The John Crowley, PhD Award
Encouraging Statistical Excellence in Clinical Trials

BACKGROUND

In 2020, The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research announced a new grant in honor of Dr. Crowley's legacy with the group: The John Crowley, PhD Award encouraging statistical excellence in clinical trials.

Dr. Crowley was the SWOG Group Statistician and Director of the Statistical Center from 1984-2012, and he founded Cancer Research And Biostatistics (CRAB) in 1997. The SWOG Statistics and Data Management Center today remains a joint effort between CRAB and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.

During a career that has spanned forty-five years to date, Dr. John Crowley has made a significant imprint on the field of biostatistics. Most notably, his focus on the design and analysis of cancer clinical and translation trials has played a seminal role in our progress against the disease. His most recent research echoes this progress, focusing on analytical methods for utilizing microarray data to determine predictive and prognostic groups, as well as the design of targeted therapy trials. Dr. Crowley is also known for his development of sophisticated tools for survival data that have had direct impact on the statistical analysis of cancer clinical trials. In addition, John has a personal passion and talent for mentorship and training. He has led efforts in teaching the application of statistics to cancer clinical trials – to both statisticians and clinicians alike – around the world. Dr. Crowley's credentials include prestigious fellowships from the American Statistical Association, the Society for Clinical Trials and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Spiegelman Award for Outstanding Young Biostatistician, the Marvin Zelen Award for Leadership in Statistical Science, and the Breslow Lectureship.

SWOG CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK & THE NATIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK

SWOG Cancer Research Network is a global cancer research community that designs and conducts publicly funded clinical trials. SWOG is part of the NCI's National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN), which includes five U.S. Network groups and the Canadian Cancer Trials Group.

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THE AWARD

The Crowley Award provides a rare opportunity to interact and collaborate with statistical faculty and data management staff at a leading publicly funded, national multi-center clinical trials organization via

an in-person residency of up to one week. This interactive mentorship program is spearheaded by CRAB and the SWOG Statistics and Data Management Center and is uniquely customizable by the successful candidate.

SWOG's mission is to improve lives through cancer clinical research and translational medicine. The work of the SWOG Statistics and Data Management Center (SDMC) facilitates this mission through leadership in the statistical design, data management, analysis and reporting of multi-center clinical trials. The SDMC also contributes to biostatistical methods research and software for clinical trial design and the analysis of translational medicine studies.

Successful applicants for the award will present research concepts or projects that utilize SWOG data, resources and/or expertise in the field. Examples of concepts may include development of statistical methodology, or the application of statistical methods as applied to cancer clinical trials or translational research, possibly inclusive of secondary data analysis. Possible projects might involve interventions to stop smoking, surveys of medical providers, or medical chart review, Successful candidates will have a chance to network with leaders in the field and to develop their personal career path.

Example projects:

- Use of SWOG data to illustrate statistical design and analysis methods*
- SWOG cross study analyses**
- Statistical methods research***
- Smoking intervention for health professionals****
- Survey of medical providers for knowledge of oncofertility issues
- Medical chart review for prognostic factors in cervical cancer

FUNDING

The award is provided by The Hope Foundation for Cancer Research and covers 1) travel to Seattle in accordance with the Foundation's travel policy; 2) one (1) week of housing and living expenses in Seattle, arranged by Hope and the SDMC; 3) funding for travel to two (2) SWOG Cancer Research Network meetings in the year following residency.

All funding is held at the Foundation and directly administered on behalf of the grantee, with exception of a stipend to cover day-to-day living expenses, such as food and transportation.

Living expenses include local transport, meals, etc. and are capped at $750. Exceptions for accessibility and/or medical issues may apply.

TIMING

- **Deadline to apply: May 31**
- **Awardees announced: July 15**
- **Period of award: Fall (to be determined)**

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

Eligible applicants must have time to devote to the residency, including written permission to take leave from their home institution, as applicable. We are targeting early to mid-career (Assistant to Associate Professor or equivalent) clinical trialists with an interest in furthering their involvement in the methodology of cancer clinical and translational research. Candidates with a PhD in Biostatistics or Statistics or comparable field are invited to apply, but exceptional individuals with an MD/MPH are also encouraged, as are those with other quantitative backgrounds looking to shift their career emphasis. Candidates need not be US citizens or residents.

TO APPLY

Compile the following and submit via [The Hope Foundation website](#) by the posted deadline:

- Cover Letter/ personal statement
- Description of research concept
- Letter of Recommendation
- CV

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*   Piantadosi S, Crowley J. An implicitly defined parametric model for censored survival data and covariates. *Biometrics* 51:249-258, 1995.

Mick R, Crowley JJ, Carroll RJ. Phase II clinical trial design for noncytotoxic anticancer agents for which time to disease progression is the primary endpoint. *Control Clin Trials* 21(4):343-359, 2000.

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Zhao Y-Q, Redman MW, LeBlanc M. Quantifying treatment effects using the personalized chance of longer survival. Statistics in Medicine. 2019; 1– 15.

** Albain KS, Crowley J, LeBlanc M, Livingston RB. Survival determinants in extensive-stage non-small-cell lung cancer: The Southwest Oncology Group experience. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 9(9):1618-1626, 1991.

*** LeBlanc M, Crowley J. Using the bootstrap for estimation in group sequential design: An application to a clinical trial for nasopharyngeal cancer. *Stat Med* 18:2635-2644, 1999.

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Zhao Y, Zeng D, Tangen CM, LeBlanc M. Robustifying Trial-Derived Optimal Treatment Rules for A Target Population, Electronic Journal of Statistics, 13:1717-1743., 2019.

**** Tami-Maury et al. STOP trial. In press, 2023.