

Database shared resource: building the foundation for cancer research

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BACKGROUND

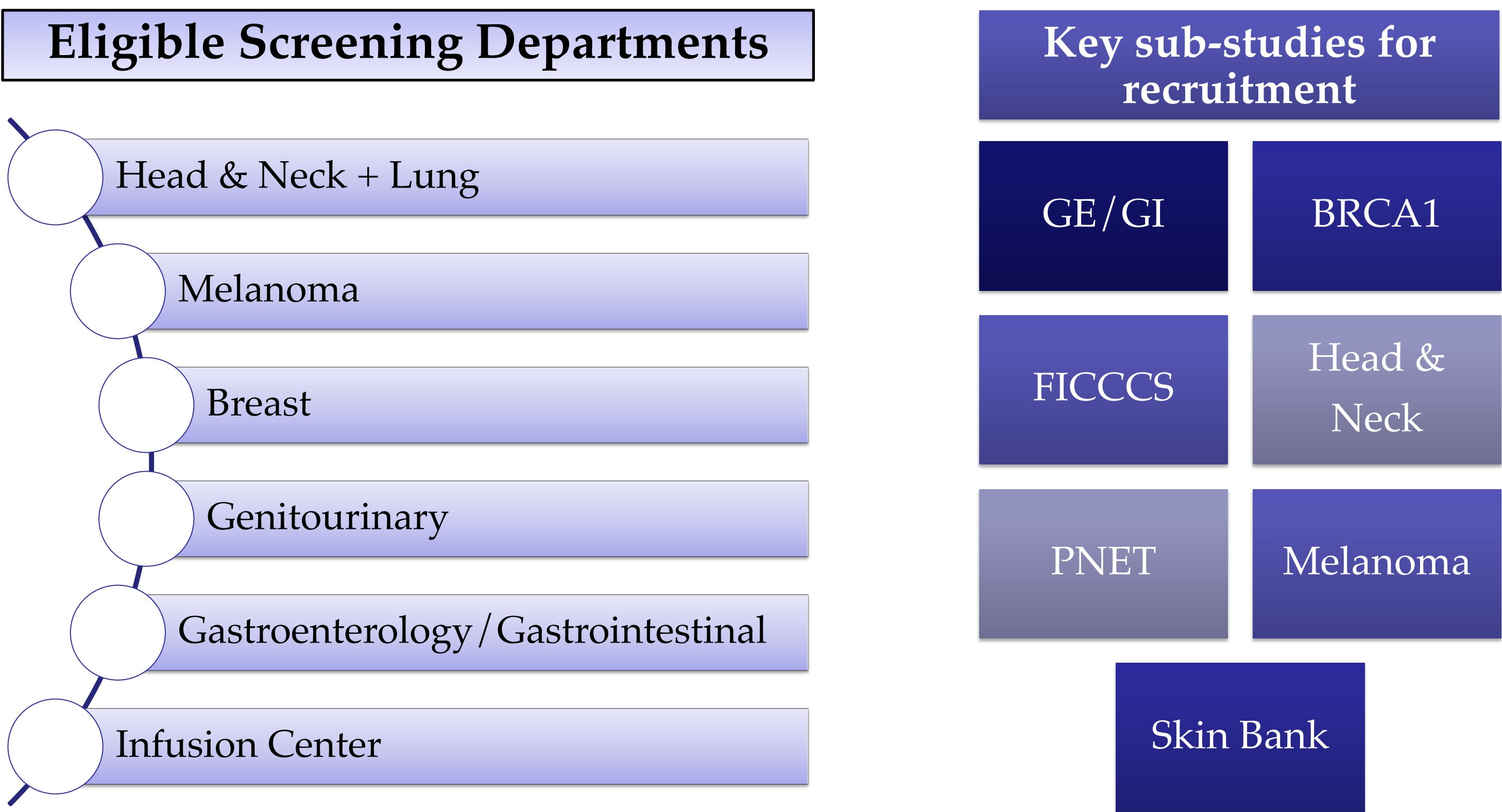
Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the US. According to the American Cancer Society (2021), from 1975 to 2018, the cancer incidence rate increased from 400.4 to 445.3 per 100,000 and projections continue to show upward trends. Effective screening guidelines have been associated with changes in incidence and deaths rates of the most diagnosed cancers, thereby stressing the need for cancer research and improved screening to reduce future cancer incidence.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Database Shared Resource (DBSR) procures and maintains a repository of human biological samples, clinical data, and epidemiologic data for distribution to investigators; this study is called the DISCover cohort. The goal is to grow the database by enrolling and getting informed consent from patients, collecting biospecimens, and obtaining lifestyle and personal health history data via a questionnaire. DBSR also assists with the research initiatives of collaborating investigators in this same way.

