



COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER

# People, Place and Innovation

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YOLANDA SANCHEZ, PhD • CEO AND DIRECTOR



# UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center Overview – Mission

Lawrence G.  
Thyroid Cancer  
Survivor

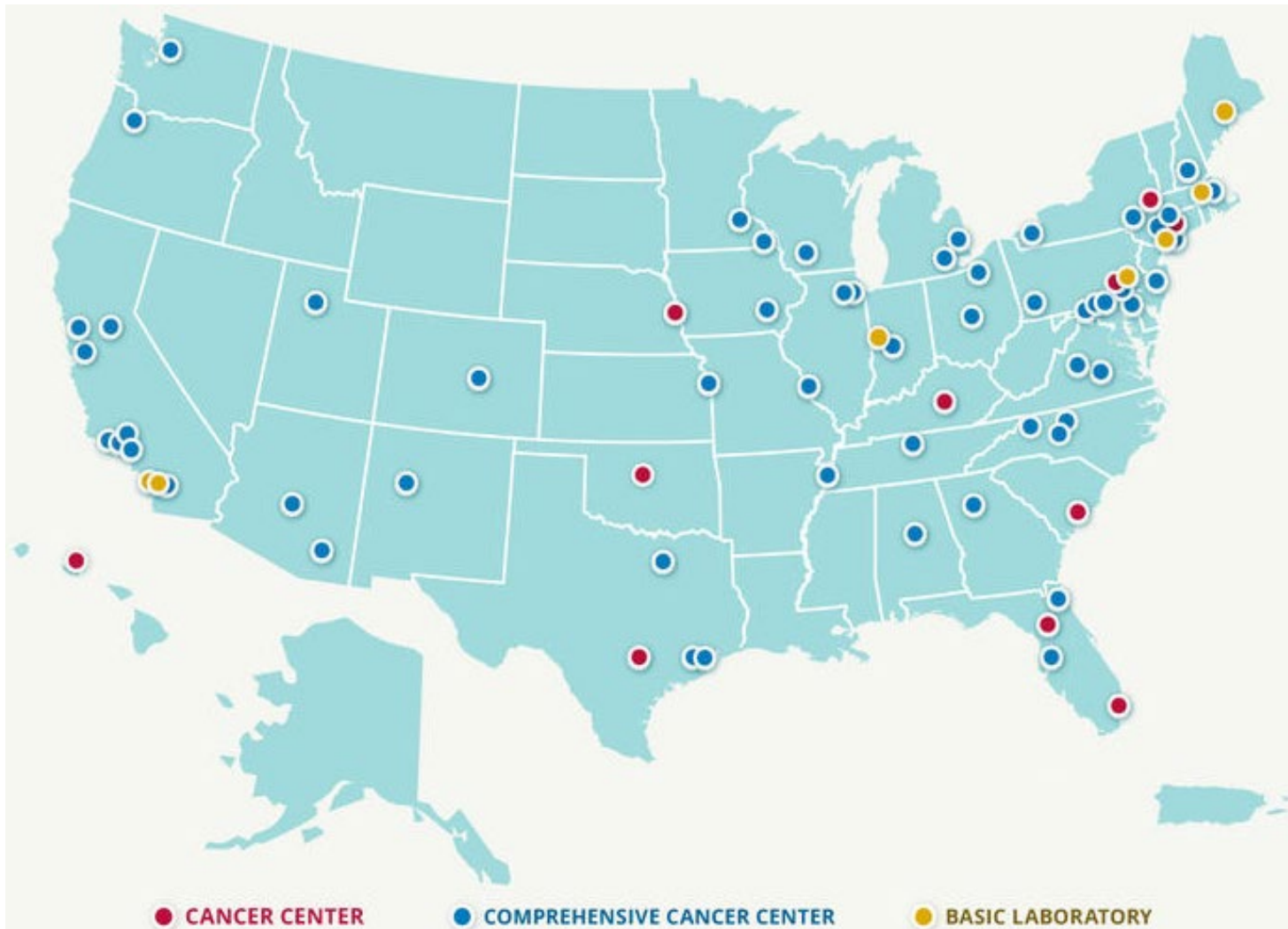


To reduce the cancer burden and overcome the tremendous cancer health disparities in New Mexico and the nation through:

- Ground-breaking transdisciplinary research inclusive of novel clinical trials
- Translation of discoveries to community, prevention and clinical interventions
- Impactful and respectful bi-directional community engagement
- Education and training of a more diverse cancer workforce and future leadership
- Delivery of exceptional patient centered cancer care

# UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center

One of 53 NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers



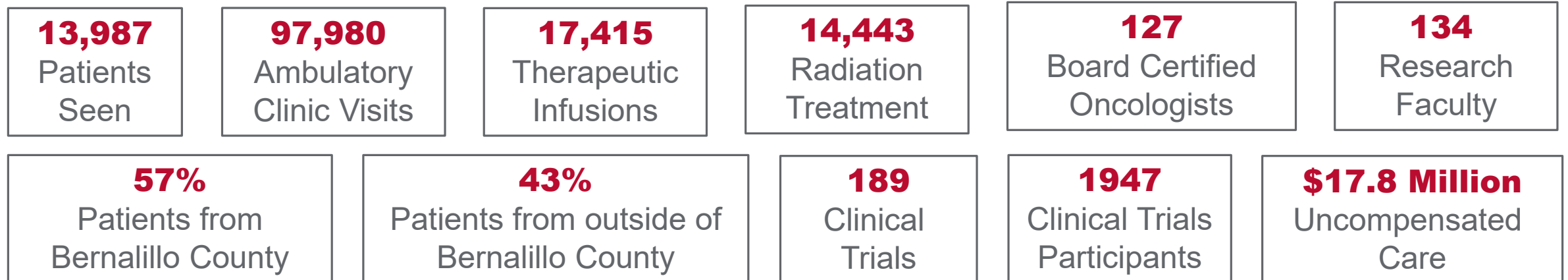
## 72 NCI Cancer Centers

- Core of NCI Extramural Research Mission: >85% Extramural Budget
- Discovery science engine for translation to clinical trials and interventions
- Deeply engage communities and build community networks
- Train the nation's cancer workforce

# What Makes the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center Unique

- The Official Cancer Center of the state of New Mexico
- The only cancer center in New Mexico to hold the elite NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center designation, delivering cancer treatment not available elsewhere within a 500-mile radius.
- Conducts cutting-edge cancer research and translates discoveries to interventions
- Our patients receive state-of-the-art care all in one place: expert multi-disciplinary treatment planning; access to novel clinical trials; and personalized treatment.

## UNM Cancer Center by the Numbers (2022)



# Advancing Cancer Research

- Conduct outstanding laboratory, translational, clinical, and community research, focused on discovering the causes and cures for cancer, particularly those cancers that disproportionately affect the minority and underserved populations of New Mexico, and to translate our discoveries into more effective means to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.
- To enhance economic development through science and discovery efforts.



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# State of the Art Clinical Cancer Care

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## What it means to be diagnosed and treated at an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center

- Provide access to the newest cancer diagnostic, preventive agents, and treatments in a robust statewide cancer clinical trials program
- State of the art Tools and Technologies: Radiation Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant
- Patient and Family Support Services
- Improving access to cancer care throughout New Mexico regardless of ability to pay



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# Education and Training Programs

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We prioritize educating, training, and mentoring a more diverse cancer workforce in our laboratories, clinics, and communities, who will provide culturally-sensitive care to New Mexicans.



# Overcoming the Cancer Health Disparities in New Mexico through bi-directional Community Engagement and Research

## Challenging Health and Socioeconomic Disparities

- Per Capita Income: 48th
- 32/33 Counties: Medically Underserved
- 43%: Medicaid Waiver
- 8% - 13%: Medically Uninsured
- 25% Patients:  
No Primary Care Provider

- To reduce New Mexico's cancer burden by discovering the genetic, environmental, social, and behavioral factors that contribute to the distinct patterns of cancer incidence, mortality, and disparity in our populations
- Education, outreach and access to cancer prevention and screening program.





