

# Lymphatic Centers of Excellence: A New Reality, Long Overdue

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**W**ITHIN THE PAGES of this journal, we have acknowledged a fact that has been long-recognized, yet fundamentally overlooked, namely, that the medical and psychosocial needs of the lymphatic patient have been paradoxically ignored<sup>1</sup>. At long last, however, there is hope for those with lymphatic disease: In 2018, the Lymphatic Education and Research Network (LE&RN) undertook the challenge to develop standards for the development of Centers of Excellence (CoE) in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lymphatic Diseases<sup>2</sup>. Through the concerted efforts of an appointed multidisciplinary steering committee (detailed in this issue by Chang, Dayan, *et al.*), the program has been established and, at present, encompasses 25 centers distributed across four continents<sup>3</sup>:

## **COMPREHENSIVE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE**

Stanford Center for Lymphatic and Venous Disorders, Stanford University School of Medicine (Stanford, CA, USA)  
The Jill and Mark Fishman Center for Lymphatic Disorders at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) (Philadelphia, PA, USA)  
CHU Montpellier (Montpellier, France)  
Derby Lymphoedema Service - Royal Derby Hospital (Derby, United Kingdom)  
Keck Medical Center of USC (Los Angeles, CA, USA)  
The Lymphatic Center at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Children's Hospital Boston - A Teaching Affiliate of Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA, USA)  
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (Columbus, OH, USA)  
Oregon Health & Science University Healthcare (Portland, OR, USA)  
St George's, University of London (London, United Kingdom)  
Texas Children's Hospital Vascular Anomalies Center\* (Houston, TX, USA)  
The University of Chicago Medicine (Chicago, IL, USA)

## **NETWORKS OF EXCELLENCE**

The ALERT Program at Macquarie University (New South Wales, Australia)  
Greater Baltimore Medical Center (Baltimore, MD, USA)  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (New York, NY, USA)

## **REFERRAL NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE**

Lymphedema Center Santa Monica (Santa Monica, CA, USA)

## **LYMPHATIC DISEASE SURGERY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

Integrative Lymphedema Institute (Dallas, TX, USA)  
Kameda Medical Center (Chiba Prefecture, Japan)  
The Center for Lymphatic Restoration at Swedish Medical Center (Englewood, CO, USA)

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Lymphatic Research and Biology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California, USA.

The Center for Lymphedema Surgery at The Institute for Advanced Reconstruction (Shrewsbury, NJ, USA)  
The Genoa Center for Lymphatic Diseases (Genoa, Italy)

### **LYMPHATIC DISEASE CONSERVATIVE CARE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network (Newington, CT, USA)  
Moffitt Cancer Center (Tampa, FL, USA)  
Mt. Wilga Private Hospital (Hornsby, New South Wales, Australia)  
Therapy Achievements (Huntsville, AL, USA)

The mission of the CoE program is to provide access to superlative, multi-disciplinary clinical care and services for lymphatic patients and their families through a geographically diverse network of local and/or regional clinical centers<sup>2</sup>. These CoEs will also provide needed professional and lay education, and support both clinical research and the outreach efforts of LE&RN on behalf of patients and their families.

In October 2020, in part through the impact of the current Covid-19 pandemic, an opportunity was created to spotlight the CoE program and the important, state-of-the-art lymphatic medicine practiced within the newly-designated centers. The Centers of Excellence 2020 Summit was a virtually-presented international conference that provided an opportunity to define and highlight standards for the current highest standards of practice of lymphatic medicine and surgery. Speakers from each of 16 CoEs participated in this widely attended symposium<sup>4</sup>.

It is a great privilege for *Lymphatic Research and Biology* to present here the Proceedings of the Centers of Excellence 2020 Summit. Twelve of the presentations are represented, thereby providing an opportunity to re-emphasize, for the journal's readership, many of the state-of-the-art concepts in lymphatic medicine and practice that were delineated during the two-day symposium.

It is a distinct pleasure, as the Editor-in-Chief of this journal, to welcome the CoEs into existence. This is a brilliant idea whose time has definitely come.

### **References**

1. Rockson SG. Lymphatic Medicine: Paradoxically and Unnecessarily Ignored. *Lymphat Res Biol.* 2017; 15:315–316.
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3. Lymphatic Education and Research Network. <https://lymphaticnetwork.org/centers-of-excellence>. Accessed 2/7/2021, 2021.
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