Introduction
Our Cancer Partnership has matured and developed successful collaborative interactions based on excellence, true reciprocity, and mutual benefit. As a triad, we aim to amplify the cancer research capabilities in the greater Nashville community, improve outcomes in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in minority and underserved communities, minimize measurable disparities among minority populations, and fortify collaborations among the partners. During the past 5 years, we have made significant progress toward achieving our mission through: 1) recruiting 6 new faculty members; 2) training 7 PhD and MPH candidates at MMC and TSU; 3) training 4 oncology fellows at MMC/VICC; 4) providing summer cancer research experience to 18 undergraduate students.

Partnership History
Meharry and Vanderbilt form a partnership in response to a supplement to the CCSG grant.

Research Activity
2011 - 2015
- Full Projects: Supported a total of four (4) full projects; two for three years on breast cancer and prostate cancer and two for two years on cancer survivorship and lung cancer.
- Pilot Projects: Supported a total of two (2) pilot projects - one for three years on HPV vaccine and the other for two years on breast cancer.
- Shared Resource Cores: Support four (4) Shared Resource Cores:
  - Biostatistics Core
  - Translational Pathology Core
  - Clinical Trials Core
  - Community Outreach Core
- Grants: Awarded over 20 grants including 3 R01s, 2 SC1s, and 2 R21s
- Publications: 150+ peer-reviewed publications

Clinical Trials
Accomplishments
- Awarded NCI OPP grant partnership with Memphis Baptist Healthcare System
- Successful Alliance Cooperative Group Site Audit and WFU Site Audit
- Nashville General Hospital was awarded Commission on Cancer 5-Year Accreditation with a Commendation for Clinical Trials Program and Accruals
- Awarded a 2nd medical oncologist, Dr. Robin Jacob from Howard University and a surgical oncologist, Dr. Sandeep Anantha from Michigan
- MMC, VICC & TSU: Partners in Eliminating Cancer Health Disparities

Community Outreach
Activities
- Engagement with populations affected by cancer health disparities through Community Advisory Board (CAB), Teen and Parent (TAP) Committee, Cancer Survivorship Committee, listserv and outreach to underserved communities.
- Provision of tangible support to MVTCP-funded and emerging projects (e.g., expert consultation, recruitment, protocol development & review), community organizations and coalitions, and the NCI National Outreach Network in cancer disparities efforts.
- Mentoring students and trainees in Community Engaged Research and culturally appropriate outreach strategies.
- Administrative supplement to expand evaluation of HPV vaccine social marketing intervention
- Hosting of two radio health programs reaching African American and Hispanic audiences, providing 100 hours of health information programming and cancer researcher guest interviews each year

Education & Training
- Undergraduates: Summer Research Experience; Introduction to Cancer Biology Course, Mentored Behavioral Science Training in Cancer Disparities
- Masters of Public Health Students: Summer Research Experience; Graduate Internship with Community Outreach Core
- Postgraduates: Oncology Fellowship with Clinical Trials Core

Future Directions
As we look ahead, we plan to:
1. Fund state-of-the-art research projects to increase and stabilize the competitive cancer research capability of MMC and TSU
2. Increase the cancer disparities research portfolio at VICC
3. Expand cancer research education program to include high school students
4. Implement a hybrid outcomes-logic model and a pure outcomes-based model and a pure outcomes-based process to evaluate the Partnership’s progress
5. Enhance clinical trials access for minority populations served by Nashville General Hospital (NGH)/MMC

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