

Huntsman Cancer Institute Names Cornelia Ulrich as Director of its Cancer Research Center

SALT LAKE CITY – [Huntsman Cancer Institute](#) (HCI) at the [University of Utah](#) today announced the appointment of [Cornelia Ulrich, PhD, MS](#), as director of its National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. She will oversee HCI's academic consortium of nearly 200 cancer research teams. Ulrich will lead efforts to advance HCI's research in laboratory, clinical and population science, with the goal of improving cancer prevention and treatment.

Ulrich will report to HCI CEO [Mary Beckerle, PhD](#), who has held the role of center director (in addition to her role as CEO) since 2006. Beckerle said she is delighted to welcome Ulrich to the position. "Dr. Ulrich is a highly accomplished and dynamic leader who is passionately committed to advancing innovative research to reduce the burden of cancer," said Beckerle.

Ulrich was recruited to Utah in 2014 as senior director for population sciences at HCI and division chief of cancer population sciences at the U of U. In recognition of her academic accomplishments, she was named a Jon M. and Karen Huntsman Presidential Professor in Cancer Research.

"Huntsman Cancer Institute is devoted to making a major impact in the fight against cancer," said U of U President Ruth Watkins. "With Dr. Beckerle's continued focus as CEO and Dr. Ulrich's new appointment as cancer center director, we have an unprecedented opportunity to move even faster in our efforts to advance cancer research and provide compassionate care for the benefit of Utah and beyond."



During Ulrich's tenure at HCI, the organization's cancer population sciences research efforts have doubled in size. This field of study promotes cancer prevention, early detection and survivorship through research studies in epidemiology, genetics and behavioral sciences. She has successfully recruited to HCI top talent from across the world and has enhanced infrastructure for population sciences research at the cancer center. Ulrich also leads HCI's [Total Cancer Care](#) research study. This initiative is a national collaboration of 18 leading cancer centers. To date, HCI Total Cancer Care has engaged the participation of more than 5,000 HCI patients in this precision medicine initiative.

[Ed Benz, MD](#), president and CEO Emeritus of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard University and chair of HCI's External Advisory Board, lauded the appointment. "Dr. Ulrich is a distinguished, internationally recognized cancer researcher with extensive leadership experience," said Benz. "She is an outstanding choice to lead the cancer research center at HCI during an exciting phase of expansion."

Ulrich's lab has performed landmark research on colorectal cancer prevention and survivorship, including studies on biomarkers, aspirin and connections between obesity and physical activity in cancer prevention and survivorship. She is the author of more than 350 publications, and served as principal investigator on more than 20 competitively funded research studies and clinical trials. She is an elected member of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences and serves on numerous editorial boards and advisory boards for agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, National Academies of Sciences and Medicine, International Agency for Research on Cancer and the American Association of Cancer Research. Prior to joining HCI, Ulrich held leadership appointments at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle and the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg.

###

About [Huntsman Cancer Institute](#) at the [University of Utah](#)

[Huntsman Cancer Institute](#) (HCI) at the [University of Utah](#) is the official cancer center of Utah. The cancer campus includes a state-of-the-art cancer specialty hospital as well as two buildings dedicated to cancer research. HCI treats patients with all forms of cancer and operates several clinics that focus on patients with a family history of cancer. As the only [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\)-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) in the Mountain West, HCI serves the largest geographic region in the country, drawing patients from Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. HCI scientists have identified more genes for inherited cancers than any other cancer center in the world, including genes responsible for hereditary breast, ovarian, colon, head, and neck cancers, along with melanoma. HCI manages the [Utah Population Database](#) —the largest genetic database in the world, with information on more than 9 million people linked to genealogies, health records, and vital statistics. The institute was founded by [Jon M. and Karen Huntsman](#).