APPROACH

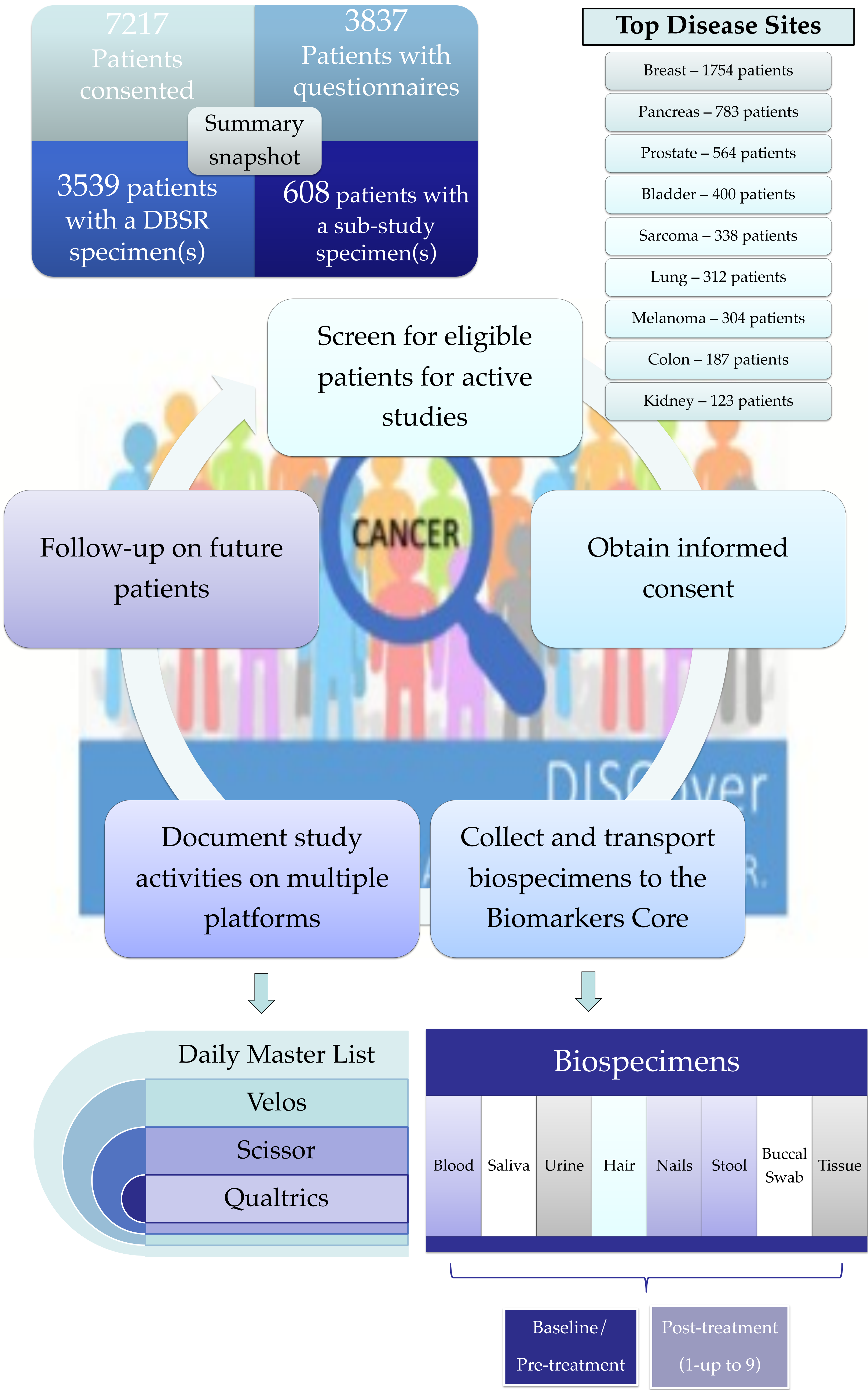
Using the EPIC software system, we screen the Herbert Irving Pavilion appointment schedule by each cancer floor (Melanoma, GI/GU, Breast, etc.) to identify new cancer patients and high-risk cancer individuals to approach and consent to join the cohort. We coordinate the collection and transfer of biospecimens, such as blood, saliva, tissues, etc. as per study protocols, from the clinic to their designated laboratories for analysis. We maintain detailed logs and records of all study activities such as consents, refusal, biospecimen collection timelines, enrollments, etc. via multiple platforms such as Qualtrics, Velos, Scissor, and Microsoft Excel.



STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

- Assist in database infrastructure maintenance activities and support clinical research coordinators in the day-to-day recruitment of subjects for this study
- Participating in weekly study meetings
- Obtaining in-person informed consent
- Data collection and maintaining screening and recruitment logs
- Collecting biospecimens (i.e., blood, saliva) and transporting them to designated laboratories for processing and storage.

IMPLEMENTATION



LESSONS LEARNED

- Many patients need to be informed of the benefits of participating in research to improve cancer outcomes.
- The very diverse patient population requires cultural competence and effective communication in native languages to be able to consent patients effectively.
- Empathy and patience are crucial skills needed when speaking to patients to build rapport and gain trust.

REFERENCES AND IRB NUMBER

CU IRB protocol number: AAAL5871
Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER), National Cancer Institute . (2021). *Trends in incidence rates, 1975-2018*. American Cancer Society | Cancer Statistics Center. Retrieved August 30, 2022, from https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/?_ga=2.4521011.143423123.1661751333-280238896.1658166810&_gac=1.12267264.1658166812.EAlalQobChMlIuG624CD-QIVSP7jBx2sCAu3EAAAYASAAEgZgFD_BwE#!/data-analysis/IncidenceTrend