

Fiscal Year 2025 Accomplishments
(April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026)

AWARDS AND GROWTH

Roswell Park's Intensive Care Unit Earns National Recognition for Exceptional Patient Outcomes

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) earned the prestigious Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), a recognition that underscores the hospital's commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care. The Bronze award to Roswell Park marks the cancer center's second national award for nursing excellence so far this year, joining [Magnet® Recognition](#) from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Roswell Park Named One of Only 37 Optum Cancer Centers of Excellence for Adult and Pediatric Patients

Health services leader Optum once again recognized Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as a Center of Excellence (COE) for both adult and pediatric cancer treatment — a designation granted to only 37 institutions in the nation. The distinction highlights Roswell Park's position as a national leader in both patient care and groundbreaking cancer research. Optum created its [Cancer Centers of Excellence network](#) to connect patients with cost-effective, high-quality care for complex and difficult-to-treat cancers.

Dr. Candace Johnson Receives Distinguished Citizen Award

[Dr. Candace S. Johnson](#), President & CEO and the M&T Bank Presidential Chair in Leadership and Professor of Oncology at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, received the 2025 Distinguished Citizen Award from Great Falls Council, Scouting America (formerly the Boy Scouts of America) at a luncheon ceremony on Tuesday, April 29, at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, N.Y. The Distinguished Citizen Award is an annual honor that recognizes leaders in the community who exemplify the ideals of Scouting through their notable citizenship, leadership and values, and who are active in their communities.

Roswell Park Nationally Ranked on Best Employer Lists from Forbes and Becker's Hospital Review

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been recognized by two national organizations for its excellence as a workplace. Once again, *Forbes* has named Roswell Park to its list of America's Best Midsize Employers, ranking it 48th on a list of 498 companies. That ranking places the Buffalo-based cancer center in the top 5 employers in the midsize grouping for New York State, and among the top 11 employers in healthcare nationally.

Newsweek Names Roswell Park to America's Best Cancer Hospitals List

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has once again been named to Newsweek's

list of America's Best Cancer Hospitals for 2025. Roswell Park has made the list every year since its inception in 2023. Newsweek specifically listed lung cancer as a standout specialty at Roswell Park. Newsweek partnered with research firm Statista for its third annual ranking to recognize hospitals who go above and beyond when it comes to providing excellent cancer care for their patients.

Roswell Park's Dr. Sai Yendamuri Elected to the American Surgical Association

[Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS](#), has been elected to the American Surgical Association (ASA), the nation's oldest and most prestigious surgical organization. Established in 1880, the American Surgical Association strives to be the premier organization for surgical science and scholarship. Members include surgeons from the nation's leading medical institutions. Election to the ASA involves a rigorous 13-month process with an advisory membership committee reviewing nominations.

Dr. Renier Brentjens Recognized by Two Prominent Cancer Research Organizations

[Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD](#), one of the pioneers of cellular therapies for cancer, gave invited talks at national events for the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation and The New York Academy of Sciences. At their annual breakfast on June 11, the cancer research foundation honored Dr. Brentjens for his critical role in the impact on cancer research, specifically CAR T cell therapy. Dr. Brentjens, a past recipient of the Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award, gave an invited address as featured honoree at the event.

Roswell Park Welcomes Eight New Physicians as Faculty Members

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announced the hiring of eight new faculty members in seven different departments across the organization. These individuals bring years of experience to key areas of cancer treatment, detection and effective diagnosis to Roswell Park's mission to improve lives through outstanding cancer care and services. Joining Roswell Park were Ankit Patel, MD, in Surgical Oncology; Shilpa Chowdhry, MD, in Anesthesiology; Oday Karadsheh, MD, in Endocrinology/Internal Medicine; [Mark Frattini, MD, PhD](#), in Clinical Research/Medicine; Claudiu Cotta, MD, PhD, in Hematopathology; Majed Refaai, MD, in Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Cerrone Giordano, MD, in Dermatology; and [Weining Ma, MD](#), in Diagnostic Radiology.

Research Leaders Across New York State Form Empire State Cellular Therapy Consortium

To expand on early progress in the emerging field of cell and gene therapy, five research centers across New York State are collaborating to develop new cell therapies for cancer and other diseases. Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, the University of Rochester Wilmot Cancer Institute in Rochester and three academic research centers in New York City — The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NYU Langone Health and

Weill Cornell Medicine — partnered to launch the Empire State Cellular Therapy Consortium. Roswell Park's Marco Davila, MD, PhD, is the group's inaugural Chair.

