

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

THOUGHTS AND UPDATES FROM DR. W. P. ANDREW LEE

September 8, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has renewed the [Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)'s comprehensive designation, reaffirming its place among the country's elite cancer centers and making it the only one in North Texas to be so recognized.

The Simmons Cancer Center is one of 51 [NCI-designated](#) comprehensive cancer centers in the U.S. To earn this designation, the Center met or exceeded the NCI's stringent standards for translational and clinical research, clinical care, cancer prevention, community outreach, and cancer education and training.

Led by Director [Carlos L. Arteaga, M.D.](#), Professor and Associate Dean of Oncology Programs, the Center adopts an interdisciplinary approach to cancer care, involving researchers and caregivers from 34 departments. In 2020 alone, the Center's researchers published more than 700 articles in medical and scientific journals, including some of the world's most prestigious peer-reviewed publications.

Each year, the Simmons Cancer Center, powered by our entire institution, provides advanced care to more than 8,000 new patients. By coming to our institution, they gain access to the latest treatments offered through 376 active clinical trials.

For the last 10 years, the Simmons Cancer Center has received more than \$493 million in grants for cancer research, training, and prevention from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), and has two of the NCI's highly competitive Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) grants, in [kidney cancer](#) and in [lung cancer](#). The Center also supports five research programs aimed at better understanding various aspects of cancer, including complex cellular networks, experimental treatments, and addressing disparities in North Texas and beyond.

Renewal of its comprehensive designation comes after the Center was recently ranked in the top 25 among hundreds of cancer centers in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Additionally, the Center completed a 71,000-square-foot expansion of its Radiation Oncology facility earlier this summer and will open a new nine-story, 300,000-square-foot Outpatient Care Tower in 2022.

The NCI designation illustrates how the Center is carrying out its mission to ease the burden of cancer through groundbreaking transdisciplinary research, impactful community engagement, education, and exceptional patient care.

I applaud the Center's scientists and caregivers for this impressive achievement, which reflects their tireless commitment to our patients and becoming a national leader in the fight against cancer.



Sincerely,

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W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

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