



Michigan Society of Hematology & Oncology

Research Position Statement

At MSHO, we believe that transformative cancer care begins with research that is as inclusive and dynamic as the communities we serve. Our research mission is built on a commitment to advancing equitable access and robust advocacy for cancer patients across Michigan.

Priority Areas of Interest

1. Addressing Barriers to Cancer Care in Rural and Underserved Communities

- Projects that identify and evaluate patient, provider, or system-level obstacles to accessing timely and high-quality cancer care.
- Strategies that promote equitable access to diagnostics, treatment, navigation, and supportive services.

2. Addressing Barriers to Clinical Trial Enrollment Across Michigan

- Studies that examine disparities in trial awareness, eligibility, and participation.
- Interventions that expand trial access in community oncology settings and improve enrollment among diverse populations.

Guiding Principles

Empowering Patients: Prioritizing patient voices by engaging directly with communities to identify and dismantle barriers to care and research participation.

Collaborative Synergy: Fostering partnerships across academia, industry, advocacy groups, and policymakers to create a comprehensive, locally tailored research ecosystem.

Data-Driven Advocacy: Leveraging real-world data and patient-reported outcomes to inform actionable policy changes that drive systemic improvements in oncology care.

Sustainable Impact: Aligning our efforts with existing quality initiatives while filling critical gaps to create scalable models that enhance the overall quality and accessibility of cancer care in Michigan.

Request for Applications (RFA)

Enhancing Access and Advocacy for Cancer Patients in Michigan

Project Summary

The Michigan Society of Hematology & Oncology (MSHO) invites applications for a **\$25,000 research award** aimed at addressing critical gaps in cancer care access and patient advocacy across Michigan. This initiative seeks to identify barriers to care and clinical trial participation, define effective care pathways for underserved populations, and develop actionable advocacy strategies that can be implemented statewide.

Specific Aims

1. Identify Barriers

Conduct surveys, focus groups, and interviews with patients, clinicians, and stakeholders to define challenges in clinical trial enrollment and access to high-quality cancer care, with particular attention to rural and underserved communities.

2. Develop Advocacy Strategies

Collaborate with advocacy groups, healthcare providers, and policymakers to co-create strategies that address identified barriers and strengthen patient-centered cancer care.

3. Pilot Interventions

Implement and evaluate targeted pilot programs (e.g., outreach initiatives, digital engagement platforms) in select Michigan regions. Measure impact on patient access, engagement, and clinical trial participation to inform broader adoption.

Methodology

- **Data Collection:** Mixed methods, including quantitative demographics/enrollment statistics and qualitative interviews/focus groups.
- **Analysis:** Statistical and thematic analyses to identify trends and actionable barriers.
- **Collaboration:** Engagement with community organizations, academic centers, and advocacy groups.
- **Dissemination:** Findings will be shared through policy briefs, publications, and stakeholder forums to inform statewide strategies.

Budget & Timeline

- **Budget:** \$25,000 (personnel, data collection/analysis, engagement, dissemination).
- **Timeline:** One year, with quarterly milestones and interim reporting.

Expected Outcomes & Impact

- A comprehensive understanding of access and research barriers for Michigan cancer patients.
- Evidence-based advocacy strategies that complement, not duplicate, statewide quality initiatives (MROQC/MOQC).
- Policy recommendations and scalable community interventions that empower patients, enhance trial enrollment, and improve outcomes.

Application Instructions

Eligibility: Open to investigators affiliated with academic institutions, health systems, or community practices in Michigan. Collaborative, multidisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged. Fellows and Residents are also encouraged to apply and must have a faculty mentor.

Proposal Requirements (max 7 pages, excluding cover page and letters of support):

1. Cover Page (title, PI, institution, contact info)
2. Abstract (≤250 words)
3. Specific Aims
4. Background & Significance
5. Research Design & Methods
6. Timeline & Milestones
7. Budget & Justification
8. Key Personnel & Roles
9. Letters of Support (if applicable)

Review Criteria

Applications will be peer-reviewed for:

- Scientific merit and feasibility
- Relevance to access and advocacy in oncology care
- Innovation and potential for impact
- Investigator qualifications and collaboration strength

Submission Deadline: June 1, 2026

Submission Instructions: Proposals must be submitted electronically to:
Mary Kay Makarewicz at mmakarewicz@msho.org.