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 to establish 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 multi-year program. This program allows the Center of Excellence to take advantage of the complementary expertise and capabilities of the Division of Rheumatology at both Stanford and UCSF. The Center of Excellence is to support the progress of arthritis research through the stimulation 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 Western Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation.