

2023 Research Program Overview

\$3.1M
million total
research funding

61
total
researchers



“The goal of LCI’s research programs are to provide opportunities for continued growth and involvement in the field of lung cancer research,” said Neal Ready, MD, PhD Chair of LCI’s Scientific Advisory Committee. “We know research has led to many recent advancements including the five-year survival rate for lung cancer which is now at 25%, and we seek to support researchers so that they can continue to grow in the field and pursue even further advancements for all those impacted by lung cancer.”

Since 2008, Lung Cancer Initiative (LCI) has funded more than \$3 million in lung cancer research. The goal of LCI’s research program is to invest in the development of local lung cancer experts and research to save lives. By funding research we are providing opportunities for researchers earlier in their careers and encouraging continued growth and involvement in the field of lung cancer. LCI funds research through several different opportunities including the LCI Fellows Program, the Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award and the Career Development Award. New in 2023, LCI is partnering on a Career Development award with LUNGevery Foundation.

FELLOWS UPDATE



Since 2015, the **LCI Fellows Program** has provided a total of \$1.02 million to 41 researchers. 97% of the fellows have continued in the field of lung cancer in some capacity. “Our goal through the Research Fellowship Program has always been to support young doctors in training with seed money for pilot projects in lung cancer. If we get them interested in lung cancer early in their career, then perhaps they will use that pilot project to get preliminary data to support obtaining additional funding through an NCI, federal or other larger grant to continue lung cancer research as a career,” said Jennifer Garst, MD, Board Chair, Lung Cancer Initiative.



“One thing I love about LCI is the dedication to creating lung cancer research specialists by engaging with early career scientists. I also love that the organization awards grants to multiple disciplines. It takes a village with lung cancer,” said **Lee Ann Johnson, PhD, RN, 2019 Research Fellow** from East Carolina University. Dr. Johnson is currently

Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. Since her Fellows award she has received additional funding and in 2022 she was selected as one of 50 promising early career scholars for the NIH/NIMHHD’s annual flagship Health Disparities Research Institute. Dr. Johnson’s research interests include lung cancer stigma and how comorbidities influence a patient’s treatment choices, their ability to survive and their quality of life.

GRANT UPDATE



Congrats to **Chad Pecot, MD** for being awarded the \$100,000, Alumni Supplemental Grant for his project: **Mechanistic and therapeutic implications of co-targeting KRAS and MYC in lung cancer.** LCI’s Alumni Supplemental Grant celebrates the organization’s 15th year as a 501 (c)3 by helping lung cancer researchers

who have previously been funded by LCI to advance studies that are already underway and where additional funding is necessary to cover the cost of unanticipated time or resources needed to further the study or expand the original aims of the study. “This work will help us understand the complex environment that supports tumor growth and can help pave the way to newer medicines for lung cancer care,” said Dr. Pecot.

Dr. Pecot was recently awarded a five-year, \$1.835 million grant from The National Cancer Institute to support his research investigating the roles circular RNA may have in regulating whether a form of lung cancer will spread, or metastasize, beyond the original cancer site.

Leading the Research Program – LCI’s Scientific Advisory Committee

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| Amy Cipau, Lung Cancer Initiative Board of Directors | Jeffrey Clarke, MD, Duke Cancer Institute |
| Chad Pecot, MD, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center | Jeffrey Petty, MD, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist |
| Edward S. Kim, MD, MBA, City of Hope | Kathryn Mileham, MD, FACP, Levine Cancer Institute |
| Jared Weiss, MD, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center | Neal Ready, MD, PhD, Duke Cancer Institute |
| | Paul R. Walker, MD, FACP, East Carolina University |

Lung Cancer Initiative’s mission is to advance survivorship and provide support to those affected by lung cancer through research, education and access programs.

