

About the SCI



Each year in the US, nearly 5 million people are treated for skin cancer. There are now more cases of skin cancer than the combined incidence of breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancers. Approximately 40-50% of Americans who live to age 65 will have either a basal cell carcinoma or squamous cell carcinoma at least once. Even scarier, one person dies of melanoma every hour in the US. Data from the UACC skin cancer registry suggests that people living in Southern Arizona have an incidence of nonmelanoma and melanoma skin cancers 4-7 times the incidence as more northern regions of the US.

The Skin Cancer Institute (SCI) at the University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC) unifies efforts toward the prevention and cure for skin cancer through patient care, research, education and outreach. SCI, as an institute within UACC, partners with public health and healthcare communities, public agencies and private foundations, to consolidate, develop and provide sustainable resources for skin cancer prevention, detection and treatment in Arizona.

Its **mission** is to prevent and cure skin cancer in Arizona. Broadly, the Institute is a partnership focused on Patient Care, Community Outreach & Engagement, Research, and Education. The goals are:

- To decrease skin cancer incidence through public awareness and behavior change
- To foster early detection and treatment of skin cancer by providing an interdisciplinary, translational approach to challenging cases, access to state-of-the art diagnostic modalities and clinical research studies.
- To develop and evaluate new knowledge related to the etiology, prevalence, prevention and treatment of skin cancer with a special emphasis on personalized medicine.
- To support skin cancer patients, high-risk individuals and potential providers through education and training.

The SCI is the only organization in Arizona to develop programs for K-12 classrooms, educating our children about the dangers of sun exposure while teaching the fundamentals of sun safety.

Furthermore, this program utilizes trained university students in a novel peer training program. The SCI works to provide skin cancer education suitable for all Arizonans and has provided free sunscreen at major outdoor events in our community. SCI seeks to launch a statewide effort to educate citizens to follow the recommendations for skin cancer prevention.





The SCI has been recognized by the National Cancer Institute for outstanding skin cancer prevention and treatment research. Our Prevention of Skin Cancer Program Project Grant, dedicated to understanding skin cancer causation and the development of new, molecularly targeted, topically administered preventive agents is in year 36 of NIH funding and has developed more than a dozen novel drugs for both the prevention and treatment of skin cancer. In fact, two of drugs are now commercially available in the US, Europe, and Australia. In addition to our drug development program, we have developed advanced skin cancer imaging technologies that will be used to improve our diagnostic capabilities.

Furthermore, the SCI has a multidisciplinary Cutaneous Oncology Program that provides oncologic dermatologists, surgical oncologists, Mohs surgeons, medical oncologists, and health educators in one location at the Clinical Cancer Center. We see countless patients at high risk for skin cancer and those with advanced disease. Importantly, we work closely with dermatologists throughout Southern Arizona for the benefit of our large skin cancer population.

