



**Program Leader**  
Tumor Biology and Microenvironment Program





## About the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI)

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI) is a unique, urban-based integrated center of research, patient care, and education located in mid-town Detroit dedicated to the prevention, early detection, treatment, and eventual eradication of cancer. KCI is affiliated with Wayne State University (WSU).

KCI has been a National Cancer Institute (NCI) - designated Comprehensive Cancer Center since 1978 and operates the only hospital in Michigan dedicated exclusively to fighting cancer. The main campus of KCI and its cancer hospital are located near major hospital networks and the WSU School of Medicine, and near major art, cultural and sports venues in the vibrant midtown area of Detroit. Since January 2014, KCI expanded its delivery of cancer care through the partnership with McLaren Health Care.

The KCI has one of the largest and best clinical trial programs in the United States. Through the commitment of 1,800 staff, including over 300 physicians and researchers and supported by thousands of volunteer and financial donors, KCI cares for approximately 12,000 new patients annually and conducts more than 400 cancer-specific clinical trials. KCI strives to prevent, detect and eradicate cancer. The long-term partnership of KCI and the WSU of Medicine enhances the collaboration between critical research and academics related to cancer care.

Seminal achievements in KCI's long history include novel anti-retroviral agents, most notably AZT; the establishment of permanent in vitro cell lines for hormone-responsive breast cancer (MCF7) and for premalignant breast lesions (MCF10); a three-dimensional in vitro tumor/stroma model for breast cancer research; combination chemoradiotherapy for head and neck, esophageal, and anal cancer; identification of breast density as a risk factor for breast cancer; positron

emission tomography tracers for functional imaging; operation of one of the largest Phase I clinical trials groups with significant contributions to the success of such drugs as paclitaxel, erlotinib, lapatinib, vemurafenib, vismodegib, and trastuzumab-emtansine (TDM1); development of unique cancer vaccines and immunotherapies; molecular epidemiology studies focused on risk assessment in minority populations; and nationally recognized expertise in cancer communication and community outreach.

# KCI Research Programs

<https://www.karmanos.org/?id=340&sid=1>

Key to achieving its mission is KCI's research effort, which is conducted among four interdisciplinary programs, organized to integrate basic, translational, clinical, and population research activities.

Research Programs include:

- Molecular Imaging  
<http://www.karmanos.org/MI>
- Molecular Therapeutics  
<http://www.karmanos.org/MT>
- Population Studies & Disparities Research  
<http://www.karmanos.org/PopulationStudies>
- Tumor Biology and Microenvironment  
<http://www.karmanos.org/TBM>



## Partnership with McLaren Health Care (MHC)

In January 2014, Karmanos Cancer Institute executed an agreement with McLaren HealthCare (MHC) and established the largest cancer research and provider network in Michigan. This network currently covers 48 of Michigan's 83 counties with 18 cancer treatment facilities.

The partnership with a large, successful, not-for-profit, and growing health care system that shares similar values provides patient referrals, reduced cost of purchased services, and dedicated investment in cancer research. KCI is responsible for cancer research and quality of cancer care throughout MHC, thereby guaranteeing patient access to advanced treatment options. All cancer physicians across the MHC system meet the same high quality standards of performance measurement and evidence-based practice.





## About Detroit

Detroit is the largest city in Michigan and a major port on the Detroit River, an international waterway that connects the western Great Lakes to Lake Erie and the Saint Lawrence Seaway. In 2010, the city had a population of 713,777—the 18th largest in the United States—and the population of the surrounding metropolitan area is more than five million. The combined Detroit–Windsor (Ontario) metropolitan area, an important commercial center on the Canada–U.S. border, has a total population of 5.7 million. Known as the nation’s traditional automotive center, Detroit is synonymous with the American automobile industry and an important source of popular music legacies celebrated in the city’s two familiar nicknames, “The Motor City” and “Motown”.

Detroit’s Midtown neighborhood is home to KCI, as well as excellent museums, theatres, libraries, concert halls, and professional sports venues. Among the cultural institutions within walking distance of KCI are the main branch of the Detroit Public Library, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Michigan Science Center, the Detroit Children’s Museum, and the Detroit Historical Museum.



## About Wayne State University

Wayne State University, founded in 1868, is a nationally recognized public, urban research university in Detroit. Wayne State is Michigan’s only urban research university and is known internationally for its contributions to humanity, science and technology. Just as the city of Detroit is undergoing a renaissance; the university itself is in a time of significant transformation, strengthening its ability to serve students from Detroit, Michigan, and around the world. Wayne State holds the highest Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching designations in both research and community engagement.

The 180-acre campus is the academic meeting ground for approximately 27,000 students enrolled in its 14 schools and colleges, making Wayne State University the 18th largest university in the nation. The University has more than 500,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of laboratory space committed to teaching and research. There are approximately 1,700 faculty, with 750 based in the School of Medicine, which is the largest single-campus medical school in the nation. As a result of the many interactions across the University, KCI is able to benefit from the academic cross fertilization that characterizes matrix cancer centers, while at the same time enjoying the financial and administrative flexibility of a free-standing cancer center.



