Facts and Figures

University of California San Francisco and the
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Rankings

• The professional schools of UCSF are among the top in the nation. UC San Francisco’s School of Medicine ranked fourth nationwide in both research and primary care education according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 issue of “America’s Best Graduate Schools.” UCSF has the only school of medicine in the nation that ranks in the top five in both research and primary care education, including a tie for fourth place in research education, alongside University of Pennsylvania.

• The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) received the largest amount of research funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of all other public institutions in 2013 and ranked second among all institutions nationwide. UCSF has ranked among the nation’s top institutions in NIH funding for more than two decades, with the School of Medicine receiving $439.6 million in 2013. The UCSF schools of pharmacy and of dentistry also ranked first in their fields in NIH grants for 2013: pharmacy for the 34th consecutive year.

• UCSF also consistently ranks among the top US biomedical research institutions in the level of federal funding that is cancer-specific. In 2013, UCSF received over $73.5 million in appropriated total research support from the National Cancer Institute.

• Current grant funding to UCSF investigators for cancer research projects from all sources totals more than $243 million annually. This total includes funding from the NCI as well as from other areas of the NIH, the American Cancer Society, and other agencies and industry partners.

• Among the 67 NCI-designated cancer centers nationwide, the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center ranks fifth in the size of its NCI Cancer Center Support Grant, and first among the 10 NCI-designated cancer centers located in California.

• The 2013-14 U.S. News & World Report “America’s Best Hospitals” survey ranked UCSF seventh for cancer care — and first among Northern California cancer-care providers. The survey placed UCSF’s cancer care among the top 15 in the nation for the ninth consecutive year. Additionally, UCSF Medical Center placed on the Honor Roll, an exclusive list of 18 centers nationally which excelled across a broad spectrum of patient care, scoring at or near the top this year in at least seven of the 15 Best Hospitals medical specialties.

Institutional Memberships and Accreditation

• Since 1998, UCSF has been a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, an alliance of 21 of the world’s leading cancer centers.

• The Cancer Center is also a member of the Association of American Cancer Institutes, comprising leading US research centers whose efforts involve a comprehensive and multidisciplinary program of cancer research, treatment, patient care, prevention, education, and community outreach.

• Cancer programs at UCSF have been continuously accredited since 1933 by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons, and UCSF is among a select group of institutions that have achieved the highest level of CoC accreditation. The CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to reducing the morbidity and mortality of cancer through education, standard setting, and monitoring of quality, multidisciplinary patient care. CoC-approved programs diagnose and treat 80 percent of the individuals who are diagnosed with cancer each year.
Cancer Center Investigators

- The Cancer Center’s more than 370 members and associate members — faculty investigators in laboratory, clinical, and population-based research — exemplify the value of attacking the cancer problem through collaborative, interdisciplinary research. Cancer Center members represent dozens of departments and institutes in the UCSF Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Nursing.

- Cancer-related research and clinical care are significant priorities for UCSF overall; approximately one-quarter of the university’s full-time faculty members work in cancer research or patient care.

- Members exemplify extraordinary scientific distinction as measured by prestigious national and international honors. Among the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center’s members are two winners of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (J. Michael Bishop, MD, 1989; Elizabeth H. Blackburn, PhD, 2009). Current Cancer Center members also include three winners of the Albert Lasker Award for Basic or Clinical Medical Research; seven Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigators; 13 members of the National Academy of Sciences; 21 members of the Institute of Medicine; 19 Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and four Fellows of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Cancer Diagnoses and Clinical Research

- In 2011, 6,453 individuals were newly diagnosed with cancer at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Diagnoses spanned all categories of cancer, in both adult and pediatric patients. Among the largest categories of cancer diagnoses were prostate (911 cases), brain and nervous system (585 cases), breast (584 cases), cutaneous melanoma (311 cases), and lung cancer (309 cases).

- In 2012, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center clinical research investigators led 263 interventional trials which accrued 863 patients in 2012. Among those trials were 243 therapeutic research protocols which enrolled 626 cancer patients, and which represented NCI cooperative-group studies, protocols with pharmaceutical industry sponsorship, and institutional protocols initiated by UCSF investigators.

- The Cancer Center continues a growth period made possible 5 years ago by an anonymous pledge of $150 million. In addition to expanding the Center’s infrastructure for experimental therapies the gift has augmented clinical research activities including the launch of an early-phase trials unit and improved efforts in medical informatics. As a result of these efforts, UCSF has seen a 79% growth in clinical trial accruals since 2007. UCSF began construction in 2010 on a 289-bed medical center complex that will include a cancer hospital, slated to open to patients in 2015.

Impact of Biomedical Research

- Leading biomedical research universities such as UCSF are engines of discovery that launch new ideas into the private sector for further development. An estimated 90 life-science start-up companies have been spawned or spun off from UCSF labs. Overall, the University of California has received more patents than any other university in the world, and UCSF is ranked first for active patents in the University of California system. Among UCSF patents are many of the UC system’s top revenue producers, including hepatitis B vaccine, yeast expression vector, a technique for delivering medicines to the body’s cells, a form of recombinant DNA used for the production of therapeutic agents, and magnetic resonance imaging.

- Public-private partnerships can help speed the advancement of biomedical research and move discoveries from bench to bedside. UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center investigators have developed creative partnerships with dozens of life-science companies in the Bay Area and beyond. Since January 2011, strategic partnerships with industry leaders such as Novartis, Genentech, SurroMed, Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Celera Diagnostics, and Predicant Biosciences have resulted in over $40 million dollars of research funding.