

Greater Cincinnati residents can help mission to detect cancer earlier

Local residents have a unique opportunity to join the fight against cancer. The Christ Hospital Health Network has been selected to participate in a national clinical study that could lead to detecting cancer early, making treatment easier and saving lives. Volunteers with and without cancer can help make a difference.

Diagnosing cancer early leads to significantly higher survival rates, but effective screening only exists for a few cancer types. Typically, cancer is detected in later stages, when survival rates are much lower. Extensive research suggests that cancer could be spotted much earlier with a simple blood test for DNA shed by tumors into the bloodstream.

Leading cancer centers around the nation are pursuing this promising development by collaborating in one of the largest clinical study programs ever pursued in genomic medicine. In partnership with GRAIL, a life sciences company devoted to early detection of cancer and funded by investors including Bill Gates and GV (formerly Google Ventures), The Christ Hospital is now providing access to this study, known as the Circulating Cell-Free Genome Atlas (CCGA).

“The goal of this study is to eventually have tools to detect cancer early, before symptoms appear. To do this we need a vast amount of tumor genomic data from individuals with and without cancer,” says Dr. Philip Leming, principal investigator of the CCGA study and medical oncologist at The Christ Hospital Health Network. “This is a great opportunity for Cincinnatians to make a difference in the fight against cancer.”

The study will enroll at least 7,000 cancer patients nationwide, plus 3,000 individuals without cancer. As an established leader in genetics and genomic medicine, The Christ Hospital aims to contribute about one-tenth of the total – 700 cancer patients and 300 individuals without a diagnosis of cancer – to the study.

The study will collect clinical outcomes on enrolled participants for at least five years. The result will be a detailed atlas of cancer genetics that GRAIL will use to support development of blood tests for the early detection of cancer.

Study participants will fill out a health questionnaire, give blood samples and allow access to their health records for five years. Patients with cancer will also allow the collection of their tumor tissue.

The effort is managed by The Lindner Research Center at The Christ Hospital, which has conducted more than 1,600 clinical trials and introduced most of the new techniques in cardiovascular medicine over the past 28 years.

The Cancer Center at The Christ Hospital Center is committed to beating cancer with a focus on precision medicine—care tailored to each individual and their condition. Physicians are specialized in treating specific types of cancer and ground-breaking technology offers highly targeted therapy without surgery. Genetic testing is now available to identify the most effective treatment for patients with cancer, which can reduce treatment time

and improve outcomes. Participating in this new trial provides an opportunity to provide these benefits to patients much earlier. “It’s exciting to extend our footprint in precision medicine with participation in CCGA, and we are very honored to be the only center chosen in our region,” said Leming.



PROVIDED/ THE CHRIST HOSPITAL

Dr. Brian Mannon, Medical Director at The Christ Hospital, and Dr. Philip Leming, Medical Director of Cancer Research and Clinical Trials, consult on new treatment options.




CCGA provides an opportunity to contribute to clinical research which is vital to the improvement of medical care. Other benefits of participating in research include:

- Access to promising new treatments often not available outside the clinical trial setting
- Treatment that may be more effective than the standard approach
- Close monitoring advise, care and support by a team of doctors and healthcare professionals who understand your disease and condition
- The opportunity to be the first to benefit from a new method or study
- The chance to play an active role in your healthcare

The Lindner Research has conducted over 1,600 clinical trials contributing to new treatments and best practice standards for the last 28 years.

For more information on participating in the CCGA study or other clinical trials available, call 513-585-1777 or email Lindner@thechristhospital.com.