

# THE HOPE FOUNDATION

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*Because answers to cancers come from clinical trials*



Since 2000, The Hope Foundation has invested over \$7 million

to support the mission of the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG): treating and preventing cancer through clinical trial research. As SWOG's philanthropic arm, the Foundation is funded by charitable contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Some of the Foundation's programs include:

- Translational medicine initiatives
- Young Investigators Training Courses
- Clinical Trials Training Courses
- Nurse Oncologist and Clinical Research Associate workshops
- Fellowships and research grants
- Technology and infrastructure needs of SWOG

These programs make a significant difference because they provide substantial support to SWOG's life-changing and life-saving efforts.

The Hope Foundation is honored to channel support to the researchers, medical professionals, and patients who work on the front lines of combating and preventing cancer. We understand that our work is critical, because ultimately the answers to cancers come from clinical trials.

**I am in a unique position.** Almost daily as chairman of SWOG and president of The Hope Foundation, I directly experience the impact that the Foundation has on advancing SWOG's mission of treating and preventing cancer, and of bettering the lives of those living with the disease. Through the Foundation's efforts to weave philanthropic support together with federal dollars from the National Cancer Institute, it is clear to me that The Hope Foundation plays a seminal role for the Southwest Oncology Group.

The Foundation was formed in 1992 with the sole mission of supporting the important endeavors of SWOG that were not funded by federal research grants. This focus has allowed the Group to continue leading the valuable educational and professional development initiatives that make SWOG what it is: one of the nation's largest and most successful cooperative oncology groups.

By providing career development support to young investigators, subsidizing continuing medical education opportunities for members, and assisting with funding and grants management for various committees and investigators, The Hope Foundation enables SWOG to thrive during this era of dwindling federal funds.

As budget reductions at the National Institutes of Health continue to cut deeply and directly into SWOG's clinical research funds, the role of philanthropy has become more important than ever before. I extend my personal thanks to each person and organization that contributes to The Hope Foundation. Each dollar invested in The Hope Foundation is directly invested in the programs outlined in this brochure, all of which advance SWOG's essential work.

**LAURENCE H. BAKER, DO**  
President, The Hope Foundation



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## About the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG)

### SWOG LEADERSHIP

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**Laurence H. Baker, DO**  
University of Michigan

#### Deputy Group Chair

**Richard I. Fisher, MD**  
University of Rochester

#### Associate Group Chair for Cancer Control and Prevention

**Frank L. Meyskens, Jr., MD**  
University of California, Irvine

#### Executive Committee

##### Group Statistician

**John J. Crowley, PhD**  
SWOG Statistical Center  
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#### **Anne F. Schott, MD**

University of Michigan

Founded in 1956, the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) is one of the largest cooperative cancer clinical trials groups in the United States.

With research-grant funding from the National Cancer Institute (a division of the National Institutes of Health), the Group conducts clinical trials to prevent and treat cancer in adults and improve the quality of life for cancer survivors. SWOG's membership includes 18 NCI-designated Cancer Centers, 550 institutions (leading university medical centers, private institutions, and community clinical oncology programs), and 8,500 individuals.

### A National Leader in Cancer Clinical Trials

Significant new drugs for lung cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, and leukemia have won FDA approval based on SWOG trial results. The Group is also recognized as a definitive leader in cancer control and prevention studies. During the last 25 years, more than 170,000 patients have directly benefited from participation in SWOG trials.

### Forward-Looking Research

SWOG is dedicated to finding tomorrow's treatments and more effective ways to control and prevent cancer. Current SWOG-supported studies are testing new "targeted therapies" that show promise in blocking cancer-promoting genes and cellular processes while sparing healthy cells. Other studies are pioneering new ways to tailor cancer treatment to patients' individual needs and prevent cancer before it develops.



**“Without The Hope Foundation, SWOG’s efforts would be seriously limited. The Foundation’s support allows us to provide quicker recoveries and longer lives to thousands of people with cancer, now and for the foreseeable future.”**

– HARRY P. ERBA, MD, PhD  
University of Michigan  
SWOG Executive Officer

## Young Investigators

The Hope Foundation honors those who dedicate their lives to combating cancer, and offers essential training to new investigators who specialize in cancer clinical research.

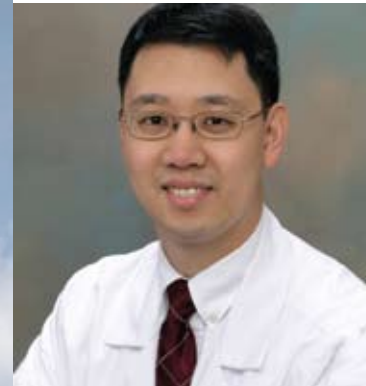
Each year during the highly competitive Young Investigator Training Course, select young researchers from SWOG Member Institutions receive intensive training in developing and managing a trial protocol. Through interaction with senior physician-researchers and statisticians, these young investigators learn first hand about SWOG best practices in all areas of clinical trial research. The course provides training in statistical principles, data collection and analysis, clinical trial management and critical decision-making. The investigators establish a mentor relationship with leading SWOG physician-researchers and develop a trial protocol. If the protocol has sufficient merit, as determined by the appropriate SWOG disease committee, the young investigator is appointed the study coordinator of the proposed protocol.

