

# CITY OF HOPE FACT SHEET



City of Hope is a world-renowned comprehensive cancer center and independent biomedical research institution near [Los Angeles](#) that offers a unique blend of compassionate care and research innovation that simply can't be found anywhere else.

Here, doctors partner with scientists to transform laboratory breakthroughs into treatments that outsmart cancer, [diabetes](#) and other life-threatening diseases. Compassion is at the heart of our approach. We care for the whole person, not just the body, so life after cancer can be rich and rewarding.

For more information on City of Hope, please visit [CityofHope.org](#), contact the City of Hope Communications team at [media@coh.org](mailto:media@coh.org) or 800-888-5323, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

## WHO IS CITY OF HOPE?

### **We are pioneering leaders in the field of blood cancers.**

Since its inception in 1976, City of Hope's [bone marrow and stem cell transplant program](#) has grown into one of the largest, most successful programs of its kind in the United States, with more than 17,000 procedures performed to date. For 15 consecutive years, City of Hope was ranked as an "overperforming" transplant center, achieving survival outcomes above risk-adjusted survival benchmarks, as calculated by experts at the [Center for International Blood & Marrow Transplant Research](#).

Each year, we host a Celebration of Life Bone Marrow Transplant Reunion event where physicians, nurses and thousands of bone marrow transplant recipients and their families gather at the Duarte, California, campus for a day dedicated to celebrating their victories in the fight against cancer.

[Stephen J. Forman](#), M.D., has been at the forefront of this exciting work for over 40 years and has been instrumental in increasing survival rates of patients with blood cancers during that time.

### **City of Hope's history and expertise has put us at the leading edge of CAR T technology.**

Our history with CAR T cell therapy dates to the late 1990s and builds on [Forman's](#) pioneering work in bone marrow transplantation. As a result, we have one of the most comprehensive [CAR T cell programs](#) in the world. We were the first and only cancer center treating patients with CAR T cells targeting the IL13R $\alpha$ 2 antigen, a protein that is found on the cell surface of [glioblastomas](#), and the first to administer CAR T therapy locally in the brain, either by direct injection into the tumor site or through infusion into the cerebrospinal fluid through the ventricular system, or both. We focus on [leukemia](#), lymphoma, myeloma and solid tumors, including [breast cancer](#), [prostate cancer](#), [liver cancer](#) and

[brain cancer](#) and, in addition to our own independent clinical trials and industry partner trials, offer all CAR T therapies currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to our patients who need this kind of innovative and advanced treatment.

CAR T is an exciting field of research, and City of Hope is leading the way, particularly in solid tumor research advanced by the work of [Christine Brown, Ph.D.](#), The Heritage Provider Network Professor in Immunotherapy, and her team.

### **We made it possible for physicians to effectively treat type 1 diabetes.**

In 1978, scientists at City of Hope, led by [Arthur Riggs, Ph.D.](#), the Samuel Rahbar Chair in Diabetes & Drug Discovery, pioneered recombinant DNA techniques that led to the development of synthetic human insulin for the treatment of diabetes in humans. Since then, City of Hope has been a world leader in the field of diabetes research. Currently a national leader in [islet cell transplantation](#), City of Hope is poised to remain on the forefront of research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes through the research ongoing as part of [The Wanek Family Project for Type 1 Diabetes](#).

[Bart O. Roep, Ph.D.](#), the Chan Soon-Shiong Shapiro Distinguished Chair in Diabetes, has been on a quest for the last 25 years to find a cure for type 1 diabetes and leads this project team at City of Hope.

### **And we will be leaders in the cancer revolution.**

Cancer treatment is changing, and we are on the leading edge. We now know that all cancers and tumors are not the same, and patients benefit from genetic testing and personalized treatment plans to achieve the best outcomes. Our affiliation with [Translational Genomics Research Institute](#) enables us access to the most [advanced options](#) in genetic testing and ensures City of Hope patients are getting the best care for their specific cancer.

City of Hope also recognizes that employers can play a big role for people who are diagnosed with cancer and has recently joined forces with several [employer groups](#) to offer City of Hope expertise to employees no matter where they live.

City of Hope knows that the best shot to fight cancer starts with best-in-class care, and we have innovative ways to offer this care to patients, regardless of geography.

## MORE NOTABLE FACULTY

City of Hope has a powerhouse of internationally respected scientists and clinical experts who collaborate across disciplines to turn great science into practical benefit as quickly as possible and deliver outstanding patient-centered care. Please click below to learn more about some of our world-renowned physicians and scientists.

