Summary
NRG Oncology NCORP is soliciting PILOT projects for applications focused on NRG NCORP Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR) priorities that will provide data that will directly lead to future CCDR concepts. Specifically, this funding should be used to develop a competitive CCDR concept for rapid review by the NRG CCDR Steering Committee (and ultimately the NCI NCORP CCDR SC). Moreover, eligibility for these funds is limited to NRG Oncology Members to conduct research within an NCORP Community or Minority Site where CCDR is able to be conducted. Generating data related to the feasibility of a specific concept within the NCORP CCDR setting is a key to the development of a competitive concept. As put forward in our core grant, CCDR priorities for funding are:

- **Implementation of guideline-based care**: As one example, the work of legacy RTOG demonstrated the cost and effectiveness of a lower fractionation schedule for bone metastasis in RTOG 9714. This led to incorporation of a single fractionation for bone metastasis into treatment guidelines. However, lack of widespread adoption has led to subsequent selection of this guideline-based care as a “Choosing Wisely” item by the American Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology – ASTRO. Further evaluation as to why these guidelines have not been widely implemented could be studied in the community oncology practices.
- **Patient-reported outcomes (PROs)**: Studies that seek to include the PRO-CTCAE in NRG NCORP trials and improve compliance and data capture is a priority. Studies that seek to use technology or apps to standardized PRO variables across EHR, registry, and claims data systems are encouraged.
- **Decision-making tools**: Implementation of screening, treatment, or palliative care decision aids in community settings is encouraged.
- **Patient navigation**: Recently, the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) defined and validated a set of core competencies for an Oncology Nurse Navigator (ONN). These include defining the role of an ONN to provide education and resources to facilitate informed decision making, coordination of care to ensure timely access to quality health and psychosocial care, and communication for cancer patients to help overcome healthcare system barriers. Within community oncology programs, it is important to evaluate ONN competencies, with emphasis on their impact on both clinical trial accrual and delivery of quality cancer care, especially in minority and underserved populations.
- **Cardiotoxicity**: In response to the growing awareness that cardiotoxicity may pose significant risks for patients following chemotherapy and chest radiation, we would encourage testing questions that include community-based CCD assessments with the Framingham Risk Assessment Tool for General Cardiovascular Disease (FRAT) or other validated tools that may inform treatment decision making or comorbidity management.
- **Survivorship and surveillance**: As one example, the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) and the SGO Choosing Wisely campaign recommended against routine vaginal cytology (Pap smear)
in women with endometrial cancer. A CCDR concept could evaluate educational tools for both patients and providers to encourage behavior change related to post-treatment Pap testing.

Funding can be requested for up to $50,000 and is contingent upon NRG Oncology’s receipt of the Notice of Award from the Division of Cancer Prevention. One to two projects may be funded. Projects are to be implemented September 1, 2017 and completed by December 31, 2018. No carry over funds will be issued and an interim progress report is due within 6 months and a completed progress report is due at the end of the project period. Institutions who allow total award to fund research (and waive in-directs) will be given priority.

Background
Undergirding and providing a conceptual framework for the NRG Oncology proposed NCOPR CCDR Program is the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, Delivering High-Quality Cancer Care: Charting a New Course for a System in Crisis [1]. Any system for delivery of quality cancer care is highly dependent on the generation of a sound evidence base to inform clinical decision-making. Thus, 5 of the IOM recommendations deal with strategies for improving the breadth and depth of data on cancer patients and survivors, emphasizing patient-focused measures (including patient-reported outcomes), improved information technology to foster a “learning” cancer care system, and strategies to measure and reduce cancer-related disparities in under-served populations. A particularly important IOM report recommendation is to expand the depth of data collected in cancer research through a common set of data elements that capture patient-reported outcomes (PROs), relevant patient characteristics, and health behaviors. Thus, the NRG Oncology NCORP seeks pilot projects that will test improvements in quality, access, and value-for-money in cancer care delivery.


Instructions for Applicants
If you have an interest in this application, please submit a [5 page proposal to Karan Boparai Boparaik@nrgoncology.org by 5pm ET, Friday, May 5, 2017.

- Description of project, including summary of specific aims
- **How the project will help lead to a CCDR concept.**
- Are NRG Oncology resources required? (i.e. biospecimen materials, statistical support, etc)
- Investigators who will participate in project
- Timeline [not included in the 5 page limit]
- NIH biosketch of PI [not included in the 5 page limit]
- Detailed budget [not included in the 5 page limit]

Submit applications to:
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215-717-2758

Direct scientific questions to NRG NCORP Co-Chairs:
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