

National Cancer Institute

Division of Cancer Prevention

**The Early Detection Research Network
(EDRN)**

Associate Membership Program

U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes
of Health

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Associate Membership

EDRN outreach is vital to the Program and speaks to the health of the Network. The EDRN Associate Membership Program is a novel mechanism through which non-EDRN investigators have the opportunity to develop informal or formal collaborative research efforts through sponsorship and guidance by an EDRN Principal Investigator, or through the EDRN Collaborative Groups to conduct collaborative research related to biomarker development, clinical testing and validation, as well as to request the use of shared resources such as novel technologies, specimens, high-risk registries, and cohorts through the Network, EDRN infrastructure or seek funding for validation studies. Approved members attend EDRN Steering Committee meetings and Network-sponsored conferences and workshops, and Collaborative Group teleconferences.

Through the Associate Membership Program the EDRN has the capability to

1. Bring new research ideas to the Network; and
2. Complement the biomarker research, testing and validation conducted within EDRN.

There are three categories of EDRN Associate Membership each designed to serve different collaborative efforts and partnerships with non-EDRN investigators from Academia and Industry and geared toward leveraging EDRN funds and resources most effectively:

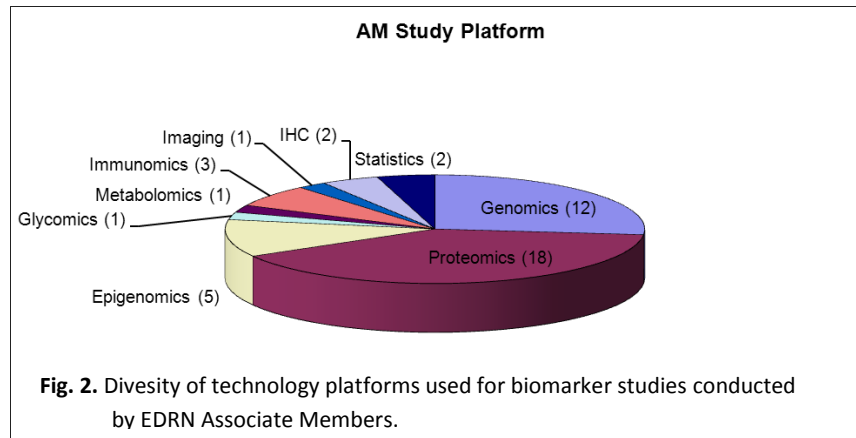
Category A: Members are domestic or foreign investigators who propose to conduct biomarker research, including pre-validation and validation studies, consistent with the priorities of the EDRN. Supplemental funds of up to \$50,000 in direct cost per year are provided as one-time "seed money" for pilot studies necessary to support applications for future independent funding. Funds are provided for a period of two years and are not renewable. Although support of Category A Members ceases after two years, they are considered to be Associate Members for the duration of the EDRN.

Category B: Members contribute to the Network by sharing available technologies or specimens, making available high-risk registries and cohorts, and providing other resources complementary to the Network in conjunction with ongoing, EDRN-sponsored biomarker validation studies. Funds of up to \$100,000 in direct cost are provided and Members can reapply for funds annually. Category B Members are considered Associate Members after funding ceases for the duration of the EDRN.

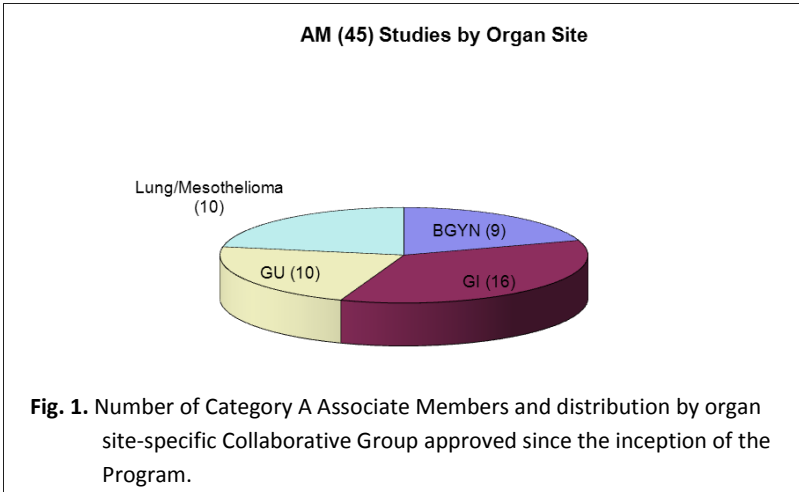
Category C: Corresponding Members, are scientists, organizations, clinicians, patient advocates, ethicists or industry partners who are interested in participating in Collaborative Group meetings and EDRN Workshops and Conferences yet do not receive funds from the EDRN. Category C Members will be invited to these meetings and conferences, but their expenses will not be supported by the EDRN.

