

Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania

Information for Membership Application

Requirements

There are three primary requirements for membership in the Abramson Cancer Center:

- Evidence of participation in cancer-related research.
- Evidence of participation in at least one Abramson Cancer Center Research Program.
- Support of the Abramson Cancer Center's research mission to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary, interdepartmental, cancer research.

Benefits

- Notification and eligibility for Abramson Cancer Center supported grants and funding opportunities.
- Discounted rates for use of NCI-approved, Shared Resources (Full Members Only).
- Notification of Abramson Cancer Center Sponsored Research retreats and symposia.

Responsibilities

All Abramson Cancer Center members, regardless of their category of membership, are expected to:

- Interact and/or collaborate on cancer research with other Abramson Cancer Center members.
- Participate in the activities of at least one Abramson Cancer Center Research Program (seminars, retreats, symposia).
- Provide the Abramson Cancer Center with regular updates on their research, grants and publications, and respond to periodic requests for related information.

Membership Categories

There are three categories of membership in the Abramson Cancer Center. These categories vary according to degree of faculty involvement in cancer research and the activities of the Abramson Cancer Center. Only Full Members are entitled to discounted rates at our NCI-approved Shared Resource/Core facilities.

- I. Full Member: Subcategory of membership is either Research-Investigator or Clinical-Investigator
 - Evidence of active and current commitment to cancer research as evidenced by any of the following:
 - ∪ PI of an externally-funded cancer-related research grant.
 - ∪ PI of an externally-funded cancer-related training grant or career development award.
 - ∪ PI of an active clinical trial approved by the Abramson Cancer Center's Clinical Trials Scientific Review and Monitoring Committee.
 - ∪ Serves in a senior leadership role within the Abramson Cancer Center and/or the University.
 - ∪ New to University of Pennsylvania or to cancer research and, thus, does not meet the above criteria, but, as determined by the Abramson Cancer Center's senior leadership, has a demonstrated interest in cancer research as well as the potential to secure an externally funded cancer grant in the near future. A grant must be obtained within three years to maintain Abramson Cancer Center membership.
 - Peer-reviewed publications in cancer research.
 - Actively participates in Abramson Cancer Center activities.
 - ∪ Attends meetings and retreats of at least one Research Program.
 - ∪ Participates in major Abramson Cancer Center activities.

- II. Associate Member (Not eligible for discounted rates of Shared Resource/Core facilities)
- Interested contributor to cancer-related research, but without external peer-reviewed cancer research grants or active cancer clinical trials).
 - Valued by Abramson Cancer Center members for contribution to the Abramson Cancer Center's research base (e.g., clinician who supports the patient-oriented research projects of Abramson Cancer Center members).
 - Does not currently meet the criteria for Full Membership, but may do so in the future.
 - Participates in some Abramson Cancer Center and Research Program activities.
- III. Emeritus/Honorary Member (not eligible for discounts at Abramson Cancer Center-supported Shared Resources)
- Department Chair or Institutional leader who is not actively involved in cancer research but frequently collaborates with the Abramson Cancer Center on selected initiatives and is viewed by Abramson Cancer Center leadership as instrumental in achieving the center's research mission.

Appointment of Members to Abramson Cancer Center Research Programs

Abramson Cancer Center's research programs provide valuable forums for facilitating member interactions and collaborations in cancer research. Members are expected to attend meetings, seminars and retreats of their Research Program. Applicants are asked to select one Research Program to which they would like to be assigned. Final assignments occur following review and approval by the respective Program Leader(s).

Currently, there are 11 Abramson Cancer Center Research Programs.

Research Program	Area of Focus
Immunobiology	The Immunology program seeks to provide a rational scientific basis for immunological therapy based on understanding of immune mechanisms and their relationship to neoplasia.
Tumor Biology	The Tumor Biology Program focuses on elucidation of the molecular and cellular basis of cancer and translating these findings into clinical applications through specific understanding of 1) the structural biology of molecules relevant to cancer, 2) the molecular and cellular basis of cancer, and 3) the cancer microenvironment.
Tumor Virology	The Tumor Virology Program focuses on the role of viruses as causative agents and/or effectors in cellular transformation and in the genesis of some cancers, including those related to AIDS.
Cancer Therapeutics	The Cancer Therapeutics Program focuses on the development of more effective diagnostic approaches and therapies for adult patients with neoplastic disease using multimodality therapeutic approaches.
Melanoma	The Melanoma Program seeks to understand and describe tumor progression in melanocytic neoplasia, and to test novel approaches to reverse the current trend of increasing incidence and mortality from malignant melanoma.
Pediatric Oncology Research	The Pediatric Oncology Program seeks to provide the best chance of cure to children with cancer through discovering the molecular basis of the cancer process, testing new treatment interventions, and defining etiology factors responsible for childhood cancer.

Radiation Biology	The Radiation Biology Program focuses on the conduct of collaborative research in areas relevant to understanding how ionizing radiation interacts with biological tissues. The research conducted by program members spans fundamental, translational and clinical research.
Hematologic Malignancies	The Hematologic Malignancies Program brings together a multidisciplinary group of basic scientists and clinical investigators whose purpose is to investigate ways of exploiting stem cells for novel cancer therapeutics.
Cancer Prevention and Control	The Cancer Prevention and Control Program brings together investigators from multiple fields to support innovative, trans-disciplinary research across the cancer continuum. The goals of the program are: (1) to elucidate genetic, environmental, behavioral and health care determinants of cancer etiology and outcomes; (2) to develop and evaluate novel strategies for reduction of cancer risk and improved of cancer outcomes; and (3) to translate evidence based interventions to health care systems and the community.
Breast Cancer	The Breast Cancer Program is focused on defining the biological basis of breast cancer risk and progression, improving breast cancer detection, improving breast cancer treatment using targeted therapies, and enhancing the understanding of genetic and socioeconomic modifiers of breast cancer risk and outcome.
Tobacco and Environmental Carcinogenesis	The Tobacco and Environmental Carcinogenesis Program aims to elucidate the mechanistic basis of environmental carcinogenesis by studying the gene-environment interactions predisposing for increased risk for airway and aerodigestive cancers, to evaluate interventions to prevent cancer through exposure reduction, and to develop novel methods for early detection, diagnosis, and prognosis of environmentally-induced cancers, including biomarker and imaging approaches

Membership Application and Appointment Process

Faculty may request a membership application from Abramson Cancer Center Administration. When the Application Form and supporting documents are received, the application package is forwarded to relevant Program Leader(s) for review. Applicants who are not well known to Abramson Cancer Center leadership may be contacted. Following the Program Leader's review, Abramson Cancer Center Senior Leadership then reviews the membership application. The final determination regarding membership is the responsibility of the Center Director.

Reappointment & Review

The Abramson Cancer Center gathers information from its members annually, in all categories, to review their membership status. This information, as well as other documentation of meeting the above criteria, are conditions for renewed membership. Only those members whose appointments are NOT renewed are notified by the Abramson Cancer Center.