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# CANCER FACTS

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National Cancer Institute • National Institutes of Health  
Department of Health and Human Services

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## NCI's Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program

### Key Points

- The Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program is designed to promote and support clinical trials (research studies) of new cancer treatments, explore methods of cancer prevention and early detection, and study quality of life and rehabilitation issues.
- Cooperative groups include researchers, cancer centers, and community physicians throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

The Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program, which is sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), is designed to promote and support clinical trials (research studies) of new cancer treatments, explore methods of cancer prevention and early detection, and study quality of life issues and rehabilitation during and after treatment. Cooperative groups include researchers, cancer centers, and community physicians throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. They work with NCI to identify important questions in cancer research and to design clinical trials to answer these questions.

The Cooperative Group Program involves more than 1,700 institutions that contribute patients to group-conducted clinical trials. Thousands of individual investigators also participate



in NCI-supported cooperative group studies. Cooperative groups place more than 22,000 new patients into cancer treatment clinical trials each year.

The groups differ in structure and research focus. Some groups, such as the Children's Oncology Group, consist of investigators that have a particular medical specialty (e.g., pediatrics); some, such as the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, study a specific type of cancer therapy; and others, such as the Gynecologic Oncology Group, focus on a group of related cancers. The groups share a common purpose—to develop and conduct large-scale trials in multi-institutional settings.

The Cooperative Group Program was established in 1955 following congressional approval to increase support for studies of chemotherapy for cancer. Congress initially appropriated \$5 million for NCI to establish the Chemotherapy National Service Center. By 1958, 17 cooperative groups were part of the Center. At that time, the main focus of the program was to test new anticancer agents from NCI's drug development program. The emphasis on chemotherapy gradually shifted to studies of combined therapy approaches in cancer treatment.

People interested in taking part in a clinical trial should talk with their doctor. Information about clinical trials is available from the Cancer Information Service (CIS) at 1-800-4-CANCER and the NCI booklets *Taking Part in Clinical Trials: What Cancer Patients Need to Know* and *Taking Part in Clinical Trials: Cancer Prevention Studies*. These booklets describe how research studies are carried out and explain their possible benefits and risks. In addition, the NCI's Web site provides general information about clinical trials at <http://cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/> on the Internet. It also links to PDQ®, the NCI's cancer information database. PDQ contains detailed information about specific ongoing clinical trials in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. The CIS also provides information from PDQ.

## Clinical Trials Cooperative Groups

### **American College of Radiology Imaging Network**

Bruce J. Hillman, M.D., Chair  
14th Floor  
1101 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
<http://www.acrin.org>

### **American College of Surgeons Oncology Group**

Samuel A. Wells, Jr., M.D., Chair  
American College of Surgeons Oncology Group  
Box 3627  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, NC 27710  
<http://www.acosog.org>

### **Cancer and Leukemia Group B**

Richard L. Schilsky, M.D., Chair  
Suite 2000  
208 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60604-1154  
<http://www.calgb.org>

### **Children's Oncology Group**

Gregory Reaman, M.D., Chair  
Post Office Box 60012  
Arcadia, CA 91066-6012  
<http://www.childrensoncologygroup.org>

### **Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group**

Robert L. Comis, M.D., Chair  
Suite 1100  
1818 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
<http://www.ecog.org>

### **European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer**

Françoise Meunier, M.D., Director General  
EORTC Central Office  
Avenue E. Mounier 83, BTE 11  
B-1200 Brussels  
Belgium  
<http://www.eortc.be/default.htm>

### **Gynecologic Oncology Group**

Philip J. DiSaia, M.D., Chair  
Suite 1020  
Four Penn Center  
1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
<http://www.gog.org>

### **National Cancer Institute of Canada, Clinical Trials Group**

Joseph L. Pater, M.D., Director  
Queen's University  
82-84 Barrie Street  
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6  
Canada  
<http://www.ctg.queensu.ca/>

### **National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project**

Norman Wolmark, M.D., Chair  
Fifth Floor  
East Commons Professional Building  
Four Allegheny Center  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5234  
<http://www.nsabp.pitt.edu>

### **North Central Cancer Treatment Group**

Jan C. Buckner, M.D., Chair  
Fourth Floor  
Plummer Building  
200 First Street, SW.  
Rochester, MN 55905  
<http://ncctg.mayo.edu>

**Radiation Therapy Oncology Group**

Walter J. Curran, Jr., M.D., Chair  
14th Floor  
1101 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
<http://www.rtog.org>

**Southwest Oncology Group**

Charles A. Coltman, Jr., M.D., Chair  
14980 Omicron Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78245-3217  
<http://www.swog.org>

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**Sources of National Cancer Institute Information****Cancer Information Service**

Toll-free: 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)  
TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 1-800-332-8615

**NCI Online*****Internet***

Use <http://cancer.gov> to reach the NCI's Web site.

***LiveHelp***

Cancer Information Specialists offer online assistance through the *LiveHelp* link on the NCI's Web site.

**This fact sheet was reviewed on 2/19/03**

**Editorial changes were made on 3/14/03**