Applications for membership are accepted three times a year and are subjected to rigorous evaluation by a standing committee of EDRN PIs, as well as by the EDRN Executive Committee and NCI program for concurrence regarding scientific merit, clinical potential, and programmatic priorities. Sponsors are responsible for ensuring that their Associate Member is accountable, follows

all EDRN policies and procedures, and, if requested, provide an update on their Associate Member's progress. Associate Members are responsible to conduct EDRN-funded studies as proposed and provide an interim, annual progress report and, at the conclusion of the funding, a final report summarizing all progress made, and deposit generated data with the EDRN Data Management and Coordinating Center. Associate Members whose biomarker(s) indicate significant promise of success at the conclusion of their pre-validation studies are encouraged to submit a full proposal for conducting a large EDRN clinical

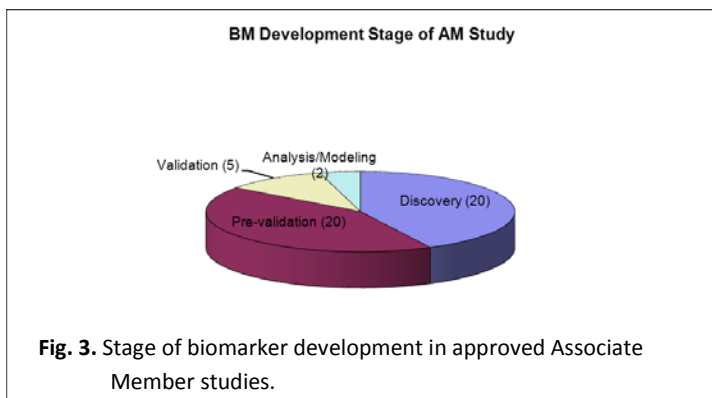


validation study or participate on an ongoing one. Since its inception, EDRN has accepted more than 160 Associate Members: 45 category A members have been approved to date whose research interests and expertise span all four organ site-specific Collaborative Groups (Fig. 1) and a diverse set of technology platforms (Fig. 2). In the earlier funding cycles of the EDRN, many of the approved Associate Members were funded to conduct innovative biomarker discovery projects, however, due to budget constraints more recently the main priorities have shifted more toward Associate Member projects focused on biomarker pre-validation and validation studies (Fig. 3). In addition, the EDRN

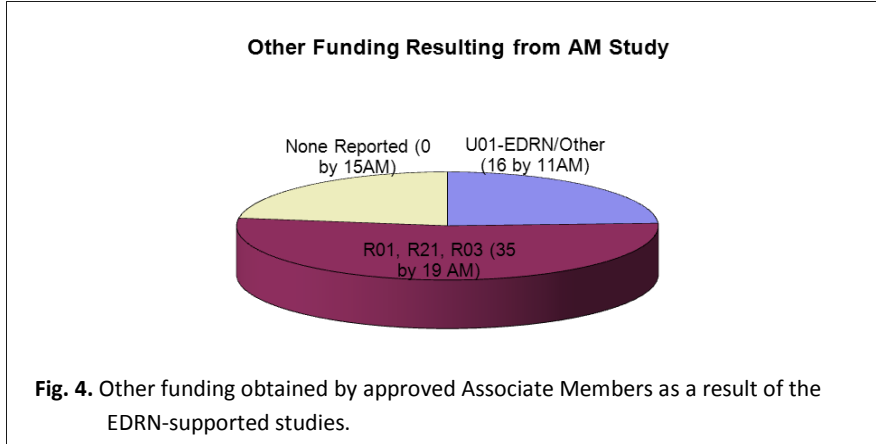


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Associate Membership Program has served over the years as a spring-board for investigators in the field to obtain additional funding through other mechanisms, such as R01 and R21, as well as U01 grant funding as full members of the EDRN during successive funding cycles of the Network, or other NCI Program Consortia (Fig. 4).



More than 75 category B members have been approved during the past 10 years for active participation in many EDRN-sponsored validation studies. Finally, at least 45 category C members have joined the Network so far, among whom are many biotechnology companies, private foundations and international partners.

EDRN Associate Membership Program Salient Features

- Associate Members category A transitioned to full EDRN membership (U01): **10**
- Associate Members category A transitioned to U01, including Glycomics Alliance: **6**
- Associate Members category A obtaining additional R01, R21 or R03 funding: **19**
- Number of biomarkers brought by Associate Members to EDRN development pipeline: **>100**
- Number of biomarkers contributed by Associate Members in full validation studies: **>45**