

Abramson Cancer Center (ACC) of the University of Pennsylvania
Mentored Membership Category

Requirements

There are three primary requirements for Mentored Membership in the Abramson Cancer Center (ACC):

- Current participation in cancer-related research
- Current Penn- or CHOP-employed, full-time, post-graduate trainee (no undergraduates, graduates, visiting trainees, or faculty)
- Must identify a faculty ACC member mentor

Benefits

The benefits of ACC membership include:

- Participation in ACC Research Programs, collaborative groups of scientists and clinicians sponsored by ACC
- Notification of and eligibility for ACC-supported funds to attend research meetings (national and international)
- ACC internal communications, including newsletters and notification regarding ACC-sponsored research retreats and symposia
- Announcements from the ACC Office of Cancer Research Training and Education (CRTEC) regarding career development opportunities, e.g., grant-writing workshops and Cancer K Club events

Responsibilities

All ACC members, regardless of their category of membership, are expected to:

- Interact and/or collaborate on cancer research with other ACC members, including efforts related to Community Outreach Engagement (COE) and/or Plan to Enhance Diversity (PED)
- Participate in the activities of at least one ACC Research Program (e.g., regular Program meetings, seminars, retreats, symposia)
- Provide the ACC with regular updates on current research, grants and publications, by responding to periodic requests for related information

Appointment of Mentored Members to ACC Research Programs

The ACC's nine Research Programs provide valuable forums for facilitating member interactions and collaborations in cancer research. Mentored Members are expected to attend meetings, seminars and retreats of their Research Program (which tracks with the Program alignment of their mentor).

Research Program	Area of Focus
Breast Cancer	The Breast Cancer Program is focused on defining the biological basis of breast cancer risk and progression, improving breast cancer detection, improving breast cancer treatment using targeted therapies, and enhancing the understanding of genetic and socioeconomic modifiers of breast cancer risk and outcome.

Cancer Control	The Cancer Control Program is a transdisciplinary Program composed of members who focus on the identification of the genetic, behavioral and health care determinants of cancer susceptibility and the development and implementation of strategies to lower risk and improve outcomes. The Program is directly concerned with improving cancer outcomes in the ACC's catchment area and working inter-Programmatically with all Research Programs to apply advances in science to the health of populations. The members of the Program seek to improve population health across the cancer spectrum through advancing science in the areas of: 1) Risk Assessment; 2) Survivorship; 3) Communication and Health Behavior; and 4) Health Outcomes.
Cancer Risk Exposures	The Cancer Risk Exposures Program aims to elucidate the mechanistic basis by which chemicals in either tobacco or the environment cause cancer by studying gene-environment interactions that predict individual susceptibility to these agents, to evaluate interventions to prevent cancer through exposure reduction, and develop novel methods for early detection, diagnosis and prognosis of cancers of environmental etiology.
Cancer Therapeutics	The Cancer Therapeutics Program focuses on the development of more effective diagnostic approaches and therapies for adult patients with neoplastic disease using multimodality therapeutic approaches. The Program serves to integrate preclinical discoveries from Cancer Center laboratories with proof of concept early clinical trials that can advance cancer treatment. Pilot clinical studies in the major cancer treatment disciplines are designed to individualize therapy based on host and tumor characteristics, and to identify high-impact therapies to be explored in larger, often national, randomized clinical trials.
Hematologic Malignancies	The Hematologic Malignancies Program brings together a multidisciplinary group of basic scientists and clinical investigators whose purpose is to understand malignant hematopoiesis, and to develop novel molecular and cell-based therapies to improve outcome for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma and those undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.
Immunobiology	The Immunobiology Program works to understand the molecular and cellular regulation of the normal immune system and to utilize basic science discoveries of immune mechanisms to target malignant cells in relevant <i>in vitro</i> and animal model systems and in human clinical trials
Pediatric Oncology	The Pediatric Oncology Program seeks to provide the best chance of cure without side effects to children with cancer through discovering the molecular basis of the cancer process, testing new treatment interventions in an innovative fashion, understanding the psychosocial impact on children and families, and defining etiology factors responsible for childhood cancer.
Radiobiology and Imaging	The Radiobiology and Imaging Program focuses on the conduct of collaborative research in areas relevant to understanding how ionizing and non-ionizing radiation interacts with biological tissues and how to image these interactions and responses. The research conducted by program members spans fundamental, translational and clinical research.

Tumor Biology	The Tumor Biology Program unifies investigators who seek to unravel the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying neoplasia with translation into new diagnostics and therapeutics. The Tumor Biology Program seeks to take an interdisciplinary approach to utilize <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> models (especially genetically engineered mouse models) to elucidate specific aspects of cancer genetics: oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes, DNA repair, RNA biology, signal transduction pathways, nuclear hormone receptors, transcriptional factors, cancer cell metabolism, structural biology and the tumor microenvironment.
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