THE CANCER INSTITUTES AT NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE

To maximize Northwestern’s scientific contributions to the field of cancer and the care of patients, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University are partnering to create robust research collaborations with a global impact. Our work here and with our partner institutions worldwide will help us fulfill our commitment to positively impact the lives of those living with a cancer diagnosis.

The International Relations Institute at the Lurie Cancer Center, in collaboration with our global academic partners, brings humanitarian cancer education and treatment programs to underserved areas across the world. The institute also aims to serve as a nucleus for population science-based cancer research at Northwestern, especially with regard to cancers with population disparities. The work of this program, in coordination with Northwestern Medicine’s International Health program, will facilitate new opportunities for the care of international patients and critical educational exchanges between international collaborating institutions.

Part of the Cancer Institutes within our world-class Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, our International Relations Institute is an exciting and innovative initiative that brings our best people, programs, and resources together to plan, coordinate, and implement patient care, research, education, community service, and advocacy across the realm of cancer without regard to geographic boundaries. These active collaborations will lead to definitive clinical advances that benefit patients and their families locally, nationally, and across the globe.

“I am very excited about the future of the Lurie Cancer Center and of Northwestern Medicine. We are developing programs that bridge basic science and clinical care, and will establish Chicago as a global leader in the delivery of personalized cancer treatment.”

Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD, Director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University and Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology
Our International Relations Institute Co-Directors

Our co-directors of the International Relations Institute—**Sarki Abdulkadir, MD, PhD, and Lifang Hou, MD, PhD**—provide leadership in coordinating and expanding the Lurie Cancer Center’s global alliances and partnerships. With their breadth and depth of expertise in international health, Drs. Abdulkadir and Hou are able to help facilitate the global health research efforts of their fellow Lurie Cancer Center members.

**Sarki Abdulkadir, MD, PhD,** is the John T. Grayhack, MD, Professor of Urological Research at the Feinberg School of Medicine and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center. He joined Northwestern in 2013 from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he was director of graduate studies and associate professor of pathology, microbiology, immunology, and cancer biology. Dr. Abdulkadir serves on the International Committee for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and participates in the health initiatives of Chicago Sister Cities International.

**Lifang Hou, MD, PhD,** is chief of cancer epidemiology and prevention, an associate professor of preventive medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine, and a member of the Lurie Cancer Center. Dr. Hou’s research focuses on identifying molecular biomarkers that may predict cancer risk, progression, and mortality in various populations, providing potential tools for early cancer detection and prevention.

Creating a Global Medicine Network

Bringing the knowledge and resources of Northwestern Medicine to the world through the Lurie Cancer Center is an exciting vision. Whether it is building an education program in breast cancer, launching prostate or cervical cancer screenings, creating academic collaborations, or providing distance-learning for training and best practices, our aim is to reduce suffering and health disparities across the globe. Working collaboratively with our institutional partners and ministries of health, we will deliver advanced cancer care to those in need.

Telemedicine is a way to bridge geographic chasms and build a bridge of knowledge and care. By definition, telemedicine is the remote diagnosis and treatment of patients by means of telecommunications technology. It is a vital enterprise that includes distance-learning, diagnostic care between a doctor and patient, peer consultation, and providing an effective portal of communication for our international patients who come to Northwestern for their care. The Lurie Cancer Center is taking the lead on this initiative to build a comprehensive telemedicine program that will benefit all the global health work across Northwestern University.
About the Lurie Cancer Center

- The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University—one of 45 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the nation—is committed to being a national leader in the battle to overcome cancer.

- Recognized as a national leader in cancer treatment, the Lurie Cancer Center supports care for a broad range of cancer types through comprehensive research; distinguished and dedicated faculty and staff; a world-class teaching program; and ongoing advances in medical, surgical, radiation, and interventional oncology.

- We are a founding member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN): an alliance of 25 of the nation’s leading cancer centers dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of cancer care through development of clinical treatment guidelines and longitudinal outcomes research.

- Northwestern’s Lurie Cancer Center is a founding member of the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium, which collaborates on oncology clinical trials that leverage the scientific and clinical expertise of the Big Ten universities.

- The Lurie Cancer Center has established major research strengths in breast, genitourinary, gastrointestinal, aero-digestive, neurologic, and gynecologic cancers; hematologic malignancies, sarcoma, melanoma, and pediatric oncology.

- Our research programs in hormone action/signal transduction, angiogenesis, gene regulation, biologic therapies, mathematical modeling, and nanotechnology are nationally and internationally recognized.

- Our outstanding basic, translational, and clinical research complements a full range of prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care programs for all types of cancer.

- Our nationally recognized supportive oncology programs and survivorship specialty clinics include fertility preservation services for young adult cancer survivors.

- Our International Relations Institute brings our comprehensive cancer care to patients in need around the globe. We work collaboratively with partner institutions in areas of cancer prevention, education, and treatment/referral options, and we conduct critical, large-population research worldwide.

Learn more about the Lurie Cancer Center’s patient care, services and programs, research and education, clinical trials, and faculty at cancer.northwestern.edu.