

# TULSA WORLD

## Letter to the editor: Oklahoma lucky to have cancer research site

By Sheppard F. Miers, Tulsa | Posted May 15, 2014

Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma has received important national recognition and responsibility in the battle to prevent and control cancer.

Cancer will cause 585,000 deaths in the United States in 2014. The National Cancer Institute has selected Stephenson Cancer Center as one of 30 top cancer research centers to be "lead academic sites" for clinical trials on new treatments to stop the loss of life to cancer.

An Institute of Medicine study in 2010 found clinical trials on new drugs and treatments for cancer needed to be accelerated. To achieve this, the National Cancer Institute has created a National Clinical Trials Network, which includes lead academic sites across the country to coordinate, expand and modernize cancer clinical trials. A \$6 million research grant will be made by the National Cancer Institute for Stephenson Cancer Center's lead academic site designation and role in advancing clinical trials.

Oklahoma, and Stephenson Cancer Center now have a special life-saving opportunity in science. Oklahomans will be gaining access to the newest and most promising cancer treatments studied by the National Cancer Institute.

**Editor's note:** *Miers is director of the Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research.*