The former Northern California Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation challenged our local research institutions, UCSF and Stanford School of Medicine, to embark on a synergistic and collaborative effort, the Center of Excellence for Arthritis (COE). The mission of the COE is to

“Advance the understanding of the causes of arthritis, develop new treatments and outcomes for adults and children with arthritis.”

To work towards that mission, we developed an innovative research program. This program allows the Center of Excellence to leverage the advantage of the complementary expertise and capabilities of the Division of Rheumatology at both Stanford and UCSF. The Center’s mission is to support the progress of arthritis research through the encouragement of productive interactions between investigators and between institutions. Substantial funding for the Center of Excellence for Arthritis was provided by the Northern California Branch of the Great Lakes Region of the Arthritis Foundation.