

**Fiscal Year 2022
(April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022) Accomplishments**

AWARDS AND GROWTH

Global resource on rare cancer type recognizes Dr. Renuka Iyer with Top Honors

Recognizing her passionate advocacy on behalf of patients with a rare gastrointestinal cancer, the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation (CCF) presented its Mark R. Clements Award to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center medical oncologist [Renuka Iyer, MD](#).

The Mark R. Clements Award for Vision, Innovation and Collaboration is the highest honor awarded by the CCF. Dr. Iyer was one of two recipients for 2021.

Dr. Iyer, who is the Co-Director of the Liver and Pancreas Tumor Center at Roswell Park, specializes in caring for patients with cholangiocarcinoma and has served the CCF — a global resource for those affected by the disease — as medical advisor for its Nursing Advisory Board for the last five years. This board aims to educate nursing professionals on the needs and issues faced by patients with cholangiocarcinoma.

Pancreas advocacy group names Roswell Park an Academic Center of Excellence

Acknowledging Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as a center at the forefront of pancreatic cancer care, the National Pancreas Foundation (NPF) named Roswell Park an NPF Academic Center of Excellence.

Already an NPF Clinical Center of Excellence, Roswell Park earned this latest designation following a rigorous auditing process involving criteria set by experts and patient advocates. NPF Academic Centers are distinguished not only through their advanced clinical care but through focus on research, clinical trials and training for young physicians. The Buffalo, N.Y., cancer center is the only hospital in Upstate New York to have received the designation.

Roswell Park Chief Pharmacy Officer earns career honor from professional society

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center congratulates our Chief Pharmacy Officer, [Lijian “Leo” Cai, PharmD](#), who received the 2021 Donald E. Francke Medal from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) in recognition of his long record of significant professional achievements.

The Francke Medal, considered one of the most prestigious awards in the pharmacy field, honors individuals “who have made significant international contributions to advance pharmacy practice.”

Dr. Cai, the ASHP notes, “is a highly respected and accomplished leader in international pharmacy. His steadfast commitment to shepherding advancements in pharmacy education, training, and practice have led to lasting improvements in the United States and China, particularly in the areas of medication safety, residency training and patient-centered pharmacy services.”

Roswell Park diagnostic radiologist earns high honors from professional society

A veteran Roswell Park diagnostic radiologist and nuclear physician, [Alan Klitzke, MD, FACNM](#), was named a Fellow of the American College of Radiology (ACR).

Recognition as a Fellow is the highest level of ACR membership, with only 10 percent of members awarded this distinction. Recipients demonstrate advances in the field of radiology, focus on significant scientific or clinical research and have served the College on a local or national level, depending on the number of years of dedicated involvement in the College. The distinction for those earlier in their career, such as Dr. Klitzke, is reserved for those noted for exceptional leadership and contributions to the field of Radiology at the national and international level.

Roswell Park Appoints Lesley Diaz as Director of Organizational Development

As part of its work to enhance career opportunities and pathways to advancement for its workforce, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announced the creation of the Organizational Development Department, headed by a leader new to Roswell Park: Lesley Diaz, MAOL.

Diaz, who oversees opportunities for career development for employees throughout the cancer center, brings more than 30 years of experience to the role, and had worked with Roswell Park previously as a consultant. Her position is funded in part by a grant from KeyBank, in partnership with First Niagara Bank Foundation, secured by the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation.

Roswell Park Teams Draw More Than \$34 Million in Grants Supporting New Research

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center scientists continued to draw support for their innovative research proposals, garnering more than \$34 million in competitive grants from government agencies and private funders. These recent grants fund efforts to improve outcomes for patients with some of the most challenging cancer types — including triple-negative breast cancer, pancreatic cancer and head and neck cancers — and to advance what we know about the impact of COVID-19 in cancer patients.

“The scope and significance of the research being conducted right here at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center cannot be understated,” said Congressman Brian Higgins, co-chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Cancer Caucus. “The federal government invests in promising science and scientists. The magnitude of these grants represents a confidence in the work Roswell Park does and the hope Roswell Park’s discovery brings to families confronting COVID and cancer.”

Roswell Park Finance Professional Moves Into Executive Role for Cancer Center

Elevating a highly accomplished finance professional to an expanded role with additional responsibilities, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announced the promotion of Todd Maier, CPA, to Vice President of Finance.

Maier joined the Roswell Park staff in 2014 and has previously served as Manager of Finance Transformation and, more recently, Director of Financial Analytics and Planning, overseeing budgeting and business intelligence functions within the finance department.

Cellular Therapy Pioneer Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD, Joins Roswell Park as Deputy Director and Chair of Medicine

One of the most influential and accomplished figures in the field of cancer immunotherapy — a physician researcher who helped develop the novel cancer treatment platform known as CAR T — has returned to his Western New York roots to take on leadership roles in both research and clinical care at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD, joined Roswell Park in September 2021 as Deputy Director, The Katherine Anne Gioia Endowed Chair in Cancer Medicine, Chair of the Department of Medicine and Professor of Oncology in the Departments of Medicine and Immunology.

Dr. Brentjens came to Roswell Park from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where he served as Director of Cellular Therapeutics and Associate Chair for Junior Faculty Development in the Department of Medicine.

The Future of the Future: Roswell Park Recruitments Target Unprecedented Opportunity for Progress

Driven to move the mission of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center forward despite the many challenges the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it, Roswell Park President and CEO Candace S. Johnson, PhD, has marked a year of unprecedented success in faculty recruitment. In the past year, Dr. Johnson has recruited 50 physicians, scientists and senior administrators with sought-after training and experience to Roswell Park to serve in key positions. These signature appointments include the hiring of nationally and internationally known leaders to helm Roswell Park's work in critical areas. More about these prestigious new recruits:

- **Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD**, as Deputy Director, The Katherine Anne Gioia Endowed Chair in Cancer Medicine, Chair of the Department of Medicine and Professor of Oncology in the Departments of Medicine and Immunology. Dr. Brentjens, who helped develop the branch of immunotherapy known as cellular therapy and pave the way to the first FDA-approved CAR T-cell therapies, joins Roswell Park in September from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he was Director of Cellular Therapeutics.
- **Jeff Walker, MBA**, recruited from City of Hope Cancer Center in Southern California to serve as Executive Vice President of Operations and Transformation. Jeff helps shape strategic goals and objectives, manages operational, financial and some clinical functions, and plays a leadership role in the day-to-day activities of the center.
- **Jamie Smith, EdD, MLS**, appointed in May to helm Roswell Park's broad education program as Chief Academic Officer. Dr. Smith joined Roswell Park from Erie Community College, where she served as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Liberal Arts, Sciences and Initiatives.
- **Lauren Bruckner, MD, PhD**, as Chief Medical Information Officer. Dr. Bruckner will join Roswell Park in September following a 14-year tenure at the Golisano Children's Hospital and University of Rochester Medical Center in roles including Clinical Director of the Pediatric General Inpatient Units, Medical Director of Patient Engagement and Children's Health Informatics Officer.
- Dr. Johnson also promoted four faculty leaders to serve as department Chairs or Chiefs this year:

- Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD, Chair of Immunology
- Carl Morrison, MD, DVM, Chair of Pathology
- Gyorgy Paragh, MD, PhD, Chair of Dermatology
- Elisa Rodriguez, PhD, MS, Chief Diversity and Equity Officer for Faculty
- New team members brought on to work with these senior leaders in key clinical, research and education roles were:
 - Ayham Al Afif, MD — Dr. Al Afif joins Roswell Park's Head & Neck program after completing his fellowship at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. He earned his medical degree from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada.
 - Sylvia Alarcon, MD — One of the newest members of Roswell Park's gastrointestinal medicine team, Dr. Alarcon comes to Roswell Park after completing her hematology-oncology fellowship at Dana Farber Cancer Institute/St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.
 - Saba Ali, MD — Board-certified in hematopathology as well as anatomic and clinical pathology, Dr. Ali joins us from the El Camino Pathology Group in California. She will be a member of our Pathology and Laboratory Medicine team.
 - John Bonnewell, MD, MSc — Following a fellowship at Duke University, Dr. Bonnewell joins Roswell Park as an Infectious Disease physician. His interests include molecular diagnostics for acute bacterial infection as well as advancing early sepsis diagnosis and care.
 - Natalya Buxbaum, MD — Dr. Buxbaum is a physician-scientist who is part of our pediatric hematology/oncology team. Her research specialties include stem cell transplantation as well as cellular therapy.
 - Joseph Caveney, MD — Dr. Caveney, the newest member of our Transplant and Cellular Therapy team, recently completed a fellowship in blood and marrow transplantation at Stanford University.
 - Elizabeth Conroy, MD, FAAD — Dr. Conroy leads the team at Roswell Park Dermatology, the newest Roswell Park Care Network site, in Depew. Having practiced as a dermatologist across the region for over two decades, Dr. Conroy provides specialized cancer and general dermatology services all under one roof.
 - Chia-Hsin "Lori" Chan, PhD — A cancer biologist, Dr. Chan is leading a lab team within the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology that is examining how a linkage of small protein known as ubiquitin can contribute to processes underlying cancer development.
 - Mary Frances Croake, DO — Dr. Croake joins Roswell Park's Diagnostic Radiology team after completing residency at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She is a graduate of New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine.
 - Alexander Croake, MD — Earning his medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, Dr. Croake will work as a physician in Diagnostic Radiology.

- Anthony Dakwar, MD — Dr. Dakwar is a surgical oncologist specializing in colorectal surgery. He earned his medical degree from the Technion Institute of Technology in Israel.
- Fadi Darwiche, MD — A general urologist and urologic oncologist, Dr. Darwiche is part of the Roswell Park Care Network, caring for patients at our Niagara Falls and Southtowns locations.
- Ravi Doobay, MD, FRCPC — Dr. Doobay, who completed a residency in internal medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University, where he, and has joined our Critical Care Medicine program as Assistant Professor . He was previously on staff with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.
- Gregory Freund, MD — Joining the Pathology Department as Co-Chief and Director of Cytopathology, Dr. Freund came to Roswell Park from the Illinois College of Medicine-Urbana. He is a nationally renowned cytopathologist with over 25 years of experience.
- Kai Fu, MD, PhD — Dr. Fu was appointed earlier this year as Co-Chief of Pathology and Director of Hematopathology. He came to us from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where he served as an attending hematopathologist for the last 16 years.
- Dharmesh Gopalakrishnan, MD — Dr. Gopalakrishnan joins the genitourinary team after completing a hematology-oncology fellowship at Roswell Park this year. He recently earned a 2021 ASCO Annual Meeting Merit Award for kidney cancer research he worked on in collaboration with Dr. Saby George.
- Niels Gothgen, MD — A board-certified anesthesiologist, Dr. Gothgen will join the Roswell Park staff in October as part of the Critical Care team.
- Steven Green, MD — Dr. Green is a medical oncologist with the Leukemia Service. He recently completed a hematology/oncology fellowship at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Zong Sheng Guo, PhD — Dr. Guo is Co-Director of Vector Development and Production as well as the Translational Immuno-Oncology Shared Resource.
- Kaitlyn Hartman, MD — Dr. Hartman has joined Roswell Park's Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine as a physician faculty member. A graduate of St. John Fisher College and the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she did her internship, anesthesiology residency and a fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.
- Prantesh Jain, MD, FACP — New to Roswell Park this August, Dr. Jain is a part of our Thoracic department. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and attended Kasturba Medical College in India.
- Sehrish Jamot, MD — Dr. Jamot will join the Roswell Park team in September as an advanced endoscopist. She is a graduate of Rutgers University-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed fellowships with the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth University as well as Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

- Norman Karin, PhD — A longtime member of our Education office, Dr. Karin rejoined our team last year as Associate Dean for Education.
- Karin Kasza, PhD — A longtime researcher with Roswell Park, Dr. Kasza was appointed to a faculty position as Assistant Member of the Department of Health Behavior
- Dae-Kyum Kim, PhD — Dr. Kim will join Roswell Park this fall following a postdoctoral fellowship with the University of Toronto, and will establish the Kim Lab within Cancer Genomics and Genetics.
- Drew Kuraitis, MD — Dr. Kuraitis, a graduate of Tulane University School of Medicine, joins Roswell Park's Dermatology program from a residency at Tulane.
- Safet Lekperic, MD, RPVI — Dr. Lekperic joins the interventional radiology team from a fellowship at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. He and the IR team continue to offer the ability to treat and medically manage numerous diseases across organ systems.
- Alicia Lieberman, MD — Board-certified in rheumatology, internal medicine and pediatrics, Dr. Lieberman has provided rheumatologic care for children and adults in Western New York for several years.
- Tallat Mahmood, MD — Dr. Mahmood will serve as Medical Director of a soon-to-open medical oncology and chemotherapy/infusion center in Schenectady, N.Y., to be operated through a collaboration between Ellis Medicine and the Roswell Park Care Network.
- Robert McGray, PhD — A longtime researcher with Roswell Park, Dr. McGray has been appointed to a faculty position as Assistant Member of the Department of Immunology.
- Justin McMaster, MD — Dr. McMaster joins Roswell Park's anesthesiology program from a fellowship with the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. A graduate of Queens University and Saba Medical School, he will be providing care for our pediatric patients throughout our center.
- Sadat Ozair, MD — Dr. Ozair is a medical oncologist and hematologist with the Roswell Park Care Network, and splits his time between our Park Club Lane and Roswell Park Hematology Oncology Southtowns sites. A graduate of Dow University of Health Sciences, he completed a hematology-oncology fellowship at the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.
- Susan Pei, MD — A dermatologist and dermatopathologist, Dr. Pei joined Roswell Park late last year as both a staff physician from our Dermatology team and also applies her subspecialty training as Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine.
- Anoop Prabhu, MD — Most recently on staff with the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Medical Center in Michigan, Dr. Prabhu will join the Roswell Park team as an advanced endoscopist in October.
- You-Wen Qian, MD, PhD — Dr. Qian joins Roswell Park's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. He comes to Buffalo from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

- Spencer Rosario, PhD — Dr. Rosario, who recently completed postdoctoral work at Roswell Park, joined the faculty of the Biostatistics & Bioinformatics Department as Assistant Professor of Oncology in March.
- Ioannis Sanidas, PhD — Dr. Sandias comes to Roswell Park Cellular Biology after spending several years as an instructor with Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School
- Joanna Stanson, MS — Joanna joins our Immuno-Oncology program as Director of the Cell Processing Facility.
- Andrew Storer, PhD, DNP, FNP-C, ACNP-BC, ENP-C, FAANP, Executive Director of Nursing Education. Dr. Storer joined us last fall from Massachusetts, where he served as Assistant Dean for Graduate and Post-Licensure Programs at Elms College School of Nursing.
- Pamela Sung, MD, PhD — Dr. Sung is a physician with Roswell Park's Leukemia Service. She comes to Buffalo via Philadelphia, having spent several years as a researcher and fellow with the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.
- Mercy Tomy, MD — Dr. Tomy joins the Supportive and Palliative Care team in September following residency at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. The department focuses on quality—of—life issues facing cancer patients throughout their cancer journey.
- Deepak Vadehra, DO — Dr. Vadehra is a medical oncologist with Roswell Park's GI department. He completed a fellowship with Carolinas Medical Center as well as residency with the University of Connecticut.
- Hai Wang, PhD — Dr. Wang has joined Roswell Park from Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. He is an Assistant Member/Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Molecular & Cellular Biology.
- Chi Mei "Cindy" Wong, MD — Dr. Wong joins a robust group of imaging experts in Roswell Park's Breast Imaging Clinic. She most recently completed her fellowship with MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.
- Brian Rundall, DO — Dr. Rundall joined Roswell Park this year as an Academic Clinical Associate in Thoracic Surgery.
- Karolina Wrzeszcz-Onyenma, MD — Dr. Wrzeszcz-Onyenma has joined the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine. Board-certified in both anesthesiology and pediatric anesthesiology, she has previously worked at Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center in Paintsville, Kentucky; SUNY Upstate Medical University; and, most recently, at Mt. St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston.

"The future of oncology is at Roswell Park," said Dr. Johnson. "Cancer treatment is moving very quickly, and we are right there with it, helping to drive those paradigm changes with new therapies, new ideas, new hope — and new opportunities for tomorrow's cancer innovators. This strategic growth capitalizes on an explosion in our understanding of cancer. We are targeting opportunities to break new ground in the most promising areas of cancer care and research. It's an incredibly exciting time to work in oncology, and there is nowhere we would rather be doing this work than at Roswell Park."

Pioneer In Precision Medicine Named Chair of Roswell Park Pathology Department

An internationally recognized physician scientist and innovator, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Carl Morrison, MD, DVM, has been promoted to Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Pathologists play a crucial role in a patient's experience. They are experts who train for years to learn how to accurately diagnose, stage and grade cancers and help guide the care team to develop the right treatment for each individual.

One of Dr. Morrison's focuses will be enhancing use of informatics to deliver patient test results in hours rather than days. Additionally, he will work to expand pathology services at Roswell Park's sites beyond the main campus, an effort that will ensure patients across the region can obtain prompt test results.

Roswell Park and University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Centers Awarded Nearly \$9M for Ovarian Cancer Research

For years, scientists at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center have devoted themselves to research to better understand ovarian cancer. Although ovarian cancer is relatively rare, the disease remains the fifth deadliest cancer in women and will claim almost 14,000 lives this year. Now teams of researchers from these two leading centers are combining efforts after together securing a nearly \$9 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop new and better treatments for ovarian cancer.

The funds come from a prestigious Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant awarded to Roswell Park to support collaborative research across the two centers. The research team will be led by multiple Principal Investigators Kirsten Moysich, PhD, MS, Distinguished Member and Professor of Oncology in the Departments of Immunology and Cancer Prevention and Control at Roswell Park and Kunle Odunsi, MD, PhD, Director of the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dean for Oncology in the Biological Sciences Division, and the AbbVie Foundation Distinguished Service Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Roswell Park Nurse Residency Program Nationally Recognized and Accredited

With education one of the cornerstones of its mission, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announced that its Nurse Residency Program has achieved Accreditation with Distinction from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Considered the highest recognition given by the organization, the designation is noted as a global standard for residencies and fellowships in the nursing profession.

"Accreditation with distinction recognizes that our program at Roswell Park has met rigorous quality standards and sets the standard for excellence in educating new nurses," said Mary Ann Long, RN, MS, Chief Nursing Officer at Roswell Park. "This recognition is a testament to the level of attention and dedication we invest into every aspect of our care for our patients."

Roswell Park Team Will Co-Lead \$10 Million National Cancer Institute-Funded Global Tobacco Study

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is one of three lead centers part of an international multicenter team awarded \$10 million to study how tobacco control policies impact smoking, vaping and the use of other nicotine products.

Scientists from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of Waterloo (Canada) are leading this five-year international study funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which will evaluate the behavioral and long-term health impact of different regulatory approaches to e-cigarettes and other new nicotine products among youth and adults in seven countries.

Andrew Hyland, PhD, Chair of the Department of Health Behavior at Roswell Park and a principal investigator of the research at the center of this initiative, is co-leading a study comparing patterns of tobacco use among teens and adults in seven countries selected because of varying regulatory approaches to the marketing and sale of tobacco products (the United States, Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and Japan). Dozens of investigators will collaborate on four interrelated projects designed to assess the direct and unintended effects of the tobacco regulatory policies that have been implemented. The study builds on the work of the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project, known as the ITC project (<https://itcproject.org/>).

Roswell Park Researchers Uncover New Genetic Factors That Contribute to the Success of BMT

Roswell Park Appoints 7 Nursing Leaders in New or Expanded Roles

Day in and day out, nurses at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center deliver multidisciplinary care with expertise, passion and heart. Chief Nursing Officer Mary Ann Long, MS, RN, has promoted five veteran Nursing team members to new leadership roles in various clinical programs, and appointed another accomplished nurse to a new role at Roswell Park. “It’s been a wonderful time of growth within our department, with several of these individuals rising from the ranks and demonstrating exceptional care for their patients and support for fellow staff,” said Long. “I am proud to work alongside this compassionate group of men and women each and every day.”

- Appointed to new or expanded roles at Roswell Park were:
Andrew Storer, PhD, DNP, RN, NP, promoted to Deputy Chief Nursing Officer — Since joining Roswell Park last year, Dr. Storer has led creation of new programs supporting nursing staff and providing new resources to help them further their professional goals and grow as a department. He has created new pathways of opportunity for technicians through one key program, and was pivotal in helping the department recently earn high honors from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for a nursing residency program.
- Maegan Chmura, MSN, RN, CMSRN, promoted to Director of Inpatient Surgical and Acute Nursing Services — Most recently serving as Clinical Nurse Manager for 7 West, Maegan has worn several hats during her more than 15-year tenure at the Cancer Center. In her new role, she will lead the team responsible for the care of patients admitted to Roswell Park as inpatients, and those experiencing time-sensitive or critical issues.
- Pamela McLaughlin, MS, RN, OCN, promoted to Manager of Nursing Excellence and the Magnet Program — Coming off her tenure as an Oncology Nurse Educator, Pamela will tackle engagement with the ANCC’s Magnet Program, which recognizes outstanding nursing programs. She started at Roswell Park in 2008, working on 7 East and later a

Patient Care Coordinator. Pamela is an Oncology Certified Nurse and is currently working toward her doctorate in nursing.

- Heather Sabadasz, BSN, RN, OCN, named Clinical Nurse Manager — Gastrointestinal & Endocrine Center — Heather began her career at Roswell Park in 2006, rising from a hospital clinical assistant to registered nurse, and has worked on several Roswell Park units or centers, including an inpatient unit, our Clinical Trials unit and the Gastrointestinal & Endocrine Center. She holds a bachelor of nursing from Daemen College and is an Oncology Certified Nurse.
- Sara Schneller, BSN, RN, CMSRN promoted to Nursing Supervisor — No stranger to Western New York, Sara has been caring for patients in our region for more than a decade. She joined Roswell Park in 2012 and has held roles in intermediate and critical care. She is a Daemen College graduate and a Certified Medical Surgical Nurse.
- Jamie Henwood, MSN, RN, CMSRN, promoted to Clinical Nurse Manager for Lymphoma/Melanoma and Sarcoma Clinics — Jamie brings extensive experience in the care of hematology/oncology patients to her new role. A 13-year Roswell Park veteran, she previously served as a member of the 5 West inpatient team. Jamie is a graduate of the master's degree program at Western Governors University in Utah, and is a Certified Medical Surgical Nurse.
- Rachel Silverman, BSN, RN, joins as Clinical Nurse Manager for the Amherst and Niagara Falls satellite centers — A newly-minted Roswell Park team member, Rachel has spent more than 12 years primarily serving as an oncology nurse in Western New York. She is skilled in infusion therapy, wound care and other personalized treatments. Rachel holds her bachelor of nursing degree from SUNY Empire State College.

Roswell Park Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Experts Shift Into Expanded Leadership Roles

When cancer patients need a precise diagnosis or a second opinion, they rely on the expertise of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. Often called the "most important doctors you'll never meet," pathologists play a critical behind-the-scenes role to ensure proper staging and grading of disease, allowing care teams to develop personalized treatment plans. Acknowledging their dedication, Carl Morrison, MD, DVM, Chair of the Department, has recently announced several promotions within his team:

- Thaer Khoury, MD, promoted to Vice Chair of Anatomic Pathology — On staff for more than 15 years, Dr. Khoury has served as a Professor of Oncology and, most recently, Chief of Breast Pathology. He completed his fellowship at Roswell Park and residencies at the University at Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences as well as the University of Damascus.
- Kai Fu, MD, PhD, promoted to Vice Chair of Hematopathology — Dr. Fu joined the team last year as Director of Hematopathology following a long tenure at the University of Nebraska. His new role will see him guiding Roswell Park's work in this important subspecialty, which is dedicated to diagnosis, staging and analysis involving blood cancers and disorders.

- Joanne L. Becker, MD, promoted to Vice Chair of Laboratory Medicine — With Roswell Park for more than two decades, Dr. Becker has served as Chief of Clinical Laboratory Services since 2011 and as the Medical Director of the Blood Bank and Therapeutic Apheresis Unit — a role she continues to hold.
- Paul Bogner, MD, promoted to Vice Chair for Pathology Outreach — Dr. Bogner continues to be sought after as a diagnostic consultant throughout the region in the field of dermatopathology, and will utilize this expertise to expand outreach to local dermatologists managing patients with difficult skin lesions.
- Mihai Merzianu, MD, promoted to Clinical Chief and Director of Surgical Pathology — Dr. Merzianu came to Roswell Park in 2005 and currently serves as a surgical pathologist with expertise in head and neck pathology and hematopathology. In his role as Director of Surgical Pathology, Dr Merzianu plays an integral role in the day-to-day management of patient care issues.
- Sean Glenn, PhD, promoted to Vice Chair of Molecular Pathology — Most recently serving as Assistant Director of Molecular Pathology, Dr. Glenn will take a leadership role in bringing innovative solutions in molecular pathology to the forefront of patient care.
- Manuel Glynias, named Vice Chair of Pathology Informatics — New to the Roswell Park team, Glynias will provide technical and administrative leadership to guide informatics strategy across the department. Nationally known as an innovative leader in genomics informatics and bioinformatics, Glynias fills a major gap in our future strategic plan for the Department of Pathology.

“I am proud and excited to appoint this slate of accomplished leaders to these important roles,” said Dr. Morrison, who is also Senior Vice President for Scientific Development and Integrative Medicine. “I know their professionalism and insights will benefit both our patients and colleagues across Roswell Park.”

American Medical Association Names Roswell Park a ‘Joy in Medicine’ Organization Delivering ‘Care for the Caregivers’

In acknowledgment of strong advocacy for its staff members and the launch of a program to enhance their mental health and wellbeing, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been named a 2021 Joy in Medicine Recognized Organization by the American Medical Association (AMA).

Working in healthcare can present extremely demanding situations for doctors, nurses and everyone else who plays a role in clinical care. A recent AMA study shows that 38% of physicians and other healthcare workers self-reported anxiety or depression during the COVID-19 pandemic. Launched in 2019, the Joy in Medicine distinction recognizes health systems that are committed to looking after the well-being of healthcare professionals by utilizing tools to combat work-related stress and burnout.

Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD, Named to Lead Gynecologic Oncology Program at Roswell Park

Following a national search, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has promoted Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD, FACOG, to lead its Department of Gynecologic Oncology. On staff at Roswell

Park since 2014, Dr. Zsiros, an accomplished physician-researcher, will also hold The Shashi Lele, MD, Endowed Chair in Gynecologic Oncology.

Dr. Zsiros has driven many important initiatives in her seven years on the Roswell Park team, changing standard practices not only within Roswell Park, but across the globe. She brings broad training in immunotherapy, and minimally invasive surgery paired with a focus on quality of life for our patients.

Roswell Park Earns 2021 Pinnacle of Excellence Award for Patient Experience

In recognition of the superior experience it has provided for its patients, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been designated by Press Ganey as a 2021 Pinnacle of Excellence Award winner, showing distinction as a top performer in patient experience across multiple years.

“Press Ganey is honored to recognize Roswell Park as one of the nation’s leaders in patient experience,” said Patrick Ryan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the international survey and research organization. “Despite an era of incredible challenges, the center has demonstrated resilience, constantly pushing boundaries as healthcare consumerism continues to gain momentum, driving advancements in improved outcomes for all.”

Roswell Park Receives Nearly \$1 Million to Address Race-Related Disparities in Prostate Cancer

African American men currently have the highest rates of prostate cancer in the United States and the poorest outcomes. New grants from the U.S. Department of Defense and American Cancer Society will fund work by two Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center teams focused on understanding and eliminating prostate cancer health disparities.

Anna Woloszynska, PhD, Associate Professor of Oncology in Roswell Park’s Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, received a two-year, \$613,000 grant from the U.S.

Department of Defense to study the genetic and epigenetic vulnerabilities of prostate cancer in African American men.

“We believe that identifying new molecular features, specific to African American patients, will enable us to design novel diagnostic and prognostic tests that will help to reduce racial disparities,” said Dr. Woloszynska, whose work will focus on the unique molecular pathways that influence prostate cancer biology.

Dhyan Chandra, PhD, Professor of Oncology in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, received a two-year, \$240,000 grant from the American Cancer Society to study cytochrome c deficiency in African American men.

“Due to lack of the mitochondrial protein cytochrome c, standard prostate cancer therapies often are less effective in African American men,” said Dr. Chandra, who hopes the work will point the way to new, more effective therapies. “Our goal is to inhibit signals that promote prostate cancer in these men, which will allow cancer cells to enhance production of this key protein, cytochrome c, leading to the demise of prostate cancer cells in African American men.”

Innovative Proposals From Roswell Park Teams Draw More Than \$36 Million in Research Grants

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center scientists successfully competed for more than \$36 million in grants from government agencies and private funders awarded in the second half of 2021 — including two prestigious “R01” Research Project awards from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for more than \$3 million each.

- A five-year, \$3.2 million R01 grant from the NCI will enable research into a new strategy for supporting families of kids with cancer, a project led by Elizabeth Bouchard, PhD, Senior Vice President and Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement and Professor in the Department of Cancer Prevention & Control; Kara Kelly, MD, Chair of Department of Pediatric Oncology; Elisa Rodriguez, PhD, Director of Community Engagement Resource in the Department of Cancer Prevention & Control; and Kristopher Attwood, PhD, Co-Director of the Biostatistics and Statistical Genomics Shared Resource. The funds will be used to develop CareMeds, a parenting skills-focused intervention strategy to improve adherence to home-based chemotherapy treatment in children with cancer.
- A \$3.2 million R01 NCI grant to Theresa Hahn, PhD, Professor of Oncology in the Department of Cancer Prevention and Control, and Qianqian Zhu, PhD, Associate Professor of Oncology in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Roswell Park to expand their investigation of genetic factors that contribute to the success of blood and marrow transplant (BMT) in cancer patients.
- A team led by Sai Yendamuri, MD, FACS, Mary Reid, PhD, MSPH, and Joseph Barbi, PhD, earned a \$3.1 million R01 award from the NCI to study the effectiveness of an anti-diabetic drug, metformin, for the prevention of lung cancer in obese patients at high risk. The funds will enable a clinical trial investigating how effective this drug may be in preventing lung cancer.

Also funded during this time period:

- Matthew Buas, PhD, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Cancer Prevention & Control, and Li Yan, PhD, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Biostatistics & Bioinformatics, were awarded a four-year \$2.9 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to study genetic susceptibility to Barrett’s esophagus, a precancerous lesion that gives rise to esophageal adenocarcinoma, one of the most lethal of all cancers.
- Prasenjit Dey, PhD, Assistant Professor of Oncology, Department of Immunology, received a five-year \$2.1 million R01 grant from the NCI to study new therapies to treat pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, an aggressive cancer that remains largely incurable.
- Gal Shafirstein, DSc, Director of PDT Clinical Research, and Nathaniel Ivanick, MD, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Thoracic Surgery, received a two-year \$1 million grant from the NCI, with support from Simphotek Inc., to study a new image-based treatment for interstitial photodynamic therapy (I-PDT) of inoperable malignant tumors with airway obstruction.
- Irwin Gelman, PhD, Director of Research Integration and Professor of Oncology in the Department of Cancer Genetics and Genomics, received a three-year, \$756,900 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to investigate the role of a particular protein, HBP1, in controlling reawakening of breast cancer in the bone. The grant will enable Dr.

Gelman to propose possible therapeutic interventions to increase patient survival by preventing this type of cancer recurrence.

- Michael Feigin, PhD, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, received a four-year, \$792,000 grant from the American Cancer Society to study how cancer-causing genes are activated in the development of pancreatic cancer.
- Pamela Sung, MD, PhD, a leukemia specialist who is Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Departments of Medicine and Pharmacology & Therapeutics, received a four-year, \$774,414 grant from the NCI to take a closer look at a protein that is frequently mutated in acute myeloid leukemia and causes an aggressive form of this blood cancer.
- Eric Kauffman, MD, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Departments of Urology and Cancer Genetics, received a one-year, \$75,000 grant from the Kidney Cancer Foundation to study the biology of spontaneously regressing kidney cancer primary tumors.
- Ethan Abel, PhD, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, received a one-year, \$40,000 grant from the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer to decipher the role of the HNF1A-SKP2 AXIS in the therapeutic response in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

New Clinical Chiefs Named in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Pathology Program expanded with the appointments of three sub-specialists — two new to Roswell Park, one an accomplished team member for many years — to leadership roles.

"As our understanding of cancer deepens and we gain new insights on how best to identify, differentiate and treat the more than 100 distinct cancer types, we recognize how important it is for Roswell Park patients to be able to benefit from team members who are experts not just in their field or discipline but in the growing number of sub-specialties and focuses," said Charles LeVea, MD, PhD.

Kai Fu, MD, PhD, named Chief, Pathology and Director of Hematopathology — Kai Fu, MD, PhD, came to us from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where he served as an attending hematopathologist for the last sixteen years. There, he served as Director of the hematopathology fellowship training program and Co-Director of the James O. Armitage Center for Hematological Malignancies Research. In addition, he led the organization's Asia-Pacific Rim Development program and received numerous awards for research and teaching.

Dr. Fu received his medical degree from Tianjin Medical University and went on to earn a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Kansas. After residency and a surgical pathology fellowship at the University of Alabama, Dr. Fu joined the University of Nebraska, where he was fellowship-trained in hematopathology under the guidance of Dennis Weisenburger, MD. Dr. Fu's research interests are in targeted treatments for aggressive lymphomas, and his academic successes have led to promotion to Professor with tenure.

Gregory Freund, MD, has been named a Chief of Pathology, and Director of Cytopathology. A nationally renowned cytopathologist with over 25 years of experience, Dr. Freund joined the Roswell Park staff in June from the University of Illinois College of Medicine — Urbana, where he was professor and Head of Pathology. Cytopathology examines individual cells extracted from tissues that can help determine the cause of a disease.

