

# MIDWEST CANCER ALLIANCE: PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT QUALITY CANCER CARE

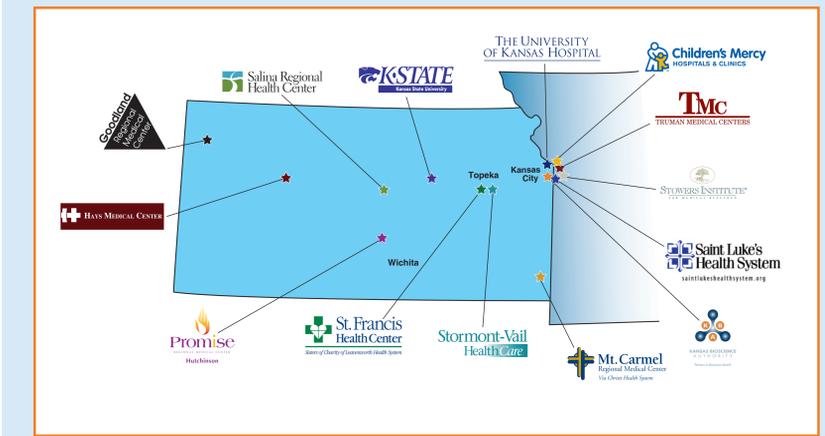
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## BACKGROUND

Over 85% of cancer patients nationwide receive care in the community setting<sup>1</sup>. In 2008, the Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA) launched with a vision of marshaling the exceptional cancer resources of the region to support the system of care provided to patients while keeping them "close to home." With an emphasis on education and research, the MCA was developed to connect hospitals and physician groups across Kansas and western Missouri with the purpose of:

- Providing strong support to community cancer care professionals;
- Enhancing cancer care for patients across the region;
- Advancing access to innovative, investigator-initiated and cooperative group clinical trials;
- Advancing access to newly developed therapies and prevention strategies;
- Providing continuing professional and community education opportunities;
- Facilitating second opinion and consultation services; and
- Providing patient navigation technical assistance across the network.

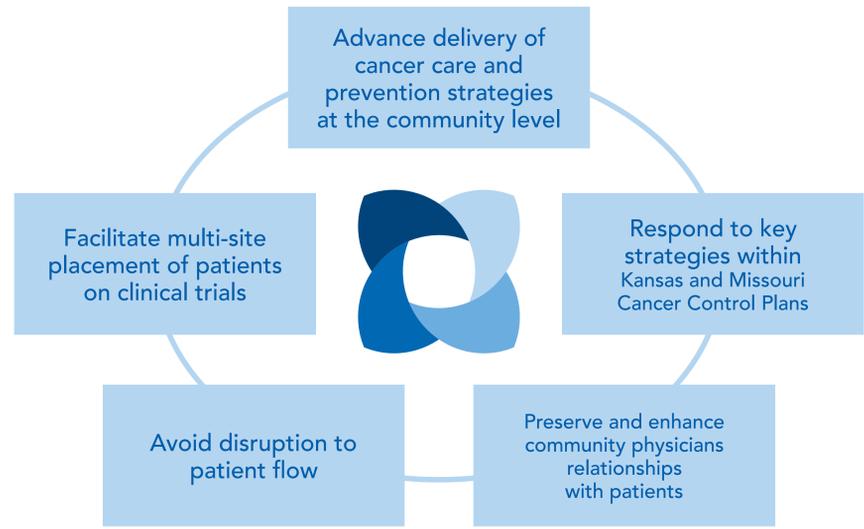
## A MEMBERSHIP-BASED ORGANIZATION, THE MCA CURRENTLY HAS 14 PARTNERS



## METHODS

In collaboration with members, the MCA facilitates a wide-array of cancer related services. Activities range from developing clinical trial infrastructure including a centralized Institutional Review Board (IRB), online Velos clinical trials management software, and access to Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG), Clinical Trials Support Unit (CTSU) sponsored trials, and research initiated by The University of Kansas Cancer Center's Investigators.

MCA provides professional and community education specific to the needs of the community. Members have access to The University of Kansas Cancer Center Tumor Boards as well as continuing education such as chemotherapy and oncology nurse certification curricula.



