

Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania
Criteria and Categories for Membership

Requirements

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

- Current participation in cancer-related research
- Support of the ACC's research mission to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary, interdepartmental cancer research
- Full faculty appointment

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 grants and funding opportunities, including pilot projects, seed money, and ACC Translational Centers of Excellence
- ACC internal communications, including newsletters and notification regarding ACC-sponsored research retreats and symposia.

Responsibilities

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

- Interact and/or collaborate on cancer research with other ACC members
- 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

Membership Categories

There are three categories of membership in the ACC. These categories vary according to degree of faculty involvement in cancer research and the activities of the ACC.

The membership criteria are as follows:

I. Full Member (Subcategories: Research Investigator or Clinical Investigator)

- Evidence of active and current commitment to cancer research as evidenced by one or more of the following:
 - PI of an externally-funded cancer-related research grant
 - PI of an externally-funded cancer-related training grant or career development award
 - PI of an active cancer-related clinical trial approved by the ACC's Clinical Trials Scientific Review and Monitoring Committee
 - Service in a senior leadership role within the ACC and/or Penn Medicine
 - Peer-reviewed publications in cancer research
- Early-career: Does not yet meet any of the above criteria but has a demonstrated interest in cancer research as well as the potential to secure an externally funded cancer research grant in the near future. An externally-funded grant must be obtained within three years of admission to the ACC in order to maintain membership.

II. Associate Member

- Interested contributor to cancer-related research, but without external peer-reviewed cancer research grants or active cancer clinical trials.
- Valued by ACC members for contribution to the ACC's research base (e.g., clinician who supports the patient-oriented research projects of ACC members).
- Does not currently meet the criteria for Full Membership but may do so in the future.

- Participates in some ACC and Research Program activities.

III. Mentored Member

- Senior post-docs, fellows, and instructors mentored by an ACC full member
- Separate application path modeled on full/associate membership (see Mentored Membership SOP)

Appointment of Members to ACC Research Programs

The ACC's nine Research Programs provide valuable forums for facilitating member interactions and collaborations in cancer research. Members are expected to attend meetings, seminars and retreats of their Research Program. Applicants are asked to select one Research Program to which they would like to be assigned. Final assignments occur following review and approval by the respective Program Leader(s).

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.

Membership Application and Appointment Process

Faculty may request a membership application from ACC Research Administration. When the Application Form and supporting documents are received, the application package is forwarded to relevant Program Leader(s) for review. Applicants who are not well known to ACC leadership may be contacted. Following the Program Leader review, ACC senior leadership then reviews the membership application at the next scheduled ACC Executive Committee meeting. The final determination regarding membership is the responsibility of the ACC Director.

Reappointment & Review

The ACC gathers information from its members annually to review membership status and meet NIH CCSG reporting requirements. These data requests may include members' up-to-date CVs, NIH biosketches, grants, and publications. Timely provision of information is a condition for continued membership. Only those members whose appointments are not renewed are notified by the ACC.