



...where cancer research  
meets compassion.

# Focus ON THE Search

Clinical trials advancing the quest for cancer treatment, management, and prevention.

Western States Cancer Research NCORP ■ Summer 2021 ■ Issue 36

## Upcoming Events

### ■ Drive for the Cure Golf Fundraiser August 9, 2021

See article at right for  
more information.

### ■ In-Person Cancer Patient Outreach October 11, 2021 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** 4500 Cherry  
Creek Drive South,  
Suite 100, Denver  
(thanks to space provided  
by Rose Community  
Foundation)

A light lunch will be  
provided. Our guest  
speaker will be WSCR  
Board of Trustee  
**Dr. Dave Gordon** of  
4 Pillars Health and  
Wellness. Dr. Gordon  
will speak about  
"Cannabis & Cancer."



**WSCR-NCORP is a member  
of the Community  
Health Charities.**

Please consider supporting  
WSCR-NCORP in your  
workplace giving program.



## Save the Date for Drive for the Cure

**Where:** Valley Country Club in Centennial, CO  
**When:** Monday, August 9, 12:00 Registration opens,  
1:00 Shotgun Start  
**Price:** \$225 per golfer, with a special rate of \$195 for  
new golfers

Registration fee includes 18 holes of golf, boxed  
lunch, two drinks and a silent auction. **Proceeds  
benefit our cancer research programs all year long.**  
Sponsorships are available now and start at \$500  
each. To learn more, call Laura at 720-475-5728.

To reserve your spot, please visit:  
**[westernstatesncorp.org/drive-for-the-cure-2021/](https://westernstatesncorp.org/drive-for-the-cure-2021/)**



## Welcome to the Board: Wendy Binyon Shaver and Dr. Blake Parsons, D.O.



**Wendy Binyon Shaver's**  
career in oncology began  
after her mom's cancer  
diagnosis in 1996. Since then,  
Wendy's career has taken her  
in many directions including  
as a radiation therapist, a

research coordinator, a research manager at  
the University of Colorado School of Medicine,  
and on the commercial side of the business.

Wendy tells us, "I have now lost both of my  
parents to cancer, and my experience as a  
caregiver to both inspires me to stand up to  
cancer every single day."

"It is my honor to be a part of the important  
work that is the mission of Western States  
Cancer Research NCORP."



Since 2013, **Dr. Blake  
Parsons, D.O.**, has been an  
Internal Medicine Hospitalist  
with a local HMO. He came  
from California to Colorado  
for his Internship/ Residency  
for Internal Medicine at

Exempla St. Joseph Hospital and stayed to  
make it his home.

"I have been involved with Western States  
Cancer Research NCORP for almost 10 years.  
I am looking forward to participating as a  
Trustee on the Board, bringing both personal  
and professional experience. Clinical  
trials and medical research are critical to  
advancing treatment options for patients.  
Additionally, it is important that these trials  
and treatments are available to everyone."

**Please join us in welcoming Blake and Wendy to our Board of Trustees.**

## WSCR-NCORP Board of Trustees

Trish Gleason, *Chair*

Rob Gray, *Vice Chair*

Garret Ireland, *Treasurer*

Lee R. Jennings, MD, *Secretary*

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David Gordon, MD

Consuelo Kelly, MSN, FNP-BC, OCN

Debbie Markham

Ann Murphy, PhD

Blake Parsons, DO

Wendy Binyon Shaver

Kathy Trujillo

Lisa Switzer, MA, *CEO/Executive Director, Emeritus Trustee*

Nicholas DiBella, MD, *Principal Investigator, Emeritus Trustee*

## Our Mission

To provide the people of Colorado, Montana, Utah, Washington state and Alaska the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the medical research conducted through cancer clinical studies.

## Our Purpose

To serve as an NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), as designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), to enable people in their local communities to participate in cancer prevention, cancer control, and cancer treatment research through local physicians, community hospitals and clinics.

## Our Vision

The marriage of clinical research and compassion via the progress we help affect through community oncology research.

## For More Information

Contact one of the following staff at 303.777.2663.

Lisa Switzer, MA  
*CEO and Executive Director*

Laura Gabbay  
*Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer*

Nicholas DiBella, MD  
*Principal Investigator*

## Message from Lisa Switzer, MA

### CEO/Executive Director

Greetings,

How did it get to be June so quickly? We have had a very busy spring at WSCR-NCORP – I think that's how March, April and May ended up in the rear-view mirror before we knew it.

On May 7th we held our first in-person event in over a year and half. Ribbons and Roses hosted more than 70 guests, in a safe, socially-distance setting, where we gathered to recognize the dedicated staff, Board of Trustees and physician partners of WSCR-NCORP who bring hope to cancer patients across the West. The event raised more than \$12,000, we toasted our Berris Awards winners Dr. David Trevarthen, Jerry Hayes and Debbie Markham, and enjoyed each other's company face-to-face.

Engaging in face-to-face conversations is happening more and more as we move toward the summer months, and some of us are recognizing just what a luxury it is to be in the physical presence of others. Building trust and creating lasting partnerships happens so much more naturally when we sit across the table from one another. Herodotus, the ancient Greek philosopher, said, "Men [sic] trust their ears less than their eyes."

Over the past several weeks, we have been mindfully building and rebuilding relationships with other nonprofit organizations and with members of legislative offices and an effort to become more of a viable community partner. It has been wonderful to sit

together over lunch or coffee and share what is happening within our NCORP and learn how we can work with other organizations to get the word out about cancer clinical trials and the work we do while also supporting their efforts.

