

Population Sciences at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers

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Scope

- **69 NCI-designated cancer centers:**
 - 7 basic
 - 13 clinical
 - 49 comprehensive
- **80 CCSG Research Programs in population sciences at 59 centers**
 - 40 1 Program
 - 17 2 Programs
 - 2 3 Programs

Research Program Areas By Title

■ Cancer Control	36
■ Prevention	29
■ Epidemiology	14
■ Population Science	13
■ Disparities	7
■ Survivorship	3
■ Tobacco	2

Research Program Parameters (41 RPs analyzed)

- Average membership 33 (15/66)
- Average NCI funding (Direct Costs) \$4.6M (\$0.61/22.2)
- Number of themes/specific aims 3 (2/5)
- Inter-programmatic pubs 21% (10/55)
- Intra-programmatic pubs 24% (10/44)

Scores of Research Programs in CCSG Review

▪ Exceptional	6	
▪ Exceptional to Outstanding	2	
▪ Outstanding to Exceptional	1	
▪ Outstanding	9	
▪ Outstanding to Excellent	1	Average = Outstanding to Excellent
▪ Excellent to Outstanding	4	
▪ Excellent	12	
▪ Excellent to Very Good	1	
▪ Very Good to Excellent	2	
▪ Very Good	<u>3</u>	
	41	

CCSG Review Comments

- **Research with important impact on the field and the community as demonstrated by moving evidence-based interventions to translation and dissemination**
- **Program Leaders with peer-review funding and complementary expertise**
- **Access to large cohorts, biospecimens, and SEER registries**
- **Responsive to previous criticism**
- **Used multiple cores**
- **Instrumental in developing cores specific to population sciences research – and used them**
- **High-impact publications**
- **Number of publications/funding/members increased since last review**

CCSG Review Comments con't

- **Clear cancer focus**
- **Culled membership to increase cancer focus/funding**
- **Formal training mechanisms (T32, R25) and/or structured mentoring (esp. junior faculty)**
- **Multiple PI grants**
- **Structured mechanisms to promote collaboration: seminars, retreats, meetings, collaborative pilot projects**
- **Clear future plans, particularly recruitment**

CCSG Review Comments con't

- **Missed opportunities: esp. if catchment area contains a particular cancer or health problem (disparity, tobacco use, etc.) not addressed**
- **Lack of synergy across research foci**
- **Lack of collaboration with basic science programs**
- **High proportion of members without research funding (>25% of members)**
- **Attempts to cover too much scientific ground**
- **Suboptimal depth of faculty expertise**
- **Lack of institutional commitment to meet programmatic needs**



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