Dr. Freund received his BA in studio art from Wesleyan University, then attended the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry (URMC). He trained as a resident in pathology at URMC, where he was Chief Resident, Wilmot Cancer Research Fellow and Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists Young Investigator awardee.

Saraswati Pokharel, MD, PhD, was promoted to Chief of Pathology and Director of Thoracic Pathology at Roswell Park. On staff at the center since 2013, she will now lead a basic science research program aimed at preventing and treating cancer therapy-induced cardiopulmonary fibrosis. She'll work to grow this division of pathology, which takes particular focus on analyzing tissues in the thorax including the lungs, trachea and mediastinum.

A Comprehensive Vision for Quality and Patient Safety

Holly Bowser, FACHE, MBA, CPHQ, CPPS, CMPE, Vice President for Quality and Patient Safety, was appointed to head the Department of Quality and Patient Safety. Formerly known as the Department of Organizational Performance Improvement, Quality and Patient Safety integrates Roswell Park's efforts in several key areas, all related in some way to our ongoing commitment to provide the best care possible for the patients we serve.

Three current Roswell Park team members were promoted to new roles or given expanded responsibilities as part of the Quality and Patient Safety team:

Angie Tavernier, MSHA, RN, OCN, CPPS — Director of Patient Safety and Patient Safety Officer:

As the Patient Safety Officer, Tavernier coordinates and oversees the continued development of our comprehensive patient safety program, including improvement activities to reduce errors or preventable incidents. As part of her duties, she will continue to monitor and analyze data and operations to inform the strategic management of patient safety initiatives.

Daniel Keppel, MPA, CPHQ, CPPS, CIC, CLSSBB, Director of Performance Improvement: As Survey Coordinator for planned and unplanned accreditation and regulatory surveys, Keppel has created strategies and lines of communication that enhance our performance improvement program at Roswell Park. Since he arrived in 2008 as a telephone interviewer, he has developed a well-rounded skill set that has included management of the call center, data management and infection control coordination.

Jillianna Wasiura, BSN, RN, Director of Diversion Prevention: As a key member of the Infection Control team, Wasiura helped to guide our effective response to situations including the COVID-19 pandemic, committing herself to educating our team and coordinating with clinical staff. In her new role as Director of Diversion Prevention, she will assess, record and monitor the supply and procedures involving the dispensation of medicines and products to our patients. Since 2015, she has managed daily operations and investigations for the Infection Prevention and Control Department, and more recently expanded her training in drug diversion investigation at a national level. She is a published author on the subject and brings strong experience as a critical care nurse and pharmacy technician to this role.

With Mrs. Wasiura's transition to a new role, Maria Pinto, BSN, RN, CIC, has joined Roswell Park as Senior Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator.

Roswell Park named Optum Center of Excellence

Roswell Park has again been named a Center of Excellence for pediatric and adult populations by the health-services company Optum, for providing quality treatment for cancer patients.

Roswell Park is also designated as an Optum Center of Excellence for adult and pediatric blood and marrow transplantation — and has received that designation every year since 2005.

“Optum provides a great resource to patients through this designation and all the work that goes into it,” said Boris Kuvshinoff, MD, MBA. “Patients young and old can feel confident knowing they are receiving the highest-quality comprehensive cancer care when they come to Roswell Park.”

Agnieszka Witkiewicz, MD, Named Chair of Cancer Genetics and Genomics

Roswell Park appointed Agnes Witkiewicz, MD, as Chair of Cancer Genetics and Genomics and the John & Santa Palisano Endowed Chair of Cancer Genetics.

An internationally recognized clinician-scientist who combines groundbreaking laboratory research with precision medicine, Dr. Witkiewicz joined Roswell Park in 2018. Her research interests include identifying molecular abnormalities and applying effective therapies to improve outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients. She will also Co-Lead the Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) Genetics and Genomics Program.

Dr. Witkiewicz is a board-certified pathologist with a subspecialty in dermatopathology. Her medical degree is from Wroclaw University and Medical School in Poland, and she completed residencies at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School and UMass Memorial Medical Center.

Ryan Grady, CPA, Promoted to Chief Financial Officer

Ryan Grady, CPA, was named to succeed Gregory McDonald, CPA, who retired after 26 years of exceptional service to Roswell Park.

Ryan joined our team as Director of Finance Transformation in 2014 with 12 years’ prior experience in corporate finance and public accounting, including roles with both Freed Maxick CPAs PC and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. He was named Vice President of Finance and Payer Relations three years later, in 2017, and since then has not only overseen the day-to-day operations of our Finance Department, but also helped to guide and inform many essential Roswell Park activities, from business processes and information-technology projects to our engagement with our payer community.

Dr. Elisa Rodriguez Named Chief Diversity and Equity Officer for Faculty

Elisa Marie Rodriguez, PhD, MS, has been appointed to the new role of Chief Diversity and Equity Officer for Faculty.

To ensure that Roswell Park is a diverse, welcoming, inclusive place, we need a faculty champion who will be a resource for her colleagues, and Dr. Rodriguez will be an incredible asset and support for all of us in this new position. She will also continue to serve as Director of the Community Engagement Resource. She has led our Research Oncology Community Knowledge (ROCKstars) program and serves as staff liaison to the 14-member Community Advisory Board that informs and guides the work of our Community Outreach and Engagement team.

Roswell Park Named Academic Center of Excellence in Pancreatic Cancer Care

Recognizing Roswell Park as a center at the forefront of pancreatic cancer care, the National Pancreas Foundation (NFP) has named the center an NFP Academic Center of Excellence. This latest designation was earned through a rigorous process involving criteria set by experts and patient advocates, and through our continual focus on research, clinical trials and training for young physicians.

“We’ve got several promising research efforts underway, and our cutting-edge technologies and genetic testing to our pancreatic cancer patients allow our patients to benefit from the most advanced approaches, from diagnosis through every stage of treatment and survivorship,” says Christos Fountzilas, MD.

Dr. Kalinski Named Jacobs Family Endowed Chair in Immunology

With Roswell Park’s long history as one of the world’s top centers doing work that meaningfully advances our understanding of cancer and the immune system, leadership of our Immunology program is a pivotal role at Roswell Park.

With that legacy and promise in mind, Pawel Kalinski, MD, PhD, was promoted to Jacobs Family Endowed Chair in Immunology, Chief of the Division of Translational Immuno-Oncology and Senior Vice President for Team Science.

Dr. Kalinski joined our team in 2017 from the Hillman Cancer Center at the University of Pittsburgh. In his time with Roswell Park, he has served as Vice Chair for Translational Research, Director of Cancer Vaccine and Dendritic Cell Therapies, Rustum Family Endowed Professor for Molecular Therapeutics and Translational Research, Professor of Oncology and Co-Leader of the Tumor Immunology & Immunotherapy Program.

Dr. Jamie Smith Named Chief Academic Officer

Jamie Smith, EdD, MLS, has joined our team as Chief Academic Officer, Senior Vice President of Education and Dean of our graduate program, the Roswell Park Graduate Division of the University at Buffalo.

Dr. Smith recognizes that education is a great equalizer, and has pledged to help us strategically enhance opportunities for individuals who have faced more obstacles than open doors, more challenges than advantages.

She comes to us from Erie Community College, where she served as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Liberal Arts, Sciences and Initiatives. In her time at ECC, Dr. Smith worked to develop curriculum in their more than 80 approved programs and reviewed more than 100 approved courses, administered numerous grants, and addressed a variety of educational and community needs through her policy work.

Beverly Close Named Interim Executive Director for Advanced Practice Provider Services

We announced the appointment of Beverly Close, PA-C, as the interim Executive Director of Advanced Practice Provider Services at Roswell Park.

In this role, Beverly will provide oversight for more than 165 advanced practice providers (APPs) across our center and will have the opportunity to apply her broad experience to improve the patient experience and high-quality care at Roswell Park.

A Certified Physician Assistant, Beverly joins our clinical leadership team and will work with the chief medical and nursing officers and medical staff leadership to advance and assure

compliance with regulations and clinical practice standards for APP credentialing, onboarding, management and collaboration.

Sean Smith Named Oncology Nurse Coordinator for Affiliate Sites

We welcomed Sean Smith, RN, BSN, to our staff as Oncology Nurse Coordinator for our Roswell Park Care Network affiliate sites.

Sean started his nursing career at Roswell Park in 2014 as a nurse in the Intermediate Care Unit (IMCU). In his new role as Oncology Nurse Coordinator for our affiliate sites, Sean will serve as the single point of contact for our colleagues at affiliate practices regarding the coordination of all aspects of a patient's clinical care and their experience across the main campus and Roswell Park Care Network sites. He will be responsible for ensuring that the needs of each affiliate practice are being met through multidisciplinary conferences, seamless referral of patients, and consistency in experience for our patients and the providers and team members involved in their care.

Dr. Igor Puzanov named The Judith and Stanford Lipsey Endowed Chair in Clinical Cancer Research

[Igor Puzanov, MD, MSCI, FACP](#), has been named The Judith and Stanford Lipsey Endowed Chair in Clinical Cancer Research at Roswell Park.

Since he came to Roswell Park in 2016, Dr. Puzanov has elevated his status as an internationally recognized innovator in developing better treatments for cancer and maximizing the effectiveness of clinical research. Dr. Puzanov, who also serves as Senior Vice President for Clinical Investigation, Director of our Center for Early Phase Clinical Trials and Chief of Melanoma within the Department of Medicine, is the first person to hold this endowed chair. The generous gift from Judith Lipsey will allow Roswell Park to continue to advance the most innovative cancer research and clinical trials. Their endowment will provide lasting support to enhance the promise of new cancer therapies, including immunotherapies, targeted agents and innovative approaches resulting in better treatments for cancer patients at Roswell Park and far outside our region.

New Roles for 2 Physician Leaders

Martin Mahoney, MD, PhD, Professor of Oncology in the Department of Internal Medicine, has been appointed as Medical Director of our Undiagnosed Cancer Clinic, and **Raghu Ram, MD**, Vice President of Value-Based Care Optimization and Community Clinical Collaboration, has been named Medical Director of Employee Health.

Both of these appointments are strategically important for Roswell Park, and reflect our commitment to timely, evidence-based diagnostic evaluation of cancer for the residents of Western New York and far beyond, and for the health of our own staff.

The Work Continues: \$34 Million in New Grant Funding

Our teams received \$34 million in competitive new grants supporting investigations into new treatments for some of the most challenging types of cancer, and even looking into the impact of COVID-19 in cancer patients.

Seven teams earned grants of more than \$2 million each, including investigations led by **Mukund Seshadri, PhD, DDS; Sharon Evans, PhD, and Scott Abrams, PhD; Joseph Lau, PhD; Gyorgy Paragh, MD, PhD, and Lei Wei, PhD; Gokul Das, PhD; Scott Olejniczak, PhD; and Yuesheng Zhang, MD, PhD.**

Dr. Carl Morrison Named Chair of Pathology and Lab Medicine

Carl Morrison, MD, DVM, was named Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Dr. Morrison also will continue in his role as Senior Vice President for Scientific Development and Integrative Medicine, and Director of the Pathology Resource Network and the Division of Molecular Pathology.

A brilliant scientist and innovator, Dr. Morrison came to us with an impressive record of impactful publications when he joined our faculty in 2007, with many further noteworthy discoveries and accomplishments since then. The founding director of our Center for Personalized Medicine, Dr. Morrison is recognized internationally as a pioneer in the drive to ensure that the vast diagnostic possibilities opened up by the success of the Human Genome Project are channeled to applications where a therapy exists — toward opportunities to save the most lives through precision medicine.

