



## 2023-2024 FUNDING PROJECT: ACCELERATING CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS IN LOUISIANA

Project Timeline: Two Years | Goal: \$400K

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The US cancer death rate has fallen by an astonishing 33% since 1991. This has been largely driven by improvements in cancer treatment, early detection and prevention. All of these efforts have depended on substantial investment in clinical research and robust participation in cancer clinical trials.

In Louisiana, access to cancer clinical trials has been hamstrung by the lack of an NCI-Designated Cancer Centers in the state, with the nearest being in Houston, TX. Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center is trying to fill this void. Thus, we are working rapidly grow the clinical trials program at the Cancer Center to enable more patients throughout the state to participate in potentially life-saving cancer clinical trials.

As the clinical trials program at Mary Bird Perkins continues to expand, scaling up our operation requires additional personnel. The Echo Alliance funding helps to fill a critical position - a dedicated clinical research pharmacist who primarily oversees the handling of investigational products and provides input on the conduct of trials. This is of prime importance as we open more complex protocols and offload our existing infusion pharmacists to meet the standard-of-care needs of our ever-growing census of patients.

This position enables us to open more and increasingly complex protocols. We anticipate that this position can become self-sustaining after the initial term. This allows our current pharmacists to focus on meeting the standard-of-care needs of our growing panel of patients, and promote skills development under experienced supervision.

### Philanthropic Support

Support of this project helps fund a dedicated clinical research pharmacist for two years. Without philanthropy, funding for this position would not be available for at least several more years. This position supports clinical research efforts at the Cancer Center by allowing the trials program to operate at a larger scale than has been possible. This is critical to continuing the rapid expansion of Mary Bird Perkins' portfolio of clinical trials, and is necessary as we work to open more Phase 1 protocols. As we bring more early-phase trials online and enhance trial enrollment, we anticipate that consequent growth in reimbursement from industry sponsors will help to sustain this position beyond the initial term provided by this generous gift.

### Recognition

The Echo Alliance will receive formal recognition at the Cancer Center in a variety of ways with additional acknowledgement through digital outlets. Moreover, the dedicated clinical pharmacist will list The Echo Alliance in their signature line, which will be visible to patients and community partners as they regularly send out communication, along with designation on their employee badge.

In addition, Mary Bird Perkins will spotlight The Echo Alliance's support in meaningful ways throughout the year.