

Cancer Screening Research Network (CSRN)

*Lori Minasian, MD, Deputy Director
Division of Cancer Prevention, NCI*

September 28, 2022

Notice of Intent to Publish Funding Opportunity Announcements

Cancer Screening Research Network

- ACCrual, Enrollment & Screening Sites (ACCESS) Hub (UG1)
- Coordinating & Communication Center (UG1)
- Statistics & Data Management Center (UG1)

For more information:
<https://prevention.cancer.gov/CSRN>

Website for CSRN

Short cut link: <https://prevention.cancer.gov/CSRN>

<https://prevention.cancer.gov/major-programs/cancer-screening-research>

Notice of Intent to Publish the Funding Opportunities for CSRN

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-22-129.html>

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-22-130.html>

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-22-131.html>

Purpose and Rationale

The purpose of the CSRN is to address questions related to the cancer screening continuum of care:

- Efficacy, effectiveness, best practices, adoption, adaptation, implementation, etc. for each step in this continuum

Cancer screening trials require a variety of health care providers:

- Screening is much more than the test itself. Cancer screening is a process involving multiple steps and non-oncology medical specialists.
- Need sites and clinical investigators (e.g., gynecologists, primary care, gastroenterologists, etc.) who routinely conduct cancer screening and the diagnostic testing after a positive screen result.

Objectives

Establish the infrastructure to implement screening RCTs and other screening and management studies for prevention/interception:

- Start with the Vanguard study

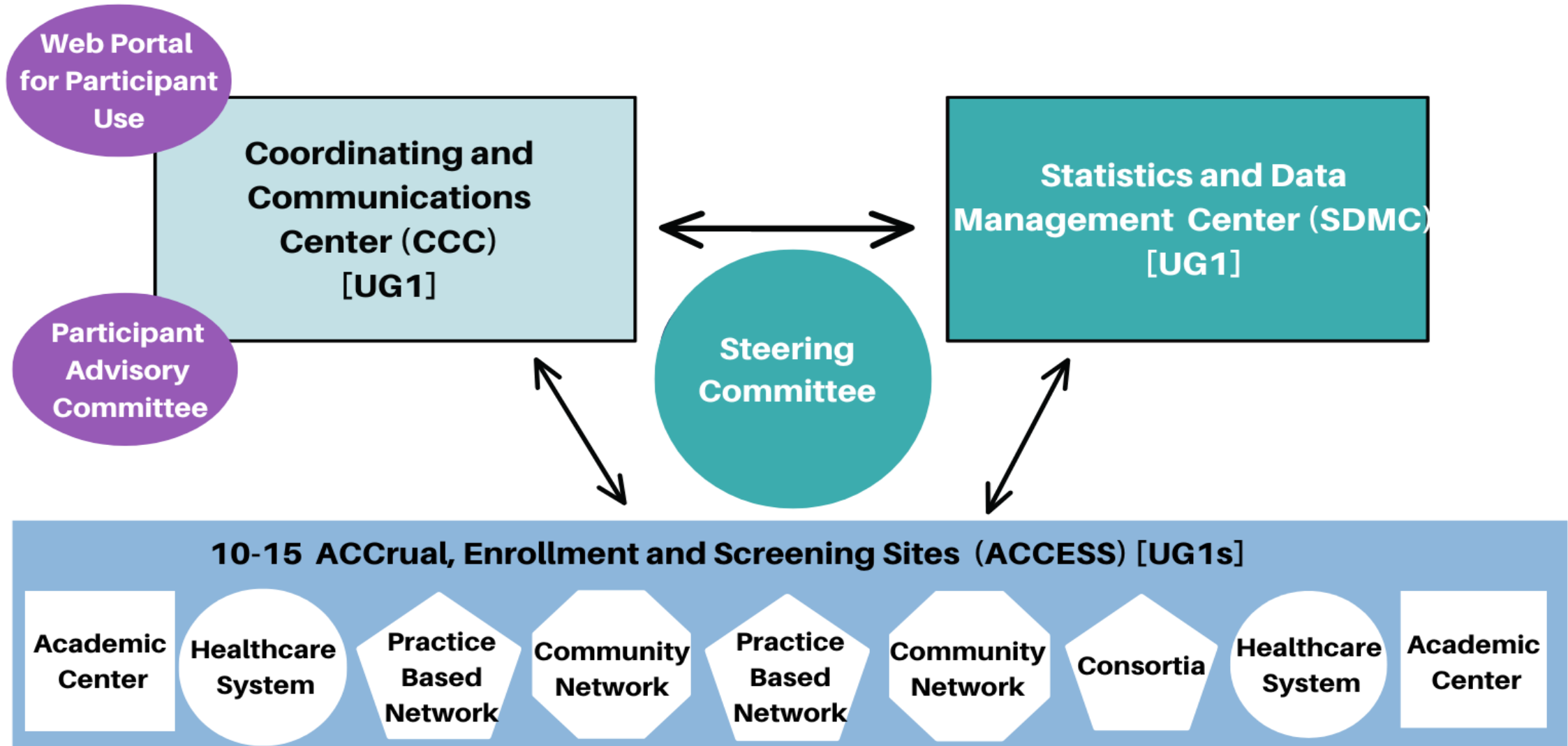
Conduct cancer screening trials to evaluate emerging technologies for cancer screening:

- Conduct clinical utility trials e.g., biomarkers emerging from EDRN

Conduct cancer screening studies to evaluate other aspects of cancer screening, including clinical workflow and coordination of care:

- Adaption and implementation of screening strategies for diverse practice settings
- Risk-informed screening and management
- Pragmatic trials of screening

Cancer Screening Research Network



Organizational Structure of CSRN

Utilizing the NCI Clinical Trials Enterprise System

Coordinating and Communication Center (One UG1 grant)

- Cancer screening leadership
- Communications, recruitment and retention expertise
- Operations and coordination for development/conduct of trials and studies
- Protocol development, monitoring and auditing, and training

Statistics and Data Management Center (One UG1 grant)

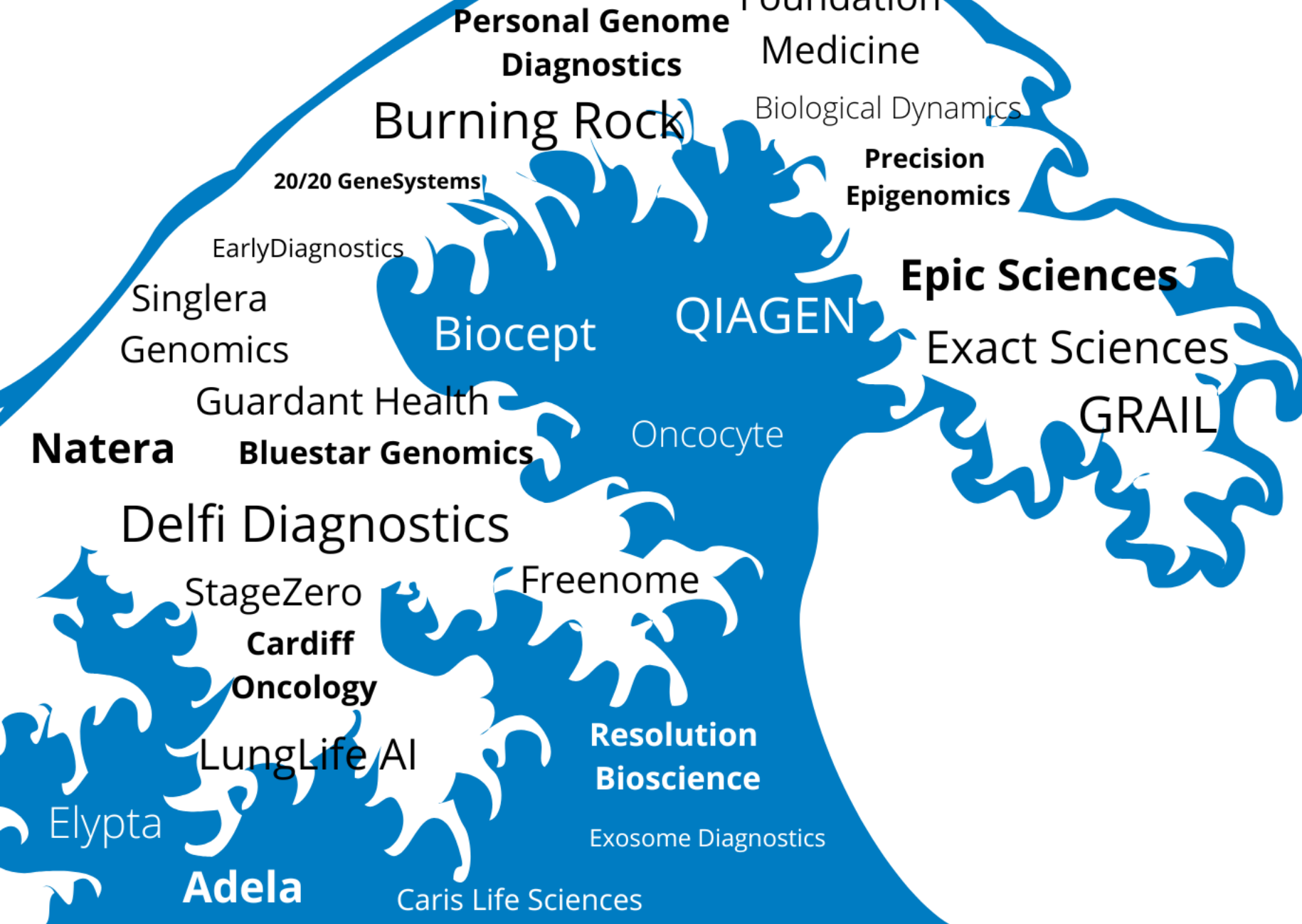
- Statistical expertise for study design & analysis
- Data management
- Coordination with Biorepository