In his new role as Chair, Dr. Morrison will advance many initiatives that support our strategic planning and vision. Under his guidance, you can expect enhancements to our laboratory information systems, expansion of pathology services at community sites, and new projects to better integrate the use of informatics and digital tools into our pathology program.

Roswell Park Again Named a U.S. News ‘Best Hospital’

U.S. News & World Report released their Best Hospitals for Cancer 2021-22 list, naming Roswell Park 34th among all cancer centers, well within the top 4th percentile of nearly 900 hospitals. Roswell Park remains the only New York State cancer hospital outside the New York City metro area to place in the top 50, and the only Buffalo-area hospital to rank nationally in any specialty.

Todd Maier, CPA, named Vice President of Finance

Todd Maier, CPA, has been promoted to Vice President of Finance. In his new position, Todd will play a pivotal role in the management of the center’s resources, analyzing new initiatives and supporting effective communication with key stakeholders and partners.

An accomplished finance professional, he joined Roswell Park in 2014 as Manager of Finance Transformation and was promoted three years later to Director of Financial Analytics and Planning. In that role, he oversaw budgeting and business intelligence functions within the finance department.

Dr. Schwaab named The William and Nancy Gacioch Family Endowed Chair in Translational Research

Thomas Schwaab, MD, PhD, who joined the Roswell Park Urology team in 2009 as a staff physician and faculty member, was named The William and Nancy Gacioch Family Endowed Chair in Translational Research. In addition to his role as Roswell Park’s Chief of Strategy, Business Development and Outreach, he is also an Associate Professor of Oncology and

Immunology and serves as the CEO of RPCI Oncology, PC and CEO of Global Biotechnology and Cancer Therapeutics.

Bill and Nancy Gacioch have been tireless advocates for Roswell Park, with over 15 years of support for our mission. This important new endowment held by Dr. Schwaab will allow us to support and advance the most innovative translational research at Roswell Park. These funds will provide lasting support to enhance the promise of better treatments for all cancer patients.

Dr. Johnson Honored as Renaissance Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Roswell Park President and CEO Candace S. Johnson, PhD, on being named the Buffalo Renaissance Foundation's 2021 Renaissance Woman of the Year! This award recognizes an individual who exemplifies outstanding community leadership and service to the Buffalo region. Dr. Johnson received the award and presented remarks at a luncheon earlier this month featuring West Herr Automotive President Scott Bieler as keynote speaker. Pictured with Dr. Johnson is Michael Modrzynski, President of the Buffalo Renaissance Foundation.

Welcome to Rheumatologist Dr. Alicia Lieberman

Congratulations and welcome to Alicia Lieberman, MD, MS, who will provide outpatient and inpatient consultation in rheumatology. Recruited to Roswell Park by Brahm Segal, MD, Chair of Internal Medicine, for this new position, Dr. Lieberman will devote one day per week at Roswell Park to general rheumatology, immunologic complications of cancer and cancer therapy that includes paraneoplastic disorders and immune-related adverse events

Appointments and Promotions in Ambulatory Services and Legal Team

Congratulations and welcome to two new members of Roswell Park's Ambulatory Services team, recruited to Roswell Park by Shirley Johnson, RN, MBA, MS, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical Operations Officer:

- John Kuhns, MBA, Senior Executive Director of Ambulatory Services
- Chloe Luther, MS, Clinical Department Administrator for Breast and Gynecologic Services

Please also congratulate these four Legal Department leaders who have been promoted to expanded roles and responsibilities:

- Michael Sexton, JD, promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
- Kathryn Hineman, JD, promoted to Vice President and General Counsel
- Ericka Bennett, JD, promoted to Assistant Vice President and Deputy General Counsel
- Amy Dunn Kirkpatrick, JD, promoted to Assistant Vice President and Deputy General Counsel

128 Roswell Park Physicians Named as Top Doctors for 2022

We celebrate the 128 physicians who have been honored with the Top Doctors distinction from Buffalo Spree Magazine. The doctors were recognized across 33 different specialties in a list compiled through a peer survey of Western New York physicians.

See the full list of honorees and their respective categories [here](#).

David Donovan Leads New Office of Transformation Management

Jeff Walker, MBA, Executive Vice President of Operations and Transformation, announced the formation of a new department at Roswell Park: the Office of Transformation Management, led by David Donovan, Vice President for Enterprise Strategic Planning. Since joining the Roswell team in 2015, David previously provided oversight and strategic leadership in areas including the formation of Global Biotechnology and Cancer Therapeutics and the management of the Roswell Park Care Network.

We also welcomed four new members to the Office of Transformation Management:

- **Nina Lukin, MBA**, has been appointed as Executive Director for Transformation Management.
- **Andrew Wierzbieniec, MHSA, FACHE**, has been appointed as Executive Director of Transformation Management.
- **Elizabeth Haremza, MBA, PMP**, has been appointed as Project Manager II
- **Michael Baldauf, PMP**, has been appointed as Project Manager II

Roswell Park Named to World's Best Hospitals for Oncology list

Roswell Park has been named to another prestigious ranking of top cancer centers: the World's Best Specialized Hospitals for Oncology 2022, compiled by Newsweek in collaboration with the respected research firm Statista, based on a global peer survey of healthcare professionals. Roswell Park was ranked 39 in a listing of international cancer centers based on a survey of more than 40,000 doctors, health care professionals and hospital managers across the world. Read the full press release and list [in our newsroom](#).

New Leaders Within Business Development Department

With the continued growth and evolution of the Roswell Park Care Network and the opportunities to create unique models for cancer care delivery, restructuring is underway in the Business Development Department.

Armen Gallucci, Vice President of Strategy, Business Development and Outreach, shared that he will be retiring in June 2022. With Armen's planned departure, his role will be refocused to oversee the operations of the RPCN as well as the planning and integration of the captive PC and affiliate network with our main subspecialty campus to position us to function as a cancer health system.

David Tear has accepted the new position of Vice President of Business Development and Network Integration. David's current role, Vice President of PC Operations, has been changed to a Senior Executive Director for day-to-day PC and affiliate operations. A national search is underway for this position, which will report to David.

Dr. Raghu Ram has joined the Business Development Department as the Vice President of Value-Based Programs. Formerly the Vice President for Payer Relations, Dr. Ram will now lead the development and management of Roswell Park alternative payment models, value-based payment arrangements and other quality-based programs, working in collaboration with health plans, physician groups, employer groups and/or other entities in WNY and beyond.

Erik Knudsen, PhD, Named Senior Vice President of Basic Science Research

Erik Knudsen, PhD, was named Senior Vice President and Associate Director of Basic Science Research. Dr. Knudsen also will continue in his role as Chair of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Dr. Knudsen earned his PhD in biology from the University of California, San Diego. He joined our faculty in 2018 with noteworthy discoveries in the areas of tumor suppression, aberrant tumorigenic proliferation and precision means to treat cancer.

In his new role as Senior Vice President, Dr. Knudsen will exert his leadership and direction in basic science research across Roswell Park while providing administrative organization to facilitate and enhance our research goals. This effort will involve collaboration with multiple departments and programs to identify opportunities for combining basic research findings with relevant translational, clinical and population-level projects. His expertise and leadership will influence Roswell Park's research agenda by providing new perspectives and hypotheses in basic research across CCSG programs, disease-site research groups and clinical disease teams.

Roswell Park Named LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation — one of the most influential platforms in diversity, equity and inclusion — released its Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) for 2022. Thanks to the incredible work of the LGBTQ+ Task Force we set in motion two years ago, and efforts across our team, Roswell Park has not only been named to this prestigious list — we earned a [perfect score](#) and have been [acknowledged as a Healthcare Equality Leader](#).

Since 1980, the Human Rights Campaign has been the country's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning people. The 2022 report highlights nearly 500 organizations nationally that have earned the Leader designation for their proactive efforts to ensure high-quality, equitable care for individuals who identify as LGBTQ+.

CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

New guidelines make lung cancer screening more widely available to those who need it most

For the first time since 2013, a U.S. task force has released new guidelines on who should undergo annual low-dose CT (LDCT) scans for lung cancer, the nation's leading cause of cancer deaths.

The task force now recommends lung screening for adults 50 years of age, or older who smoked the equivalent of a pack a day for 20 years or longer, and who continue to smoke at that rate or have quit in the last 15 years. This equates to screening five years earlier than recommended by previous guidelines, and screening people with 10 fewer years of smoking exposure.

[Mary Reid, MSPH, PhD](#), Chief of Cancer Screening, Survivorship and Mentorship, helped advocate for this important nationwide changes, and is happy the new guidelines now include many more at-risk smokers and former smokers who were not previously eligible for screening.

Thwarting serious side effects of CAR T-cell therapy

Roswell Park team develops strategy for early detection and intervention to prevent lasting side effects of treatment

At Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, [Philip McCarthy, MD](#), and a multidisciplinary team of colleagues undertook a study to understand how patients receiving CAR T-cell therapy were developing neurologic toxicity, a side effect that damages the nervous system and can result in limb weakness, memory or vision loss, headache and cognitive and behavioral changes.

Prior to [this study](#), a 2019 consensus panel developed [a grading system](#) for cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome (ICANS) resulting from chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy. This system has been important for identifying, treating and monitoring CRS and especially ICANS in CAR T-cell patients. ICANS is identified and monitored by the immune effector cell-associated encephalopathy score (ICE).

Cancer Innovations: Prioritizing quality of life while treating cancer

Fighting cancer always comes with certain costs to the patient — side effects, time, money and days lost to feeling unwell — but researchers at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center are trying to keep those costs low while improving the effectiveness of treatments against the cancer.

[Anurag Singh, MD](#), Director of Radiation Research in the Department of Radiation Medicine and Co-Leader of the Cell Stress and Biophysical Therapy Program, and Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD, FACOG, Director of Research in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology, are among the Roswell Park doctors finding innovative ways to improve patients' quality of life without sacrificing effective cancer treatment.

Dr. Singh has developed a new method for treating lung cancer with a [single fraction of radiation treatment](#), instead of up to seven weeks of smaller doses, with reduced side effects for patients.

In addition, Dr. Singh has led research into the effectiveness of an anti-seizure drug, gabapentin, in treating mucositis, painful mouth sores that can develop in patients treated for head and neck cancers. Typically, patients with mucositis have been treated with opioids.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network has adopted this recommendation as part of the NCCN Clinical Practice [Guidelines in Oncology for Head and Neck Cancers](#), citing a 2019 study from Roswell Park that was led by Dr. Singh.

Dr. Zsiros has spent the past several years researching the use of a three-drug combination in women who are fighting metastatic recurrent ovarian cancer, helping them improve the quality of their lives and, in some cases, giving them more time.

Two of the medications, Avastin and Cytosan, have been given to ovarian cancer patients for the past 15 years. A newer drug, the checkpoint inhibitor Keytruda, has been approved for solid tumors but not for regular use against ovarian cancer. “The rationale was that Avastin helps to normalize tumor vessels so the immune cells can get into the tumor better. Typically, immunotherapy doesn’t work well for ovarian cancer, because often there aren’t immune cells inside the tumor.”

When used together, however, the three drugs help immune cells get inside the tumor to fight the cancer cells, providing patients who had been looking at palliative care the chance for longer survival.

This work was highlighted in [JAMA Oncology](#) last fall.

