

Oncology Advanced Practitioner Collaboration for the Conduct of a Clinical Research Project

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Background:

- Oncology Advanced Practitioners (APs), including NPs, CNSs, PAs, and PharmDs, are instrumental in providing quality cancer care.
- Clinical research is an integral aspect of oncology care, yet there is limited published data regarding oncology APs' practice and educational needs related to cancer clinical trials.

Methods:

- University of Hawaii Cancer Center (UHCC) designed and piloted a survey to determine Hawaii-based APs' research involvement
- Successful completion of the Hawaii project led to the desire for a nationwide expansion



- UHCC collaborated with the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) and Harborside given their role in oncology AP education and advocacy
- Four oncology APs from these organizations collaborated to reformat and revalidate the online survey



- Dissemination of survey to over 14,000 oncology APs' emails from Harborside's and ACCC's membership databases



Conclusions:

- *Through multi-organizational collaboration, a single institution research project was launched into a national survey of oncology APs' knowledge, attitudes, and roles in the environment of cancer clinical trials.*
- *We believe this to be the first comprehensive attempt to gain national insight into oncology APs' practice in the setting of U.S. clinical trials.*
- *Membership in professional organizations and multi-organization collaboration are effective routes to assemble working groups with shared objectives to conduct projects with far-reaching impact.*

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Results: The multi-organizational collaboration:

- Succeeded in implementing a validated nationwide survey with over 400 responses.
- Obtained benchmarking data on this group of health care professionals in the setting of cancer clinical trials.



- Analyzed the data and drafted several abstracts and a manuscript for submission to a high impact oncology journal.



- Will contribute to development of future educational content and joint advocacy efforts to support oncology APs in clinical research.



- Created multidisciplinary enthusiasm from key leaders in several organizations.



For more details on the nationwide survey results, use this QR code.