## Fellowships

Each year, The Hope Foundation funds a number of fellowships to provide physicians with advanced clinical training in oncology and clinical research.

Fellowships are available for SWOG members or SWOG Member Institution nominees, and range from one to three years. All SWOG Committee areas (including translational medicine, breast, lung, gynecologic, leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, melanoma, gastrointestinal and genitourinary) are eligible for fellowship funding. For more information on available fellowship opportunities and application procedures, please visit: [www.thehopefoundation.org](http://www.thehopefoundation.org).

The Hope Foundation provides funding for SWOG fellowships and training courses that serve over 260 physician researchers, Clinical Research Associates, and nurse oncologists every year. These opportunities are essential in the ongoing search for the best ways to treat and prevent cancer across the spectrum, from training in SWOG best-practice methodology to encouraging independent research.



**VINCENT CHUNG, MD**

City of Hope National Medical Center  
Young Investigator, 2007

Dr. Vincent Chung participated in the 2007 Young Investigators Training Course sponsored by The Hope Foundation. The protocol he developed utilizes targeted therapies to improve the prognosis for patients with pancreatic cancer, for whom effective treatments are sorely needed.

“Over the last decade, there has been an explosion of knowledge in understanding the pathways leading to uncontrolled cell growth,” Chung says.

“Targeting these pathways may help to circumvent chemotherapy resistance and improve prognosis in patients with pancreatic cancer.”

## Group Meetings

The Hope Foundation is proud to support special projects and initiatives of the SWOG Nurse Oncologist Committee. The Nurse Oncologist Committee conducts uniquely tailored workshops at each Group Meeting and, with the help of the Foundation, prints and distributes over 5,000 *Partnership for Life* pamphlets around the nation. *Partnership for Life* encourages patients to maintain contact with SWOG, both during and after participation in a SWOG-sponsored trial. This helps SWOG measure the disease-free survival and overall survival of patients, while simultaneously providing support and advocacy for patients as they transition through this challenging period of their lives.

Since 1978, SWOG has coordinated semi-annual group meetings, in which SWOG members come together to plan an effective and productive future in cancer therapy and prevention. These four-day plenary meetings are a key element of SWOG's success. Sessions, led by SWOG Chair Dr. Larry Baker, focus on recent accomplishments, exemplary abstracts, and strategic directions.

During the SWOG meetings, The Hope Foundation also supports a Clinical Trials Training Course for Clinical Research Associates (CRAs). This training course trains CRAs in current best practices in ethics within clinical research, cooperative group concepts, protocol development, data submission, serious adverse events, and audits and quality assurance.



## Research + Initiatives

With the help of sponsoring partners, The Hope Foundation channels direct support to research undertaken by SWOG members and SWOG committees. Since 2006, The Hope Foundation has awarded over \$1.25 million in research funding to SWOG Investigators. Most recently, funding has been awarded for work in breast, multiple myeloma, and gynecologic cancers. SWOG's partners in these critical investments include the Breast Cancer Research Fund, the Marsha Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research, and numerous industry collaborators. For more information regarding potential research initiatives, please contact the Foundation.

**“I specialize in hope. Through compassionate care and advanced case management, my colleagues and I help patients realize that life is always a fascinating adventure, even when it takes an unexpected turn. The Hope Foundation’s support for clinical studies helps us create better expectations in cancer care.”**

– CONNIE SZCZEPANEK, RN, BSN  
Grand Rapids CCOP



**JAMES WADE, MD, FACP**  
Cancer Care Specialists  
of Central Illinois

In the 1980s, it became apparent that many patients were traveling great distances to academic cancer centers in order to participate in advanced clinical trials. To remedy this situation, SWOG began participating in the Community Clinical Oncology program, sponsored by the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Prevention.

This program brings the latest investigational cancer treatments to patients in their own communities and gives more patients an opportunity to participate in clinical trials. As an active member and leader of SWOG, Dr. Jim Wade has been at the forefront of this movement since its inception.

Your investment matters:

In 2007, 1,444,920 Americans were diagnosed with cancer.

During the same year, 559,650 Americans died of cancer.

Supporting SWOG research directly supports the most advanced techniques for preventing and treating this disease.



**“The Hope Foundation and SWOG are absolutely essential components in the clinical research that creates and validates powerful new treatments, and improves patients’ lives. More than ever, we need this kind of flexible, reliable, long-term investment in cancer care.”**

– DAWN HERSHMAN, MD, MS  
Columbia University College  
of Physicians & Surgeons

## Giving to The Hope Foundation

The Hope Foundation accepts charitable and medical education contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

When you invest in Hope, you give hope.

93% of your contribution to The Hope Foundation is invested directly in the crucial work of SWOG. For every dollar, 93 cents are allocated to fighting cancer and improving the lives of those who are courageously living with the disease. And your gift is fully tax deductible.

With your help, The Hope Foundation is able to sponsor accredited continuing medical education programs, provide fellowship opportunities to new investigators, and award research grants to accomplished physicians.

The Hope Foundation’s Planned Giving Program provides you the opportunity to make a charitable gift that gives back to you. Contact the Foundation to learn how this program can help with your investment and estate planning, and your financial, tax, and wealth transfer goals.

For more information about The Hope Foundation’s corporate and foundation giving program, please visit:

[www.hopefoundation.org/giving](http://www.hopefoundation.org/giving)

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