Neurofibromatosis clinic at Roswell Park brings experts together to tackle complex genetic condition

Considered one of the more common genetic disorders, neurofibromatosis (NF) is a complex condition that requires patients to seek care from experts across numerous specialties. Recognizing the extensive specialized care patients with this condition require to monitor and address their symptoms, and the lack of understanding of this condition in the community, doctors at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center have launched a dedicated [neurofibromatosis care program](#).

The Neurofibromatosis Clinic provides a multidisciplinary, coordinated approach to patient care, uniting the skill and expertise of providers in many different areas:

- Experienced diagnostic radiologists to provide prompt, accurate diagnosis
- Comprehensive clinical care from medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, neurosurgeons and neuro-oncologists
- Clinical geneticists to confirm diagnosis, plan treatment and guide testing of other family members
- Plastic and reconstructive surgeons to offer options for tumor removal and improved appearance

- Supportive care from specialists in pain management, social work and young adult health
- Cancer screening and surveillance for ongoing monitoring

The clinic is one of the few centers in the U.S. to provide coordinated, comprehensive care for adults with NF.

Roswell Park, Wilmot Cancer Institute collaborate on first large study of immunotherapy in black cancer patients

A new collaboration between two Western New York cancer research leaders will help oncologists learn whether Black and white cancer patients respond differently to a game-changing immunotherapy treatment, and seeks to improve the safety and effectiveness of these newer drugs in diverse populations.

Funded by a two-year, \$2.08 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), with the possibility of additional funding after the initial phase of study concludes, [Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) and the University of Rochester's [Wilmot Cancer Institute](#) are working together to fill a major gap in the science around immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs).

Research from Roswell Park and Kaiser Permanente supports vitamin D supplementation for breast cancer patients

The joint Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center/Kaiser Permanente Northern California team behind a new study to be highlighted at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2021 virtual annual meeting has found that sufficient vitamin D levels at the time of diagnosis are associated with improved outcomes among people with breast cancer.

The new research, presented by first author [Song Yao, PhD](#), is based on Kaiser Permanente Northern California's Pathways Study — a large prospective study in breast cancer patients that has been underway since 2006 under the direction of [Larry Kushi, ScD](#), who is Senior Author on the new study. Dr. Yao highlighted the team's findings in a poster discussion session today. The presentation is Clinically sufficient vitamin D levels at breast cancer diagnosis and survival outcomes in a prospective cohort of 3,995 patients after a median follow-up of 10 years (abstract 10510).

Biomarker uncovered by Roswell Park team identifies NET patients likely to have blood side effects from PRRT

New work from a team at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will help guide the care of patients with neuroendocrine tumors, or NETs. In a poster presentation at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) virtual Annual Meeting 2021, [Abhay Singh, MD, MPH](#), and

colleagues outline their discovery of a potential biomarker to predict which patients are likely to experience blood toxicity side effects from a new targeted radiation treatment, peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT).

While PRRT has been shown to be beneficial for patients with neuroendocrine tumors, it sometimes causes hematologic side effects that can be permanent. The study, Mutant PPM1D and TP53 populate the hematopoietic compartment after peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) exposure (abstract 10605), demonstrates that clonal expansion of cells harboring certain genetic mutations contributes to blood toxicities following this treatment.

Roswell Park Team Demonstrates Safe Approach for Dramatically Reducing Use of Opioids Following Surgery

Restrictive protocol resulted in 45% reduction in opioids prescribed, cancer center reports at ASCO 2021

Seeing an opportunity to safely reduce the number of opioid doses prescribed to patients undergoing surgery, gynecologic oncologist Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD, FACOG, proposed a new pain-management guideline for all patients undergoing surgery at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. The results from the first 6 months of that ambitious effort, reported at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2021 virtual annual meeting today, show that this opioid-restricting protocol resulted in a 45% decrease in the amount of opioids prescribed, without any significant effect on patient recovery or satisfaction.

“The rates of opioid prescription in the United States for routine surgeries are significantly higher than in many European and Asian countries,” notes study first author Jason Ricciuti, MD, a Gynecologic Oncology Fellow at Roswell Park, who is sharing the findings (abstract 103) in an invited talk today during the 10:30 a.m. Novel Initiatives to Address Disparities in Cancer session. “This is particularly problematic, because persistent opioid use has been observed in 6% to 8% of people who were not taking opioids until they underwent surgery.”

New Insights on Sarcomatoid Kidney Cancer: Roswell Park Reports Clear Benefit from Checkpoint Inhibitors

Six-center study, largest of its kind in patients with this aggressive subtype of renal cancer, reported at ASCO 2021

New collaborative research shows that treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) has led to a significant improvement in survival and response rates among patients with a particularly aggressive type of kidney cancer: advanced sarcomatoid renal cell carcinoma. The study, which was led by a team from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and involved contributors from six centers, is detailed in a presentation at the American Society of Clinical Oncology 2021 virtual annual meeting (abstract 4568).

“We demonstrate that patients treated with this form of immunotherapy had markedly higher overall survival and response rates compared to those who had never received checkpoint inhibitors,” says study first author [Dharmesh Gopalakrishnan, MD](#), a Hematology-Oncology Fellow at Roswell Park who earned a 2021 ASCO Annual Meeting Merit Award for this mentored project. “The benefits persisted even if the immune checkpoint inhibitor was administered in the second line or beyond, and among patients with non-clear cell histology — the hardest-to-treat sarcomatoid kidney cancers.”

Breast Cancer Study: African Americans Not Experiencing Complete Response to Extent Other Groups Are

At ASCO 2021, Roswell Park presents largest study to look at race and complete response to cancer treatment

Researchers at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center led the largest study to date to suggest an improving trend in pathologic complete response rates over time for U.S. cancer patients of various races. The team’s findings, documented in a poster presentation at the 2021 American Society of Clinical Oncology virtual annual meeting (abstract 575), show that African Americans are more likely than patients from any other group to have remaining disease following breast cancer treatment.

The researchers, led by [Sung Jun Ma, MD](#), and [Anurag Singh, MD](#), showed that Hispanic white and Asian/Pacific Islander patients with breast cancer were more likely to have a pathologic complete response (PCR) — or no signs of cancer in tissue samples removed during surgery — following treatment for select HER2-positive tumors, compared to non-Hispanic white women. Black women were less likely to have a pathologic complete response for HR-negative, HER2-positive and triple-negative tumors, but not for HR-positive, HER2-negative tumors.

Roswell Park Researchers Gear Up for ASCO 2021 Annual Meeting

Also at the ASCO 2021 virtual Annual Meeting:

- Abhay Singh, MD, MPH, a fellow in Hematology and Medical Oncology at Roswell Park, presented Mutant PPM1D and TP53 populate the hematopoietic compartment after peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT) exposure (abstract 10605).
- Othman Akhtar, MBBS, Hematology-Oncology Fellow, presented Evaluating the role of baseline geriatric assessment in predicting adherence to oral targeted therapies and outcomes in older adults with non-Hodgkin lymphoma (abstract 12043 — work led by Senior Author Pallawi Torka, MD, Assistant Professor of Oncology).
- Ankita Kapoor, MD, of Rochester General Hospital presented work led by Shipra Gandhi, MD, Assistant Professor of Oncology, titled Factors associated with successful publication of abstracts in women malignancies: Are we closing the gender gap? (abstract 11034).

- Dharmesh Gopalakrishnan, MD, presented research he earned a 2021 ASCO Annual Meeting Merit Award for, working in collaboration with Senior Author Saby George, MD, FACP, Professor of Oncology and Medicine. The presentation is Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) in advanced sarcomatoid renal cell carcinoma (sRCC): A multicenter study (abstract 4568).
- Masanori Oshi, MD, a postdoctoral Research Scholar in the lab of Kazuaki Takabe, MD, PhD, FACS, Chief of Breast Surgery, presented Association of allograft rejection response score with biological cancer aggressiveness and with better survival in triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) (abstract 561).
- Radiation Medicine resident physician Sung Jun Ma, MD, presented two projects he earned 2021 ASCO Annual Meeting Merit Awards for, working in collaboration with Senior Author Anurag Singh, MD, Professor of Oncology. The presentations are Racial differences and trends in pathologic complete response following neoadjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer (abstract 575) and Evaluation of risk-stratification using gene expression assays in patients with breast cancer receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy (abstract 576).
- Igor Puzanov, MD, MSCI, FACP, Senior Vice President for Clinical Investigation and Chief of Melanoma, presented on a phase 1b, open-label, dose-escalation study to evaluate camidanlumab tesirine (Cami) as monotherapy in patients (pts) with advanced solid tumors (abstract 2556).

In addition to those Roswell-led presentations, two Roswell Park faculty leaders were co-authors of major studies presented during ASCO 2021, and two others spoke as session moderators or presenters:

- Kara Kelly, MD, Chair of the Roswell Park Oishei Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Program, was invited to share remarks as part of the case-based panel "Treatment Approaches for Hodgkin Lymphoma at Diagnosis and Relapse.
- Philip McCarthy, MD, interim Co-Chair of Medicine and Director of Transplant and Cellular Therapy, chaired the oral abstract session Hematologic Malignancies—Plasma Cell Dyscrasia.
- Grace Dy, MD, Chief of Thoracic Oncology, was a co-author on Overall survival and exploratory subgroup analyses from the phase 2 CodeBreak 100 trial evaluating sotorasib in pretreated KRAS p.G12C mutated non-small cell lung cancer (abstract 9003), presented in an oral abstract session.
- Eunice Wang, MD, Chief of Leukemia, was a co-author on Phase 1 first-in-human study of irreversible FLT3 inhibitor FF-10101-01 in relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia (abstract 7008), presented in an oral abstract session.

Roswell Park Experts Highlight Opportunities to Improve Outcomes for People with Gastroesophageal Cancer

Drs. Sarbajit Mukherjee and Lei Deng give invited talks at ESMO World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer

Two Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center experts were invited to present new insights on treatment of gastroesophageal cancers during the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer 2021. In their talks, both presented July 1, the Roswell Park physician-researchers highlighted easily adoptable methods that may help other clinicians to provide care supporting improved patient outcomes.

Sarbajit Mukherjee, MD, MS, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Medicine, shared findings of a study showing a significant association between inflammation, cell proliferation and outcomes in patients with gastroesophageal cancer who received immunotherapy (Abstract SO-5).

Roswell Park Team Shows Dendritic-Cell Vaccines Can Be Paired With Standard Therapy for Breast Cancer

iPSC-derived dendritic cells can work synergistically with radiation therapy to control both local and distant tumors

A research team led by Fumito Ito, MD, PhD, FACS, of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center reports new data on the promise of combining standard treatment for breast cancer with a particular form of cancer immunotherapy — dendritic-cell (DC) treatment vaccines. This study, published in the *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer*, is the first to demonstrate that in situ dendritic-cell vaccines can improve the effectiveness of radiation therapy for some aggressive and treatment-resistant forms of breast cancer.

“Although immunotherapy with primary conventional dendritic cells is a promising approach, obtaining a sufficient number of circulating conventional dendritic cells has proved difficult,” says Dr. Ito, who is Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology at Roswell Park. Use of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) has been proposed to overcome that limitation, but the feasibility of this approach had not previously been demonstrated.

Roswell Park Experts Share Insights on Diagnosis and Treatment of Head/Neck Cancers at AHNS 2021

Team outlines strategies to improve treatment of oral and thyroid cancers at American Head & Neck Society meeting

With the international community of experts in head-and-neck cancers gathering virtually to share new ideas and treatment strategies at the American Head & Neck Society (AHNS) 10th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, underway now, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center teams are presenting new research on both the basic science supporting new treatments as well as opportunities to improve the early and accurate diagnosis of thyroid cancer and other head/neck malignancies.