- **Joseph Alvarnas, M.D.** — [Health Care Policy/Hematology](#)  
A practicing hematologist, Alvarnas, vice president of government affairs, speaks frequently to government officials and media about the future of CAR T therapies and costs.
- **Behnam Badie, M.D.** — [Neurosurgery/Brain Tumor Immunology](#)  
Badie, The Heritage Provider Network Professor in Gene Therapy, has performed thousands of brain surgeries and leads groundbreaking research into CAR T cell therapy for glioblastoma, recently publishing a case study in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#).
- **Michael Caligiuri, M.D.** — [Acute Myeloid Leukemia/Lymphoma](#)  
Outgoing president of the American Association of Cancer Research, Caligiuri is the Deana and Steve Campbell Physician-in-Chief Distinguished Chair and is recognized for his work in immunology, specifically the use of human natural killer cells. More than 1,000 cancer patients have been treated in clinical trials developed or co-developed by Caligiuri.
- **William Dale, M.D., Ph.D.** — [Palliative Medicine/Geriatrics](#)  
A widely published expert on the care of older adults with cancer and originator of the GeriOnc hashtag, Dale, the Arthur M. Coppola Family Chair in Supportive Care Medicine, co-chaired the panel that developed the recent [ASCO Guideline for Geriatric Oncology](#).
- **Yuman Fong, M.D.** — [Surgical Oncology/Gastrointestinal Cancers](#)  
A pioneer both in the operating room and in the laboratory, Fong, the Sangiacomo Family Chair in Surgical Oncology, is one of the most innovative surgeons in the world for liver cancer and has developed numerous new surgical techniques and instruments.
- **Nicole Karras, M.D.** — [Pediatric Oncology](#)  
Karras is a pediatric physician who specializes in treating children diagnosed with cancer, particularly blood cancers, who would require stem cell transplant therapy.
- **Rick Kittles, Ph.D.** — [Health Disparities/Prostate Cancer Genetics](#)  
Kittles achieved renown in the 1990s for his pioneering work in tracing the ancestry of African Americans via DNA testing, and now focuses on prostate cancer and improving health equity.

- **Larry W. Kwak, M.D., Ph.D.** — [Medical Oncology/Lymphoma](#)  
Kwak, the Dr. Michael Friedman Professor in Translational Medicine, has pioneered breakthrough innovations in immunology and cancer vaccines, earning him a spot on TIME magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. Kwak recently served on the FDA advisory panel for the first approved CAR T cell therapy.
- **Linda Malkas, Ph.D.** — [Cancer Biology/Drug Development](#)  
Malkas, the M.T. & B.A. Ahmadiania Professor in Molecular Oncology, focuses on how to create therapies to thwart cancer at the molecular level. She developed a therapy against neuroblastoma, a children's cancer, which will soon be tested in a clinical trial.
- **Joanne Mortimer, M.D.** — [Women's Cancers](#)  
Listed numerous times as one of America's "Top Doctors" by Castle Connolly, Mortimer, the Baum Family Professor in Women's Cancers, takes a special interest in examining how hormones affect normal and tumor cells.
- **Ravi Salgia, M.D., Ph.D.** — [Medical Oncology/Lung Cancer](#)  
Salgia leads groundbreaking research on lung cancer biology with the goal of finding better treatment options. He heads medical oncology and is the Arthur & Rosalie Kaplan Chair in Medical Oncology.

Learn more about our clinical programs and physicians [here](#).

Learn more about our research programs and research faculty [here](#).

## HONORS AND ACCOLADES

City of Hope is one of only 51 comprehensive cancer centers in the nation, as designated by the National Cancer Institute, and has been ranked among the nation's "Best Hospitals" in cancer by U.S. News & World Report for 15 consecutive years. The [American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer](#) recently awarded City of Hope the highest level of accreditation for our exceptional level of cancer care, "Three-Year With Commendation." City of Hope's nursing team has achieved Magnet® recognition from the [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#) due to its commitment to outstanding health care delivery and patient outcomes. Only 9% of all hospitals nationwide have earned Magnet recognition.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

We have a rich history that is unparalleled. From [two canvas cottages in a desert](#) to a comprehensive cancer center in 100 years, [our technology](#) has led to the development of numerous breakthrough drugs, including the four most widely used cancer treatments — Herceptin, Erbitux, Rituxan and Avastin. Additionally, City of Hope researchers pioneered the application of gene therapy and blood stem cell transplants to treat patients with HIV and AIDS-related [lymphoma](#).

City of Hope has three manufacturing facilities on campus that meet strict GMP (good manufacturing practice) standards and help turn breakthrough discoveries into lifesaving therapies. Last year, City of Hope conducted more than 725 clinical trials, enrolling more than 4,700 patients. And City of Hope holds more than 450 patent portfolios and submits nearly 50 applications per year to the FDA for investigational new therapies.