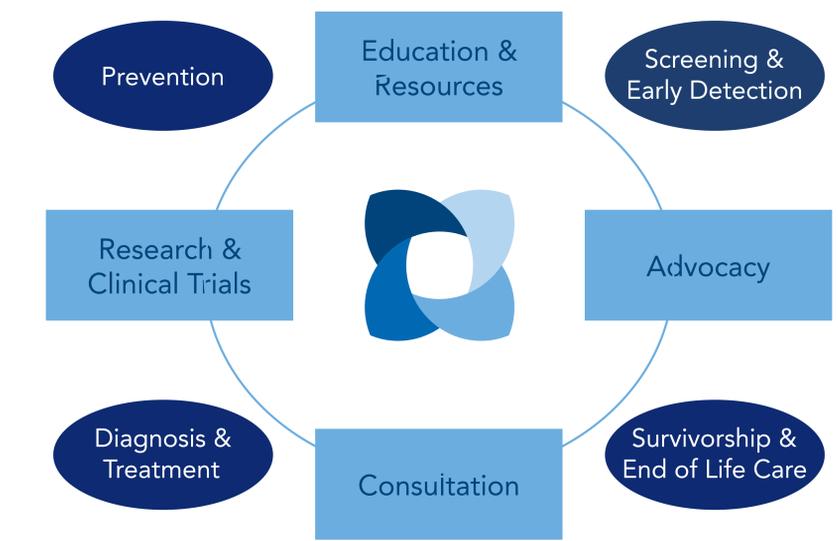
## BENEFITS OF JOINING MCA

### ONCOLOGISTS//HOSPITALS//

- Increases access to clinical trials
- Enhances network of research and clinical oncologists
- Increases access to consultative services and second opinions
- Provides latest evidence-based guidelines
- Provides continuing medical education opportunities
- Supports market share growth by retaining patients in community setting
- Enhances ability to recruit and retain outstanding cancer physicians and nurses

### COMMUNITIES//

- Increases access to advanced cancer care and therapies close to home
- Increases access to comprehensive cancer resources
- Helps retain top talent in rural area
- Improves access to cancer screening and prevention
- Creates and maintains jobs
- Spurs economic development



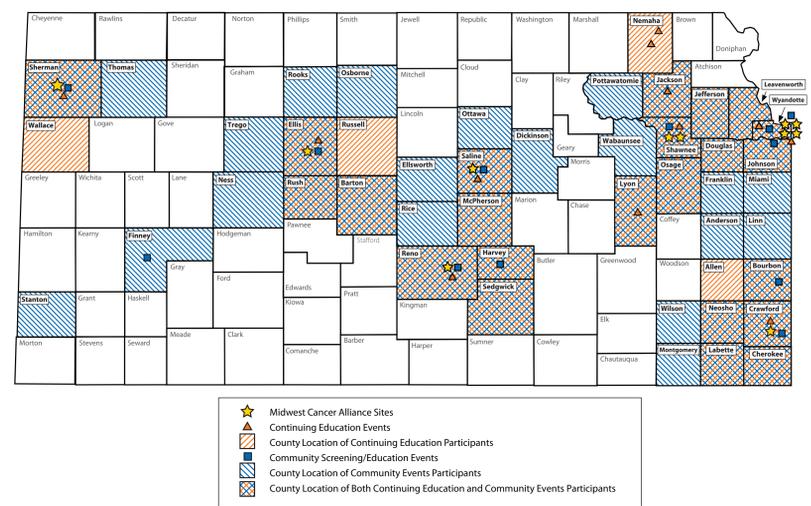
## RESULTS

Numerous cancer-related activities have occurred since the inception of the MCA.

- Over 11,450 individuals attended MCA community education and screening events.
- 6,200 cancer screenings resulted in 470+ referrals back to local physicians for follow-up on abnormal results.
- Over 3,096 Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) credits and 296 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits.
- Five members have capacity to enroll patients through MCA sponsored trials with access to SWOG and CTSU.
- 200+ patients have been screened for clinical trial eligibility with patients in various stages of enrollment.
- 7 cases have been presented at tumor boards.
- 9 second opinion consultations occurred through the use of telemedicine technology.

## SERVING KANSAS MIDWEST CANCER ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES

January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009



## CONCLUSION

Less than three percent of adult cancer patients participate in clinical trials<sup>2</sup>. The MCA was established, in part, to address disparities such as this, in an effort to enhance the excellent cancer care provided across the region. The MCA holds great promise of achieving this vision, by leveraging region's collective cancer resources and cancer expertise.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the MCA members whose collaboration and dedication to quality cancer care has resulted in the development of this successful network.

## REFERENCES

1. NCI Community Cancer Centers Program Pilot: 2007-2010. Retrieved: February 10, 2010, from <http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/NCCCPilotQandA>.
2. Christian, M. C., & Trimble, E. L. (2003). Increasing participation of physicians and patients from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in National Cancer Institute-sponsored clinical trials. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*, 12(3), 277s-283s.