



Max S. Wicha, M.D.

Distinguished Professor of Oncology

Professor, Internal Medicine

Director, University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center

Finding and Targeting Cancer Stem Cells

As founding director of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Max S. Wicha, M.D., is responsible for coordinating all cancer activities related to research and patient care.

Dr. Wicha also serves as the distinguished professor of oncology and professor of internal medicine. He is nationally known for his research in the field of breast oncology, particularly the study of how breast cancer cells grow and metastasize. His lab was part of the team that first discovered stem cells in breast cancer, the first described in any human solid tumor.

Since then, Dr. Wicha has become one of the leading experts on cancer stem cells, with his continued work on normal and malignant breast stem cells. He has also led efforts within the UMCCC to expand these findings into other tumor types.

Dr. Wicha is also active as a clinician, specializing in the treatment of breast cancer patients. He has served as chairman of the board of the Association of American Cancer Institutes and as past chairman for the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Center Support Review Committee. Dr. Wicha has also served on several American Associations for Cancer Research Committees: Dorothy P. Landon-AACR Price for Translational Cancer Research; Science Policy and Legislative Affairs; and Tumor Biology Subcommittee.

Dr. Wicha joined the University of Michigan Medical Center in 1980. From 1984 to 1993, he served as chief in the Division of Hematology/Oncology in the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Wicha received his medical degree from Stanford University and trained in internal medicine at the University of Chicago. He then went on to the National Cancer Institute, where he trained in clinical oncology and cancer biology.