

The Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) was established in 1947 to accelerate discovery in cancer across the University of California; [generous bequests](#) to UC enabled the Committee to launch a competitive funding opportunity in the 1960s for meritorious research in any aspect of cancer. This longstanding commitment to cancer research has positioned UC as a global leader in the fight against cancer. CRCC faculty seed grants invest in new lines of inquiry at the cutting edge of science, launch research programs for early career faculty, and strengthen the pipeline of cancer experts through support for graduate student and post-doctoral trainees. Since 2018, voluntary taxpayer contributions to the [California Cancer Research Fund](#) have augmented the funds available to support CRCC awards.

Launching Careers in Cancer Research

The CRCC prioritizes funding for early career UC faculty, awarding over 400 seed grants totaling \$22 million to Assistant Professors since 1999. Early career awards account for approximately half of all research grants over the last 20 years. Among those early career faculty, 73 went on to garner 133 research grants from the National Cancer Institute, including 76 independent research (R01) grants.

Every year, CRCC funding supports an average of 14 graduate students and 13 post-doctoral researchers across UC. Among those, CRCC dissertation fellowships at UC Berkeley have provided over \$2.5 million since 2014 to graduate students pursuing research in any area of cancer. Many of these students continue their research careers in academia or enter the pharmaceutical and biotech industries.

CRCC awards build cancer expertise across UC and California. CRCC has awarded \$1.2 million to help faculty establish cancer research programs at UC Merced since 2005, building research and training capacity at UC's newest campus. Over the past 20 years, the CRCC has granted an average of 2.9 awards per campus every year, demonstrating its commitment to supporting cancer research across the system.

Maintaining UC's Leadership at the Forefront of Cancer Discoveries

CRCC funding ensures UC faculty remain at the leading edge of cancer discoveries by supporting innovative projects in basic science, engineering, and clinical and applied research, and positions them for success in garnering extramural awards. **UC faculty leverage at least \$11 in extramural funding for every \$1 of CRCC funding and, in some years, this return on investment is as high as 20:1.**

Seeding early research allows faculty to propose high-risk projects that advance our knowledge of cancer, drive discovery, and lead to novel therapies and technologies to help defeat cancer. **CRCC grantees produce an average of 2.5 papers and presentations per grant – 48% more than the annual publication rate for NIH grants at a significantly lower cost – and have gone on to file at least 15 patents in the last decade.** Grantees also study every one of the 11 most common cancers, including those in the breast and prostate, and many rare cancers, with consistent efforts to address brain cancers and leukemia.

70+
years
Of cancer research support

\$45M
Total awards since 1999

800+
Faculty awards since 1999

15:1
Return on investment in extramural funding

27
UC graduate students and postdoctoral fellows supported annually

4
Nobel Laureates received early career CRCC seed funding