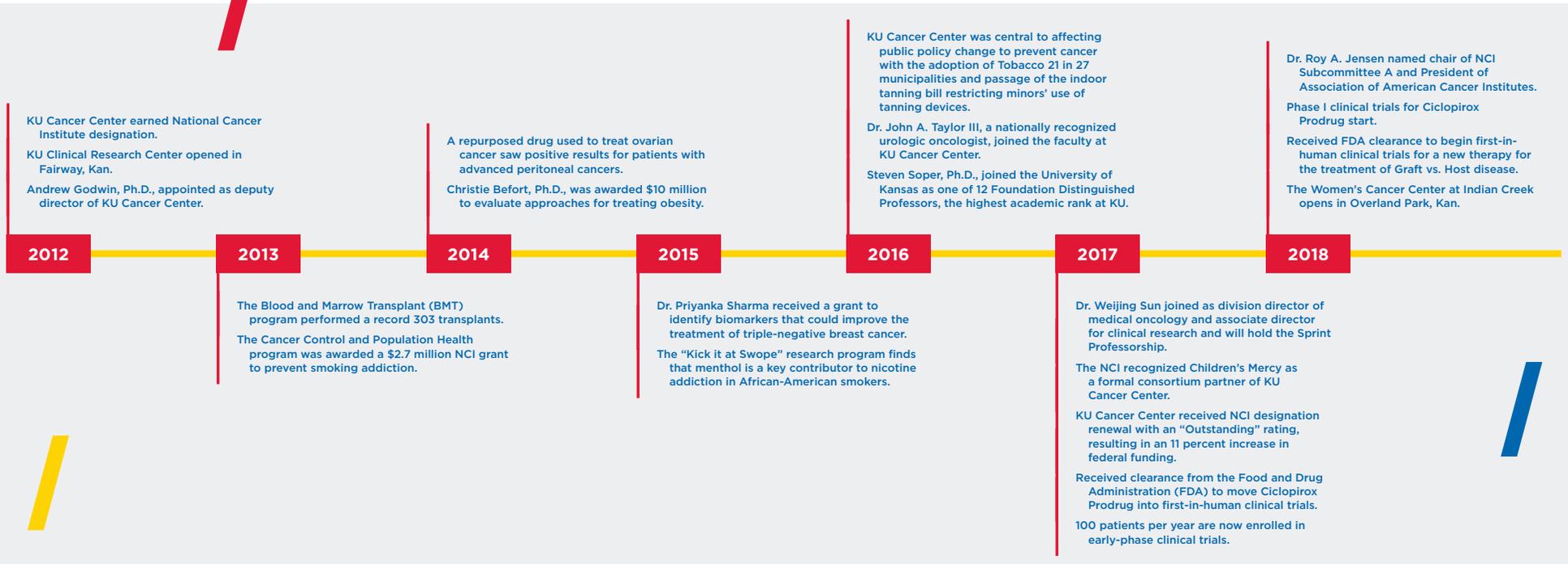
Eliminating this threat demands that we have the right expertise in place to maximize the discovery of new treatments and cures.

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS ARE CRITICAL TO MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMWORK

One undeniable new reality is the need for teamwork. As the body of scientific knowledge continues to explode, it is nearly impossible for any single person — no matter how gifted — to command it all. Physician-scientists are doctors with clinical training and experience who also have a passion for discovery. Because of their clinical perspective and focus on meaningful life outcomes for their patients, physician-scientists are essential to translational and clinical research.

That's why at KU Cancer Center we have put a strong priority on recruiting the top talent from across the country to fill key research positions aimed at elevating all aspects of translational research.

Thanks to the support from generous donors, we have established nine new professorships since 2012.



PREVENTION AND CONTROL STRATEGIES

According to the American Institute of Cancer Research, nearly 50 percent of all cancers are preventable. As the region's only NCI-designated cancer center, KU Cancer Center has taken the lead on educating and promoting cancer prevention. The center advocated strongly in support of multiple issues, including:

- Effective advocacy in Washington for biomedical research funding
- Clean indoor air
- Clinical trials coverage mandate
- Kansas tobacco tax
- Indoor tanning bill
- Tobacco 21
- Kansas Radon Program
- HPV vaccinations
- Statewide melanoma screenings



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