Among the 17 presentations of new research led by Roswell Park’s head/neck cancer experts, representing several disciplines and expertise in both clinical and laboratory research, are three studies that may lead to development of new and more effective drugs and treatments for oral-cavity cancers and another trio of studies focused on improving the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancers.

Roswell Park Researchers Uncover New Genetic Factors That Contribute to the Success of BMT

Changes to donor selection may improve cancer patient outcomes following blood/marrow transplant

New research from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has uncovered genetic factors other than human leukocyte antigen (HLA) compatibility that significantly contribute to outcomes following blood and marrow transplant (BMT) in cancer patients. This study, published in the journal *EClinicalMedicine*, a Lancet open access journal, could lead to major changes in the way blood and marrow donors and recipients are matched as well as the development of new therapies to prevent transplant-related complications.

A team of investigators led by Theresa Hahn, PhD, Professor of Oncology in the Department of Cancer Prevention and Control at Roswell Park, that included collaborators from The Ohio State University, scanned the DNA of 2,887 cancer patients who underwent BMT between 2000 and 2011 for the treatment of acute myeloid leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome or acute lymphoblastic leukemia, along with the DNA of their healthy HLA-matched unrelated donors.

Researchers Aim to Prevent Lung Cancer With Latest CIMAvax-EGF Clinical Trial

Prevention study is recruiting lung cancer survivors as well as those at high risk due to smoking history

A groundbreaking international collaboration brought an innovative lung cancer immunotherapy from Cuba — CIMAvax-EGF — to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Now researchers at the Buffalo-based center are now examining whether this immunotherapy developed to treat lung cancer might prove to be an effective tool for preventing the often-deadly disease.

Led by Mary Reid, MSPH, PhD, the interventional early-phase clinical trial is currently recruiting for participants who fall into two groups, or cohorts — middle-aged individuals who currently smoke or have quit smoking within 15 years and carry other lung cancer risk factors like COPD, family history of the disease or have high-risk occupational exposures but have not been diagnosed with cancer as well as lung cancer survivors who have completed treatment.

Roswell Park Researchers Identify Key Link Between Stress and Cancer

Stress pathway involving beta-adrenergic receptors fuels tumor growth

Stress can have a significant negative effect on health, but our understanding of how stress impacts the development and progression of cancer is just beginning. A team from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has identified an important mechanism by which chronic stress weakens immunity and promotes tumor growth. Their findings, just published in *Cell Reports*, point to the beta-adrenergic receptor (β -AR) as a driver of immune suppression and cancer growth in response to stress, opening the possibility of targeting this receptor in cancer therapy and prevention.

Using a preclinical model of triple-negative breast cancer, a research team led by Hemn Mohammadpour, PhD, DVM, a postdoctoral research affiliate in the lab of Elizabeth Repasky, PhD, and Dr. Repasky, who is Co-Leader of the Cell Stress and Biophysical Therapies Program and the Dr. William Huebsch Professor in Immunology at Roswell Park, found that as tumors grow, they become more sensitive to stress signals coming from the nervous system. Specifically, the researchers discovered that a population of immune cells known as myeloid

derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) show an increase in the expression of β -AR, a molecule that controls the function of key immune cells.

Roswell Park Team Will Co-Lead \$10 Million National Cancer Institute-Funded Global Tobacco Study

Prestigious federal grant renewal continuing effort to understand impact of tobacco policies worldwide

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is one of three lead centers that are part of an international multicenter team that has recently been awarded \$10 million to study how tobacco control policies impact smoking, vaping and the use of other nicotine products. Scientists from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of Waterloo (Canada) are leading this five-year international study funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which will evaluate the behavioral and long-term health impact of different regulatory approaches to e-cigarettes and other new nicotine products among youth and adults in seven countries.

Roswell Park Hematologists Present New Research on FLT3 Inhibitors, CART-19 at ASH Annual Meeting

Teams led or contributed to highly anticipated studies on new treatments for acute leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center hematology experts in leukemia, lymphoma and other specialties will present new research at the 63rd annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), which begins today in Atlanta, Georgia. The many research projects to be highlighted include breakthrough research on CAR T cell therapy, immunotherapy, leukemia, lymphoma and the management of genetic mutations in aggressive and rare blood cancers. "We're excited to share insights from our work to develop new and better therapies for patients with blood cancers. Our presentations range from the results of early-stage research on new, promising treatment options to major international studies that are already changing the way we treat some cancers and providing the support for new drug approvals," says Philip McCarthy, MD, Vice Chair of Hematologic Malignancies and Director of Transplant & Cellular Therapy.

Roswell Park/Ohio State Team Identifies Accelerator of Treatment-Resistant Prostate Cancer

Research uncovers a gene that fuels disease progression by rewiring the cancer epigenome

An international research team co-led by scientists at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute has identified an important accelerator of treatment-resistant prostate cancer. The study, published today in Cell Reports, provides insight into how loss or mutation of the NCOR2 gene accelerates the progression of prostate cancer to a more lethal form of the disease. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men, primarily because many patients with aggressive forms of the disease eventually experience progression or recurrence despite treatment. There is a need for new insights into the mechanisms of prostate

cancer recurrence, which are multiple and complex, in order to develop new therapeutic targets.

Daily Vaping Dramatically Ups Quit Rate in Heavy Smokers Not Aiming to Quit

Roswell Park research uncovers eightfold greater odds of quitting with daily e-cigarette use

Since the introduction of electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, to the United States in 2006, intense debate has surrounded the marketing, regulation and use of these nicotine-delivery products. Surprising new research led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has found that adult smokers with no plans to quit are more likely to quit smoking traditional combustible cigarettes if they switch to daily vaping.

The Roswell Park study, published today in JAMA Network Open, used data collected from 2014 to 2019 as part of the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study, a long-term study on tobacco use and how it affects the health of youth and adults in the United States. When the researchers focused their analysis on a select group of 1,600 smokers who initially had no plans to quit and were not using e-cigarettes when the study began, they found that those who subsequently vaped daily experienced eightfold higher odds of quitting traditional cigarettes compared to those who didn't use e-cigarettes at all.

Early Troponin Monitoring Can Help Detect Immunotherapy-Related Myocarditis

Roswell Park research suggests levels of this protein can predict a rare but fatal side effect of cancer treatment

A multidisciplinary team led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has identified troponin, a protein that enters the bloodstream only when the heart is damaged, as an early and reliable predictor of myocarditis in cancer patients receiving immunotherapy with immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) drugs. Findings of this retrospective study, which have been published in the Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer, suggest that weekly troponin monitoring during the first six weeks of treatment could help physicians detect this rare but potentially fatal side effect of cancer immunotherapy.

Immunotherapy has emerged as a promising cancer treatment, particularly for solid tumors like melanoma. A handful of FDA-approved drugs such as nivolumab and pembrolizumab are increasingly used in certain types of immunotherapy to “supercharge” the patient’s immune system to recognize and attack cancer cells. Although it occurs in fewer than 1% of cases, potentially fatal inflammation of the heart muscle called myocarditis can occur as a result of ICI immunotherapy. Early detection of myocarditis, which carries a 40% to 50% risk of death, is critical, but there are currently no clear ways to accurately predict or identify this type of ICI-associated toxicity.

Sensitivity to Chemotherapy May Guide Treatment of Patients with Stomach Cancer

Roswell Park study finds that preoperative chemosensitivity can predict the need for chemotherapy after surgery

A study led by scientists at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center shows that chemotherapy after surgery for gastric adenocarcinoma is significantly associated with longer survival in patients with chemosensitive disease, but not in those with very sensitive or refractory disease. These findings, which were recently published in the journal JAMA Network

Open, suggest that assessing how responsive a tumor appears to be to treatment with chemotherapy before surgery can be used to guide decisions regarding postoperative chemotherapy, thereby personalizing treatment of patients with this type of stomach cancer.

“Many patients with gastric cancer who are eligible for surgical resection, or removal of stomach tissue, receive chemotherapy both before and after surgery to maximize their chance of survival,” says first author Lei Deng, MD, a Hematology-Oncology Fellow at Roswell Park.

“However, patients do not respond to chemotherapy equally. Some patients will have no cancer cells at the time of surgery or will learn that their tumors have shrunk, while others may be told that their tumors have stayed the same size or even grown larger.”

Roswell Park team members create data tool for researchers

A team of Roswell Park collaborators has launched nSight™ — a web-based tool for exploring and analyzing various data sources in support of research, grant applications, study design and academic publications.

A team of contributors from Information Technology, the Biomedical Research Informatics Shared Resource, the Office of Research Subject Protection and Information Security developed the platform to allow researchers self-service access to the rich data sources at Roswell Park.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

Top cancer centers unite in urgent call on HPV vaccination

Roswell Park was among the 71 NCI-designated cancer centers that united to urge physicians, parents and young adults to get cancer-preventing human-papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations back on track.

Dramatic drops in annual well visits and immunizations related to the COVID-19 pandemic have caused a significant vaccination gap and a lag in vital preventive services among U.S children and adolescents.

Roswell Park, Catholic Health team up for first ever Empire State Ride Long Island event

Catholic Health on Long Island and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, New York have teamed up for Empire State Ride Long Island, the newest cycling event to come to Long Island. This fundraising event on Saturday, July 24 will start and end at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park in the Town of Oyster Bay with all funds raised supporting cancer research and clinical trials that will help cancer patients across New York State. The event will feature 10, 25, and 62-mile route options, all starting and ending in Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park, in partnership with the Town of Oyster Bay.

Ride for Roswell’s Celebration of Hope and Peloton are Back on for 2021 Event

The Ride for Roswell presented by the West Herr Automotive Group, is excited to announce the return of the Celebration of Hope and Peloton on Friday, August 6 to kick off Ride Weekend.

Thousands of riders and volunteers will participate in the Ride for Roswell to raise funds for cancer research and patient-care programs at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center this year and the Celebration of Hope is a night to honor cancer patients.

The Friday evening event will include a procession of Roswell Park doctors, nurses, researchers, patients and survivors; the arrival of the Peloton, a group of top fundraisers; the ceremonial lighting of the Ride for Roswell Torch; family-friendly entertainment, music, food and drinks; and a chance to learn about the difference donations are making in cutting-edge research and care at Roswell Park.

Roswell Park Approved to Provide Care for World Trade Center 9/11 First Responders

Buffalo-based cancer center will provide specialized care for those who served at sites of 2001 attacks

Nearly two decades ago, first responders from across New York State answered the call for help when thousands of people were killed and injured in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. A new program at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will make sure these brave police officers, firefighters and emergency personnel don't need to cross the state to protect themselves from the long-term health effects they may still be dealing with because of their 9/11-related service.

Roswell Park has been a destination cancer center for the care of first responders throughout Western and Central New York for years, and has now been named a member of the World Trade Center Health Program provider network.

Ride for Roswell surpasses \$5 million thanks to generous \$59,065 gift from the West Herr Automotive Group

The 2021 Ride for Roswell took place Aug. 7, with thousands of riders taking on routes between 3 and 100 miles beginning at four locations across Western New York: Buffalo Outer Harbor, Grand Island, Niagara County Community College and the University at Buffalo.

After an emotional Celebration of Hope event on Friday night with a peloton of 130 riders, a procession of doctors, researchers, patients and the lighting of the torch by a breast cancer survivor, Ride Day brought even more opportunity to celebrate as 6,000 riders and 1,500 volunteers showed up to end cancer. At the end of the day, the team announced an incredible \$4.9 million raised by riders, volunteers and donors.