Organizational Structure of CSRN (Continued)

Accrual, Enrollment and Screening Sites (ACCESS) (10-15 UG1 grants)

- Initially 10-15 UG1-funded CSRN sites; additional sites will be needed for the MCED RCT specifically
- Variety of healthcare settings (academic, community, healthcare systems, consortia and/or practice-based research networks)
- Institution with demonstrated accrual and retention of participants on disease screening clinical trials, especially cancer screening or prevention
- Investigators with expertise in cancer screening and history of recruiting participants onto screening and prevention clinical trials and studies
- Demonstrated history of recruiting underserved population

Why?



I think I'd like to have an MCD test, Doc, but which one?

MEDICAL OFFICE



MCD Background

Background on MCD assays

Each MCD assay measures different analytes in blood:

- There are many markers in development (e.g., patterns of DNA methylation, DNA fragmentation, DNA mutations, RNA sequences, proteins, combo, etc.).
- Each MCD assay detects a different set of cancer types.

A positive test result is a signal for cancer but does not diagnose cancer:

- Some tests suggest a “tissue of origin.”
- Some tests require extensive imaging after a positive MCD result.

Each company has a proprietary algorithm for what constitutes a positive assay. Some assay companies continue to refine those algorithms

Many Unknowns about Screening for Cancer with MCD Assays

Unknown if screening a population of asymptomatic people for cancer with MCD assays will result in a mortality reduction from cancer.

Harms from using MCD assays to screen for cancer are unknown:

- What kind/how many diagnostic tests are needed to diagnose cancer?
- What happens if you do not find a cancer after a positive MCD test?
- How many people will receive unnecessary invasive procedures and suffer complications?
- Will people stop standard of care screening after a negative MCD test?
- Will a blood test make screening more accessible or exacerbate disparities?
- Will these assays lead to overdiagnosis of indolent cancers?

Clinical Trials Network Specific to Cancer Screening

Tsunami of potential tests with many unanswered questions which requires a new network uniquely designed to design and conduct the trials

Investigators involved in cancer screening

- Need sites and clinical investigators (e.g., gynecologists, primary care, gastroenterologists, etc.) who routinely do cancer screening and the diagnostic workup for a positive screen

Evaluate approaches for precision screening

Funding specific to cancer screening

- Recruitment/retention and communications expertise

Pilot or Feasibility Study

The Vanguard Study

The Vanguard Study

Randomization

Control Arm



MCD 1 Arm



MCD 2 Arm



All Arms
Offered
Standard
of Care
Cancer
Screenings

Interventions

+

No Additional Tests
Control Arm

+

MCD 1 Tests for
Cancers A, B and C

+

MCD 2 Tests for
Cancers C, D and E

Objectives of Vanguard Study

- Assess participant willingness for randomization
- Determine adherence to testing and diagnostic follow-up
- Evaluate feasibility of protocol-defined diagnostic workflows
- Determine reliability and timeliness of blood specimen testing and return by MCD companies
- Identify facilitators and barriers to recruitment/retention/compliance of diverse participant groups

Estimated sample size for the Vanguard is 8,000 persons per arm

Collaboration Between Networks

CSRN will use NCI Clinical Trials Infrastructure:

- CTSU, OPEN, Medidata Rave, CIRB
- Future opportunities for cross network collaboration

Potential to identify participants for cancer prevention and control and treatment clinical trials:

- Identification of patients with pre-cancer and early cancer

Establish CSRN and then consider ways in which to collaborate in the development of complementary studies and trials.

Questions?

Thank you!



**NATIONAL
CANCER
INSTITUTE**

www.cancer.gov

www.cancer.gov/espanol