## The Opportunity - Program Leader, Tumor Biology and Microenvironment (TBM)

KCI has positioned itself with the TBM Program to identify mechanisms and therapeutic approaches to block tumor progression and metastasis, the predominant cause of cancer mortality. The TBM program members conduct multidisciplinary pre- and clinical studies to address an overarching hypothesis that tumor metastasis is a continuum of interactions between tumor cells and their host environments. Results from KCI TBM members demonstrate that malignant tumors need to be targeted as organoids with approaches that also block pro-tumor stromal or systemic host mechanisms.

The Tumor Biology and Microenvironment (TBM) Program specifically aims to eradicate cancer by identifying the cellular and molecular mechanisms that drive interactions between tumors and their microenvironment, and develop and test innovative diagnostic and treatment strategies. The Program goals are addressed with three themes that encompass basic, preclinical, and clinical research. The first theme identifies and exploits the mechanisms that confer phenotypical plasticity and survival of tumor cells in tumor progression. Translational research is conducted to evaluate the potential clinical application of these molecular determinants as tumor markers and/or therapeutic targets. The second theme identifies and exploits the mechanisms that confer the “unhealable wounding” of tumor stroma. Investigators identify and characterize factors in an extracellular proteolysis and signaling network that enable tumor cells to adapt to and subvert the microenvironment in the development of bone metastases. Key molecules in this network are evaluated to determine if they can be used to predict cancer progression and treatment outcomes. The third theme identifies and exploits the host immune response to tumor progression. Bispecific antibody-armed activated T-cells are tested in solid tumors and hematologic malignancies in the context of chemotherapy or high dose chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation. Anti-tumor DNA vaccines are developed and tested using mouse and domesticated cat models. Investigators study immune modulators and inhibitors of adverse pro-inflammatory responses. Members also develop novel vehicles to deliver immunotherapeutic agents.

The TBM Program is dynamic and comprehensive, including ~ 40 Scientific Members, representing 17 departments and institutes from Wayne State University. Total annual direct grant funding in January, 2016 was \$14,616,230, of which \$6,489,760 was peer reviewed and \$2,965,518 was from NCI. From January, 2012 to December, 2015, TBM members published 626 papers, many in high impact journals. Importantly, 43% and 45% of abovementioned publications stemmed from intra- and inter-programmatic collaborations, respectively, and 39% were multi-institutional collaborations.

KCI seeks to attract a dynamic leader to build upon the historical success of the TBM program, partner with leadership of the cancer institute and to drive continued outstanding research exploration, discovery, trials and delivery of care. KCI offers an outstanding research environment, and will commit to significant startup funding and recurring support, along with a competitive salary and fringe benefit package to attract the strongest candidate.

The Program Leader is expected to provide overall direction for the TBM Program in partnership with the Program Co-Leader, the Program Advisory Committee, and the Cancer Center Executive Committee, all with the goal of fostering programmatic interactions. As a member of the Cancer Center Executive Committee, the Program Leader has the responsibility for faculty recruitment and retention, space assignments, cancer center membership, funding priorities, and faculty development, and monitors progress related to the Institute’s strategic plan. The Program Leader organizes regular program meetings, mini-retreats, the annual Program symposium, and leverages resources to stimulate multi-disciplinary research opportunities. The Program Leader is expected to empower faculty to focus on cancer problems applicable to the catchment area served by the Institute, and provide creative and inspirational leadership to ensure conduct of high impact and state-of-the-art basic cancer research.



## Preferred qualifications

- PhD, MD, or MD/PhD degree or equivalent; academic accomplishments commensurate with appointment at the rank of Associate or Full Professor;
- Strong evidence of research productivity relevant to the major themes of Tumor Biology and Microenvironment Program reflected in peer-reviewed grant and contract funding;
- Substantial publications in high impact professional journals;
- Demonstrated track record of proven leadership in relation to program development;
- Ability to create and promote program projects, and other collaborations among program members and research KCI programs;
- A strategic national academic and research leader, grounded in personal integrity with the ability to energize, inspire, and encourage faculty innovation, as well as interdisciplinary collaboration;
- Demonstrated ability to manage a complex academic organization and work effectively with colleagues across divisions;
- Demonstrated success as an administrator and fiscal manager;
- Demonstrated ability to motivate key constituencies, lead the development of mutually beneficial relationships with partners, and recruit, retain, mentor, and develop superb academic faculty and co-leaders; Ability to foster and promote gender equity and ethnic diversity among faculty and staff to enrich the university, further its research mission, and preserve the uniqueness of KCI.





# Procedure for Candidacy

Applications and nominations will be accepted until the position is filled. Confidential review of materials and screening of candidates will begin immediately.

Harris Search Associates is assisting KCI for this search. Please send application to address below or contact Jeffrey Harris, Managing Partner, for further details.

Contact Info: Jeffrey Harris, Managing Partner  
Tel: 614-798-8500 ext. 125  
Cell: 614-354-2100  
Email: jeff@harrisandassociates.com  
www.harrisandassociates.com

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