The West Herr Automotive Group, presenting sponsor of the Ride for Roswell, was inspired by the return of the Celebration of Hope and the energy of the riders putting in the miles for cancer research that today, they donated \$59,065 to put the 2021 Ride fundraising total over \$5 million.

Roswell Park Unveils Plans for Expanded Williamsville Campus: The Roswell Park Scott Bieler Amherst Center

Naming recognizes significant personal contribution from pioneering auto dealer, a longtime Roswell Park supporter

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center today announced plans for an expanded Amherst location at Park Club Lane, to be named for longtime supporter Scott Bieler in recognition of a significant gift made to the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation.

The Roswell Park Scott Bieler Amherst Center will enable an expansion of the services currently available at Roswell Park's satellite site on College Parkway, creating a Williamsville hub for cancer patients in and around Buffalo's northern suburbs.

Roswell Park, Ellis Medicine Open New Medical Oncology Center to Expand Access to Cancer Care in Capital Region

Newest member of Roswell Park Care Network highlights shared commitment to offering innovative, quality-driven care close to home

Ellis Medicine and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center marked a major milestone today by cutting the ribbon on a new, much anticipated medical oncology/chemotherapy/infusion center. Under a partnership initially announced in August 2020, Ellis Medicine and Roswell Park are acting on their commitment to reduce cancer's burden in both the Capital Region and throughout New York State.

With new medical oncology services at Ellis Hospital, the partnership aims to expand local access to cancer care, as well as the services of Buffalo-based Roswell Park, the only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer center in upstate New York.

Roswell Park, Samaritan Health Announce Medical Oncology Partnership

Medical oncology at the Walker Center for Cancer Care now affiliated with the Roswell Park Care Network

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, N.Y., have announced a new affiliation, linking medical oncology services provided at Samaritan's Walker Center for Cancer Care with the Roswell Park Care Network. The new affiliation will offer cancer patients in the North Country region access to the latest approaches and best practices in cancer treatment to enhance the quality of medical oncology services available locally.

Beginning October 18, 2021, medical oncology cancer patients in the Watertown region will have access to leading cancer research, education, and prevention services overseen by experts from Roswell Park, the only facility in Central and Upstate New York designated by the National Cancer Institute as a Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Roswell Park and Oishei Children's Hospital Launch First Edition City of Buffalo MONOPOLY to Benefit Pediatric Cancer Patients

100% of game sales support Roswell Park Oishei Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Program

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and the John R. Oishei Children's Hospital have launched the First Edition City of Buffalo MONOPOLY® game, officially licensed by Hasbro, to benefit the Roswell Park Oishei Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Program for pediatric cancer patients.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale of the game will have long-term benefit to the program, helping ensure that children and their families facing childhood cancers and blood disorders can remain in Western New York to receive the very best care.

Roswell Park Breaking Ground on Future of Cancer Care in WNY with Roswell Park Scott Bieler Amherst Center

Convenient community location named for pioneering auto dealer and longtime Roswell Park supporter Scott Bieler

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center held a ceremonial groundbreaking Monday for the Roswell Park Scott Bieler Amherst Center, an expanded Amherst location on Park Club Lane. The new center will be Roswell Park's first new-build outside of its downtown Buffalo campus. Announced in August 2021, the new center will be named for longtime supporter Scott Bieler in recognition of a significant gift made to the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation. The Roswell Park Scott Bieler Amherst Center will enable an expanded array of cancer diagnostic, treatment and subspecialty care services, creating a Williamsville hub for cancer patients in and around Buffalo's northern suburbs.

Congressman Higgins & Roswell Park CEO Dr. Candace Johnson Join Congressional Cancer Caucus Briefing as the U.S. Marks the 50th Anniversary of the National Cancer Act

Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-26) and Roswell Park CEO Dr. Candace Johnson recently joined a Congressional Cancer Caucus briefing with National Cancer Institute director Dr. Ned Sharpless and other national leaders discussing the National Cancer Act, which was signed into law on December 23, 1971, and efforts to continue making strides in cancer research and treatment.

As co-chair of the Cancer Caucus, Congressman Higgins has long advocated for significant federal investments in cancer research and treatment. He spoke to members and national leaders during the briefing saying during the discussion, "So many strides have been made. Before the 'War on Cancer' was declared, less than 50 percent of those who were diagnosed lived beyond five years of the diagnosis. Today it's 65 percent for adults and over 80 percent for kids. That is a major, major step forward attributed to the great work of all of those who do cancer research, but also to the federal government's commitment to funding groundbreaking research."

Also in celebration of this important national milestone and Roswell Park's key role in the formation of our national cancer centers program:

- We launched a yearlong "[We Set the Model](#)" informational campaign, highlighting important moments, people and innovations from our 120-plus-year history that have impacted the world of cancer and beyond.
- We hosted [a webinar](#) with Congressman Higgins, a woman treated for cancer at Roswell Park as a toddler in the 1970s, and others highlighting the visit by Congressional Subcommittee to Roswell Park in October 1971, shaping the legislation that would become the National Cancer Act of 1971.

Roswell Park experts offer lectures through University Express

We are proud to partner with Erie County's [University Express](#), an initiative to offer free classes to older adults in Erie County.

The classes are designed to stimulate the mind and provide continued learning opportunities for adults 55 and older. All virtual lectures are free and offer opportunities to build social circles alongside peers with similar interests, which can prove to be highly beneficial after a year of isolation.

Roswell Park experts led three sessions:

- **Immunotherapy**, led by Sharon Evans, PhD, Professor of Oncology – *June 25*
- **Cancer Survivorship and Wellness**, led by Mary Reid, MSPH, PhD, Professor of Oncology, Chief and Director of Cancer Screening, Survivorship and Faculty Mentoring, and Tessa Faye Flores, MD, Medical Director of Cancer Screening and Survivorship, Assistant Professor of Oncology – *June 14*
- **The Arts and the Art of Healing**, led by Cynthia Schwartz, Director of Alliance Foundation Ambassador Program and William Vogel, Art Coordinator – *July 14*

Roswell Park Dermatology opens in Depew

The Roswell Park Care Network has expanded once more with the opening of Roswell Park Dermatology in Depew. Led by Elizabeth Conroy, MD, FAAD, the Transit Road practice brings together specialized cancer and general dermatology services under one roof.

Patients with precancers and malignancies will have access to all of Roswell Park's services at this new practice, including the latest treatment advances and clinical trials. The center will also offer expert care for benign conditions like acne, psoriasis and other disorders and diseases of the skin.

Neurofibromatosis Clinic brings multiple experts together to provide integrated care

Recognizing the extensive specialized care that patients with the genetic condition neurofibromatosis require to monitor and address their symptoms, a team of Roswell Park specialists came together to launch a [neurofibromatosis care program](#).

One of few centers in the U.S. to provide coordinated, comprehensive care for adults with neurofibromatosis, the Neurofibromatosis Clinic unites the skill and expertise of providers in many different areas.

Roswell Park helps City of Buffalo launch anniversary season of Reading Rules!

David Scott, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, was on hand as Mayor Byron Brown launched the 20th Anniversary Reading Rules! Kids Summer Reading Challenge this week, calling on Buffalo Schools students in grades K-12 to improve their literacy skills over the summer.

Dr. Johnson part of July 29 panel on first 3 cancer centers

Fifty years after Congress passed the National Cancer Act of 1971, the *Cancer Letter's* Cancer History Project hosted a panel discussion with the directors of America's first three comprehensive cancer centers.

Roswell Park President and CEO Candace Johnson, PhD, engaged with Peter Pisters, MD, President of MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Craig Thompson, President and CEO of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, in a discussion moderated by Cancer History Project co-editor Otis Brawley, MD, to discuss the history, achievements, goals and future directions of cancer care — from the three centers that served as models for our national cancer program.

State leaders highlight job creation at Roswell Park

New York State Assembly **Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes** and state **Sen. Tim Kennedy** came to Kaminski Park & Gardens for a press conference highlighting the job creation made possible by their successful efforts to maintain state funding for our center. Roswell Park

expects to add 100 new jobs in 2021.

Mammography screenings available for employees and families

In commemoration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we're pleased to share the results of another successful Mammoth, in which more than 300 women signed up for a breast cancer screening!

Screening services are available at Roswell Park. There is no need for a prescription or referral to be seen. State law provides four hours of paid time off for mammography screening.

Haudenosaunee flag raised for Indigenous Peoples' Day

Roswell Park celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day with a flag-raising in Kaminski Park. The event featured a ganonyok, or opening ceremony giving thanks, led by a Tuscarora scholar, a performance of an honor song by a Seneca singer and remarks from regional and Roswell Park leaders: Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW, Director for our [Center for Indigenous Cancer Research](#), Roswell Park President/CEO Candace S. Johnson, PhD, Seneca Nation Tribal Councilor Eliot Jimerson and New York State Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes. During the event, Wheel Strong, a team from the Ride for Roswell 2021, presented a check for nearly \$13,000 for cancer research at Roswell Park.

Indigenous Peoples' Day brings awareness to Native Nations, including American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians, and their contributions to our culture and community. Watch [a video of the event](#) on the CICR Facebook page.

Roswell Park offering limited COVID-19 booster vaccine clinic for employees' family members

Roswell Park offer a limited community Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinic for eligible family individuals who would like to be vaccinated at Roswell Park.

Roswell Park Turkey Drive

Roswell Park employees donated 100 frozen turkeys to the families of Buffalo Community School P.S. 53. It was a great opportunity to give back and help those in need celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Hockey Fights Cancer on Monday, Nov. 29

Roswell Park once again teamed up with the National Hockey League and the Buffalo Sabres to support the fight against cancer. The team wore special lavender Hockey Fights Cancer jerseys during their warmup in tribute to cancer awareness. All proceeds raised from activities surrounding this year's event will go toward patient care programs at Roswell Park.

Over 3,000 toys collected for our community

Through the second annual Roswell Park Community Holiday Toy Drive, Roswell Park employees, patients and partners collected more than 3,000 toys for children in need throughout our community. More than 25 pallets were used to load up the toys and deliver to agencies and centers across Western New York, reaching both urban and rural communities. We want to especially thank both Fisher Price for their donation and the Buffalo Fire Department who eagerly signed on to assist in this effort.

First responder skin screenings now available

Roswell Park is now offering skin cancer screenings for firefighters, police officers and emergency responders in the Buffalo Niagara area.

First responders are often at high risk for developing many cancers, including bladder, brain, colon cancer and leukemia.

Sweat Suit Rally to benefit men of Buffalo City Mission

In partnership with the Buffalo City Mission, Roswell Park collected sweat suits for men in need as part of the Sweat Suit Rally. The process is efficient and contact-free through the City Mission's [Amazon Wishlist](#).

Rep. Higgins secures funds for scanners, lung screening registry

We were proud to host Congressman Brian Higgins for a press conference announcing \$1.5 million in newly dedicated federal funds for new CT scanners supporting imaging and cancer screening both on our main campus and at the Roswell Park Scott Bieler Amherst Center, slated to open in 2023. The allocation will also enable Roswell Park to develop and lead the first free, publicly available lung cancer screening registry in the nation — significantly expanding access to lung cancer screening for those at high risk of developing the disease.

“This couldn’t be more important right now as we continue to deal with the immediate and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,” noted Candace S. Johnson, PhD, who spoke at the announcement along with Elizabeth Bouchard, PhD, MA. Read more in the congressman’s [press release](#), and stay tuned for coverage from local television news outlets.