

## Fact Sheet: National Cancer Institute Designation

### What is National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation?

- The NCI designates major U.S. academic and research institutions characterized by scientific excellence and the capability of integrating diverse cancer research approaches.
- For U.S. cancer centers, NCI designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center is the highest standard of achievement — one they work hard to achieve and maintain.
- Currently, NCI has designated 24 Cancer Centers and 39 Comprehensive Cancer Centers.

### Why is it important to achieve NCI designation?

- Addresses a regional problem — Kansas City is one of largest metro areas without an NCI-designated Cancer Center.
- Enables more advanced cancer care and access to cutting-edge clinical trials.
- Changes perception of “close-to-home” cancer care and increases the number of cancer patients who stay in the region for advanced care.
- Expands the research enterprise and supports the Greater Kansas City Region’s goal of achieving \$500 million in annual research expenditures.
- Drives economic growth — an anticipated \$1.36 billion annually by year 10 and each year after\*.
- Creates jobs — an anticipated 9,400 direct and indirect jobs over 10 years\*.

### Why is the University of Kansas Cancer Center an excellent candidate for NCI designation?

- The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s researchers receive more than \$5.9 million<sup>†</sup> annually from NCI, which represents 76 percent of the Heartland Region’s total NCI funding. The University of Kansas Cancer Center’s external advisory board recommends achieving approximately \$10 million in annual NCI funding prior to applying for designation, which means the University of Kansas Cancer Center will need to increase its NCI funding by \$2 million per year for the next two years.
- The University of Kansas Cancer Center is achieving excellence in key cancer research areas including breast, gastrointestinal, lung, and prostate. Examples of outstanding researchers include:
  - Carol Fabian, M.D., breast cancer and prevention;
  - Jeffrey Holzbeierlein, M.D., prostate cancer.
  - Karen Kelly, M.D., lung cancer; and
  - Yvonne Wan, Ph.D., gastrointestinal cancer.

\* The Perryman Group. 2005. Report to the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation

<sup>†</sup> FY 2007 figures for total NCI funding (direct + indirect)

- The University of Kansas Cancer Center aims to achieve NCI designation in the context of the much broader Greater Kansas City Metro and State of Kansas efforts to expand the life sciences base in the Heartland Region. Efforts like the *Time to Get It Right* report sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation demonstrate the regional opportunity and required commitments to be successful.
- The population of the Heartland Region is underserved by NCI-designated centers and while Kansas (-0.6%) and Missouri's (-0.7%) annual rates of cancer mortality are decreasing, they are lagging far behind the national rate of -2.1%

### **What differentiates the University of Kansas Cancer Center from other cancer centers?**

- The University of Kansas Cancer Center's community-based partnership model leverages regional assets in oncology and embodies the most current thinking in the battle to cure cancer as articulated by the President's Panel on Cancer and the National Cancer Institute.
- The University of Kansas Cancer Center's partnership with the \$2 billion endowed Stowers Institute for Medical Research and the #3 ranked<sup>†</sup> KU School of Pharmacy makes its goal of becoming the leading developer of Phase I oncology agents not only possible, but realistic.
- Kansas cancer patients will be among the first to gain access to discoveries emanating from the University of Kansas Cancer Center researchers because the Office of Therapeutics Discovery and Development, led by Director Scott Weir, Pharm.D., Ph.D., is improving and streamlining the process of getting discoveries from the lab into the hands of physicians.

### **Why is the University of Kansas Cancer Center confident it will succeed?**

- The University of Kansas Cancer Center is dedicated to achieving NCI designation via a partnership and community-based approach. This approach makes the most sense for the Heartland Region and effectively differentiates the University of Kansas Cancer Center from other academic cancer centers vying for NCI designation in the next 10 years.
- Backing up the University of Kansas Cancer Center's quest for NCI designation is a strong regional commitment including:
  - The University of Kansas has committed \$49.4 million and made achieving NCI designation its #1 priority;
  - The State of Kansas has committed \$5 million annually to support the University of Kansas Cancer Center;
  - The Stowers Institute for Medical Research has pledged to endow leadership and faculty positions within the University of Kansas Cancer Center with \$34 million; and
  - The Kansas Masonic Foundation has pledged \$15 million to support the University of Kansas Cancer Center's research, and as of September 2007 has secured eighty percent of the needed donations.

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<sup>†</sup> Federal research funding ranking among U.S. universities

- The University of Kansas Cancer Center has experienced leaders who were recruited from NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers, including:
  - Roy Jensen, M.D., director, from the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center;
  - Karen Kelly, M.D., deputy director, from the University of Colorado Cancer Center; and
  - Matthew Mayo, Ph.D., director of the Center for Biostatistics and Advanced Informatics, from the University of Alabama-Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- The University of Kansas Cancer Center has already identified 70 percent of the funding needed to support the vision. The regional community is being asked to contribute the remainder — \$331 million over 10 years — to achieve NCI designation.