

This is confirmation that your memo was just sent to 3,567 email addresses.

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here.](#)



Andrew Kraft, MD

NCI Site Visit to UA Cancer Center Highlights Strong Research and Clinical Capabilities

Feb. 10, 2016

The University of Arizona Cancer Center highlighted its multidisciplinary research, clinical, and community outreach programs when it hosted representatives from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) on Jan. 27. The site visit took place as part of NCI's formal review of the UA Cancer Center's competitive renewal application for continuation of the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG).

The 16-member site-visit committee consisted of directors, administrators, research program leaders, and clinical department heads from other NCI-designated cancer centers across the nation. The NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) is a five-year \$25 million source of funding intended to spur transdisciplinary research leading to the development of more effective approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis, and therapy.

Paramount to the CCSG is the coveted NCI designation of "Comprehensive Cancer Center," that distinguishes the nation's very best cancer institutions. Of the 69 NCI-designated cancer centers in the United States, 45 are designated by the NCI as Comprehensive Cancer Centers. Comprehensive centers are noted for their breadth and depth of multidisciplinary research that bridges basic, clinical and population science. The University of Arizona Cancer Center first received its NCI designation in 1978 and was elevated to Comprehensive Cancer Center status in 1990.

Seventeen individual presentations, including an introduction from UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences **Joe G.N. "Skip" Garcia, MD**, were delivered to the site review committee as part of the daylong visit. Multiple breakout sessions included interviews with select leaders and tours of shared research units and core facilities.

The NCI is expected to issue its initial response in March or April, to be followed by a formal decision on the total grant funding to be awarded, and continuation of "comprehensive" status. "The presenters each did an excellent job, and stressed the importance of taking novel science from the bench to the bedside," said **Andrew Kraft, MD**, UA Cancer Center director and principal investigator on the CCSG grant. "The support from Dr. Garcia and the UA Health Sciences leadership team was key to making this important visit a success," said Dr. Kraft, who also serves as associate vice

president for oncology programs for the University of Arizona Health Sciences and professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology.

The NCI comprehensive designation has tremendous impact that goes beyond the confines of the UACC. It attracts top research and clinical talent to the UA Health Sciences, hastens the dissemination of research findings, and enhances the center's statewide economic impact. This impact is expected to increase exponentially, as the Cancer Center expands its clinical and research portfolio. For example, the center recently opened a 220,000-square-foot outpatient clinic and research facility at Dignity St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center on the Phoenix Biomedical Campus.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is one of 11 agencies that make up the National Institutes of Health, and it serves as the federal government's primary unit for cancer research and training.

