

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the proposed Midwest Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board?

A. Modeled after the Cancer Institute of New Jersey Network, the Midwest Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board (PAB) will serve as an advisory board to Dr. Roy Jensen as the University pursues National Cancer Institute designation for its cancer center. The Board would be comprised of hospitals and research organizations that are committed to securing NCI designation for the region and who have expressed an interest in participating in this strategic effort given its regional significance. Each partner would have an equal voice on the Board and function like a “kitchen cabinet,” all working with the Director around common objectives including collaborative research and education and philanthropic support.

Q. What will the Board do?

A. Functions of the Board would include:

- **Assisting with pursuit of NCI designation by demonstrating research and education collaboration of key hospitals and research institutions for the benefit of the region, the University, and the State of Kansas.**
- **Providing input and having a voice in the strategic planning for NCI designation.**
- **Ensuring a shared vision for the NCI Center and the role of partner institutions.**
- **Providing input on research programs leveraging unique strengths of the region.**
- **Assisting with philanthropic plans to support our 10-year strategic plan.**
- **Evaluating potential of joint strategic investments of a scale that demand collaboration (e.g. Proton Beam Therapy).**

Q. Is the PAB a “governing board” for the cancer center?

A. No. The PAB is advisory in nature to the Director, which is compliant with NCI guidelines ensuring the “Authority of the Director.”

Q. Is the Board being discussed now the same one referred to in the affiliation agreement between the University of Kansas Medical Center, The University of Kansas Hospital and Kansas University Physicians, Inc.?

A. Yes.

Q. When is the first meeting of the PAB?

A. Once institutions officially join the board, the Director will call the first meeting, and the board will decide several key items including a meeting schedule.

Q. Will Board membership only extend to hospitals?

A. Absolutely not. Research institutions and physician groups will also be invited to join the Board. For instance, the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and Kansas State University have both expressed an interest in being a part of the PAB. The intent is to include institutions from across the region.

Q. How is the PAB different from the Midwest Cancer Alliance that was launched earlier this year?

A. The Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA) is the outreach arm of the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC) in which MCA member institutions have access to resources like innovative clinical trials, the latest prevention tools and techniques and continuing education opportunities. The PAB directly advises Dr. Jensen on the strategic effort toward achieving NCI designation.

Q. The names are so similar, are the two groups connected?

A. They are connected in the sense that they are both working with the KUCC toward a common goal – eliminating the burden of cancer. They do, however, have distinct functions in that the PAB has specific responsibilities in regard to strategic planning for research, education and philanthropic efforts for the cancer center. All PAB members automatically get membership in the MCA.

Q. Is the Midwest Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board name finalized?

A. Nothing is finalized regarding the proposed PAB until the group is assembled and meets for the first time.

Q. What is the relationship between the KU Cancer Center and the KU Medical Center?

A. The University of Kansas Cancer Center is a collection of researchers, physicians, staff and other professionals within the KU Medical Center, much like the Hoglund Brain Imaging Center or the Liver Institute is a part of the KU Medical Center.

Q. What is the relationship between the KU School of Medicine and the KU Hospital?

A. While two separate institutions, they are connected by sharing staff, a campus and many common goals and objectives. KU Hospital is the primary teaching hospital of the KU School of Medicine. Every member of the medical staff has a faculty appointment in the School of Medicine. Likewise, physicians in the school have the ability to admit patients into the KU Hospital.

Q. What is the relationship between the University of Kansas Cancer Center and KU Hospital's Cancer Center?

A. The University of Kansas Cancer Center's clinical care takes place at The University of Kansas Hospital's Cancer Center and Medical Pavilion in Westwood, Kansas. The clinical care is fully incorporated into the University of Kansas Cancer Center, as the clinical interface where patients are seen.

Q. Are there plans for a one million-square-foot cancer building on the KU Medical Center campus? Who would own it?

A. There are no plans for such a building. There is no plan for joint ownership of any clinical building affiliated with the PAB.

Q. Will there be clinical collaboration under the PAB?

A. Each clinical PAB member will continue to provide clinical services and compete under its current name. There may be future collaboration to bring high-dollar technology to the area, such as Proton Beam Therapy, but the PAB is focused on education and research, not clinical care.

Q. Which group is applying for National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation?

A. NCI designation is only given to academic institutions. Therefore, the University of Kansas Medical Center will technically receive the designation, although the University of Kansas Cancer Center will house the functions for the NCI designation. However, the effort to secure NCI designation will need to include many hospitals, research institutions and major cancer physician practices such as Kansas City Cancer Center and the Cancer Center of Kansas.

Q. Why do some NCI cancer centers have names like M.D. Anderson or Dana Farber?

A. Those cancer centers are the benefactors of generous donors whose philanthropy qualified them for “naming rights.” KU Cancer Center is hopeful it, too, will be the beneficiary of such generosity.

Q. What will NCI designation do for the region?

A. The designation will increase federal research grant dollars at KU and other institutions in the region and allow all of the hospitals and life science organizations in the area to recruit more world-class researchers and physician-scientists. NCI designation will also bring access to leading-edge clinical trials available only at these designated centers.

Q. What will NCI designation do for patients in the region?

A. NCI designation will provide access to leading-edge research through clinical trials and the most state-of-the-art cancer care for patients here in the region. NCI designation will also allow patients to receive NCI-level care here at home instead of having to travel great distances to other NCI-designated centers.