# Building for the Future

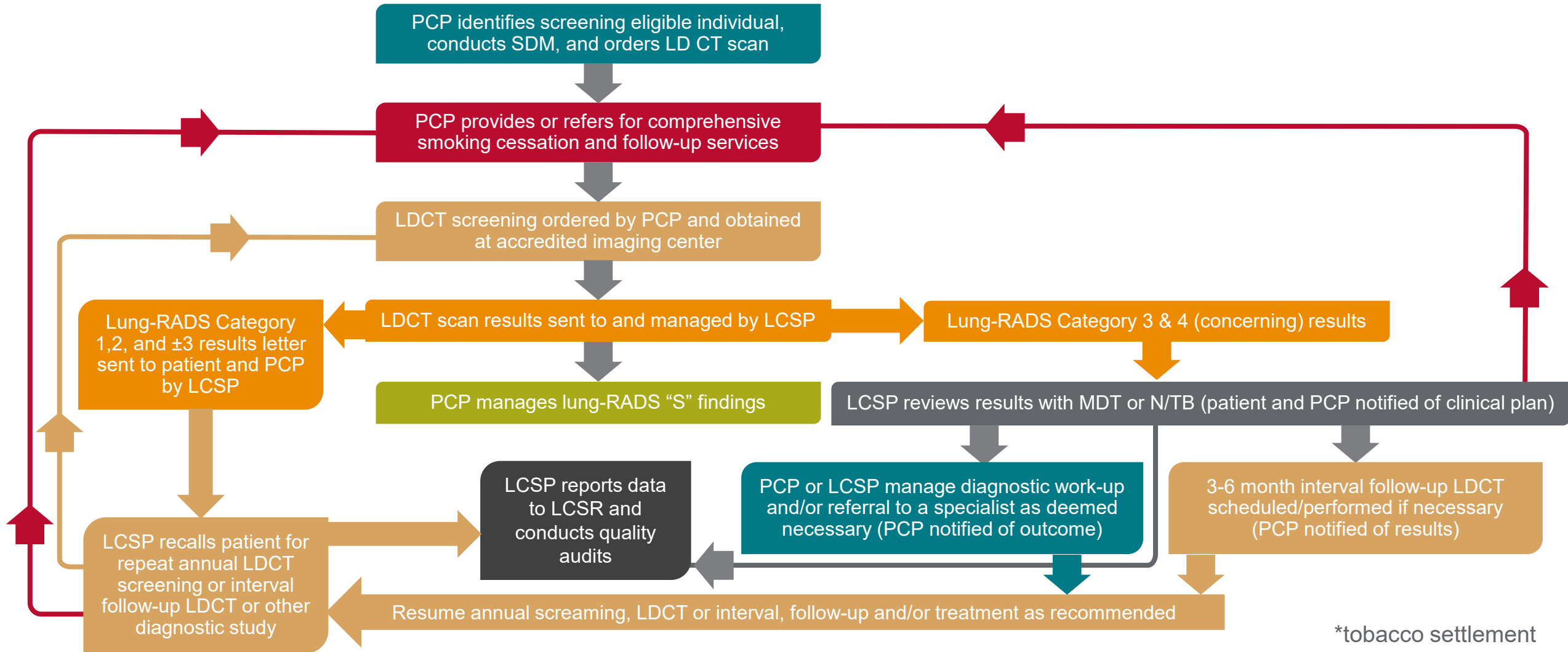
Expanding Research and Treatment Space at the Cancer Center to meet the growing demand for cancer care in New Mexico.

- Space for state-of-the-art radiation oncology technologies and procedures
- Provide access to newer cancer treatment that can only be made through UNM: Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplantation – UNM CCC is the only accredited program in NM
- Space to expand clinical research and workforce training programs



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# Decentralized Lung Cancer Screening Program



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Thank you for your funding  
recommendations and focus on tobacco  
use prevention and nicotine addiction  
treatment due to the impact with so many  
types of cancer.

**Yolanda Sanchez, PhD**

Director and CEO of UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Maurice and Marguerite Liberman Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research  
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# Center Strategic Goals / Pillars

- 1 Enhance Transdisciplinary Research**  
Conduct outstanding transdisciplinary research, informed by bi-directional community engagement.
- 2 Overcome Cancer Disparities**  
Discover and overcome genetic, environmental, social, and behavioral factors that contribute to cancer disparities in New Mexico and the nation.
- 3 Translate Discoveries to Interventions**  
Translate novel cancer discoveries into clinical and community interventions and facilitate access to cancer clinical trials and interventions across New Mexico.
- 4 Educate, Train, and Mentor**  
Building a more diverse cancer workforce for New Mexico and the nation.
- 5 Deliver Exceptional Cancer Care**  
At the Center and conduct cancer care delivery research throughout our catchment area.

# Strategic Goals 2020 - 2025

Center-Wide Strategic Transformational, Transdisciplinary Initiatives

- 1 Advancing Cancer Precision Medicine in American Indian Nations and Hispanic Communities**
- 2 Environmental Exposures and Cancer Causation in the Catchment Area**
- 3 RS21 Initiative: Fully Integrated Cancer Data Warehouse and Platform Enabling Visualization and Predictive Modeling of UMMCCC and Community Cancer Data**
- 4 The Translational Sciences Initiative: Mentoring Cancer Interventionists and Development of IITs from Discovery Science**