We have met with colleagues from the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians, the Colorado Rural Health Center, the Colorado Cancer Coalition, Epic Experience, the Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance, We Work for Health Colorado, Sue's Gift, and the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance. We also met with members of the offices of Representatives Diana DeGette and Jason Crow. Some of those meetings were virtual and other were in person. We look forward to furthering our conversations with all our community partners in person as the year moves along. Working together, we can do so much more and share our resources, time, and talent.

Life will never be the same after all the events of last year, but some things do not change, like the need for human interaction and the joy of true connection. If we are to continue the good fight against cancer, let's do it together, side-by-side.

To Your Good Health,



Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



JUNE

The color of survivorship

is purple

Ask your doctor if there's a clinical trial that's right for you.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

## NCI CCDR Studies: An Innovative Way to Research Patients' Journeys Beyond Medical Treatment

Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR) is an evolving multidisciplinary science that seeks to improve clinical outcomes and patient well-being. The goal of CCDR is to identify activities and approaches that can be changed quickly and immediately improve care.

CCDR generates evidence that can be used to improve clinical practice patterns, as well as develop and test promising interventions within the health care delivery system. It also supports development of new and generalizable knowledge about the effectiveness, acceptability, cost, optimal delivery mode, and causal mechanisms. According to the NCI, CCDR studies are all about evidence-based practice transformation. Approximately 6000 patients and 400 clinicians and staff across the country have participated in CCDR studies to date.

Another key dimension of CCDR is that these studies are only open to NCORPs like our organization. The NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) is a national network

that brings cancer clinical trials and care delivery studies to people in their own communities. These studies are brought to patients in their own doctor's office where they are already comfortable. They can run six, 12 or 24 months typically.

Understanding how health care system structures, processes, and available resources facilitate and/or hinder the delivery of quality cancer care is imperative, especially given the rapidly changing health care landscape. The emerging field of Cancer Care Delivery Research (CCDR) focuses on how organizational structures and processes, care delivery models, financing and reimbursement, health technologies, and health care provider and patient knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors influence cancer care quality, cost, and access and ultimately the health outcomes and well-being of patients and survivors.

*(Cancer Care Delivery Research: Building the Evidence Base to Support Practice Change in Community Oncology, published July 2015)*

To read more, visit [westernstatesncorp.org/nci-ccdr-studies/](http://westernstatesncorp.org/nci-ccdr-studies/)

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## Epic Experience Beyond Cancer

Cancer doesn't stop affecting someone's life when treatment ends. Survivors don't always get to ring a bell and say "Adios" to the enemy that uprooted life as they knew it. The physical, mental, and emotional side effects often continue long after, forever changing relationships, hobbies, social life, work, and well-being. **Epic Experience** was founded to meet survivors in this sometimes lonely and hopeless place, to show them they are not alone; thus, the organization's mission is to empower adult cancer survivors and thrivers to live beyond cancer.



Epic Experience has been uplifting the lives of adult survivors since 2012 through our signature program of free week-long camps. What makes Epic Experience unique is the experience of adventure and activity through summer and winter sports combined with peer-to-peer relationships in a small, intimate setting on a ranch in the Colorado Rockies. One-Day programs, modeled after our camps, have also been added to augment our in-person programs. Although Covid-19 interrupted their 2020 schedule, Epic Experience is scheduling for the 2021 season.

Western States Cancer Research NCORP is glad to collaborate with Epic Experience. Cancer Survivorship is more than follow-up appointments, blood tests, and scans; it's about living life to the fullest beyond cancer. To learn more about the extraordinary programs of Epic Experience, please visit their website at [www.epicexperience.org/](http://www.epicexperience.org/)

### Every gift makes a difference.

Our nonprofit began as the vision of local oncologists who wanted to ensure that Colorado residents could benefit locally from cancer clinical research.

**As we continue to grow, help us with our outreach so cancer patients may learn more about research trials in their communities!**

Go to our website, [westernstatesncorp.org](http://westernstatesncorp.org) and click on the **Donate** button, call **720.475.5728**, or mail your donation to:

1325 S. Colorado Blvd.  
Suite B-400  
Denver, CO 80222

**Thank you!**



Find us on Facebook at [endcancerco](https://www.facebook.com/endcancerco)



# Focus ON THE Search

Founded in 1983, Western States Cancer Research NCORP (WSCR-NCORP), an affiliate of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the NIH, provides cancer patients with cutting-edge treatment options through innovative research and clinical trials in their own communities with their own doctors. At WSCR-NCORP, we work every day to create opportunities where clinical research meets compassion.

## WSCR-NCORP's Partner Hospitals & Cancer Centers

Boulder Community Hospital	Jefferson Healthcare
Colorado Blood Cancer Institute (CBCI)	Mountain Blue Cancer Care Center
Foundation Health Partners Fairbanks Memorial Hospital	Rocky Mountain Cancer Center(s) – Aurora, Centennial, Littleton, Midtown, Rose, Sky Ridge, Swedish
Health One Swedish Medical Center	The Women's Imaging Center
Intermountain Healthcare	

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number 5UG1CA189805-07. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health. [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)



1325 S. Colorado Blvd.  
Suite B-400  
Denver, CO 80222

## Ribbons & Roses 2021: A Big Success

On May 7th, over **70 guests** came together to raise **more than \$12,000** for cancer research in local communities.

**Thank you for your support** from all of us at Western States Cancer Research NCORP, where cancer research meets compassion.



If you are interested in supporting our work with a financial contribution, please **visit our website or call our office**. Thank you.

Western States Cancer Research NCORP is a 501-c-3 nonprofit organizations. Donations to support our programs are tax-deductible.

To sign up for our new electronic mailing list, please visit our Contact page under the About tab.

[westernstatesncorp.org](http://westernstatesncorp.org)  
303.777.2663