Roswell Park Recognized by Optum as Center of Excellence for Stem Cell Transplant

Health services leader Optum recognized Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center as a Center of Excellence (COE) for the stem cell transplant program provided through its [Transplant & Cellular Therapy Center](#). To become certified, a center must undergo a rigorous evaluation process conducted by Optum's Clinical Sciences Institute to ensure it meets specific criteria. The evaluation includes assessing factors like clinical expertise, patient outcomes, and quality of care.

Forbes Names Roswell Park One of America's Best Employers for Women 2025

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has again been named by Forbes to America's Best Employers for Women 2025. Over 140,000 women working for companies employing at least 1,000 people were independently surveyed to determine this year's list. More than four million employer evaluations were considered.

Forbes Names Roswell Park a Top 10 New York State Employer

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has once again been recognized on Forbes' Best Employers by State listing, ranking in the top 10 among New York State employers. This is the fourth year in a row Roswell Park has made the list. Roswell Park is the only healthcare organization in the top 10 and one of only two health employers in Western New York on the list.

Roswell Park Recognized by Forbes and Newsweek for Excellence in Patient Care, Support for Employees

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been recognized by two national organizations for the experience it provides for both patients and employees.

Newsweek has named Roswell Park to its 2026 list of [World's Best Specialized Hospitals](#). The recognition highlights hospitals that excel in 12 key medical fields, and Roswell Park was featured among the Best Specialized Hospitals for Oncology. Roswell Park also made the inaugural Forbes list of [America's Best Employers for Company Culture](#). This ranking is determined by survey responses from over 218,000 full-time and part-time workers employed by organization with at least 1,000 employees.

Roswell Park Recognized by Forbes as a Best Employer for Healthcare Professionals

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center was featured in the inaugural Forbes list of [America's Best Employers for Healthcare Professionals](#). The list recognizes employers that are prioritizing the needs and wellbeing of their staff. Roswell Park ranks 19th in the country on the list, which is compiled from anonymous employee surveys.

Roswell Park is one of only two New York State employers in Forbes' top 20.

Roswell Park Care Network Expands with New Thoracic Surgery Services and Faculty

The Roswell Park Care Network announced the addition of thoracic surgery services at St. Joseph's Health in Syracuse, New York, along with the hiring of five new faculty members across the state. As a member of the Roswell Park Care Network since 2023, St. Joseph's Health offers patients advanced therapies, personalized treatment plans and access to clinical trials closer to home. The Roswell Park Care Network, extending across New York and Northwest Pennsylvania, improves the reach of quality cancer care offered by Roswell Park, the only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer center in Upstate New York. The new thoracic surgery program at St. Joseph's Health in Syracuse, NY, expands access to expert care for patients with lung disease and chest-related cancers.

The five new physician faculty members are [David Wormuth, MD, MPH, FACS](#), [Michael Parish, MD](#), [Najam ud Din, MBBS](#), [Maksim Liaukovich, MD](#), and [Edward Ventresca, MD, FCCP, FCP, FAASM](#).

Roswell Park Community Comes Together to Celebrate Outstanding Physicians

On Sept. 26, the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center community celebrated the first Physician Excellence in Cancer Care Awards at the Statler Buffalo — a night dedicated to honoring the heart, science and leadership of the physicians of Roswell Park.

Five physicians received awards at the event:

- [Moshim Kukar, MD, FACS](#) — Precision Medicine Award for Clinical Excellence
- [Emese Zsiros, MD, PhD, FACOG](#) — Breaking Barriers Award for Visionary Leadership
- [Desi Carozza, MD, FAAHPM](#) — Founding Vision Award for Compassionate Care
- [Grace Dy, MD](#) — Pathways to Discovery Award for Research Innovation
- [Brian Betts, MD](#) — Team Science Award for Collaborative Excellence

Nominated by their peers, these physicians exemplify the highest standards of care and research, while serving as mentors and inspirations to their colleagues across the organization.

Roswell Park Care Network Expands to Albany in Collaboration with St. Peter's Health Partners

Strengthening access to world-class cancer care across New York State, St. Peter's Health Partners (SPHP) and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center have joined forces to ensure that patients in the Capital Region can receive the latest in evidence-based cancer treatment and research innovations.

Becoming part of the network allows SPHP to offer greater access to the latest treatment options and clinical trials, as well as advanced telemedicine via Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in upstate New York.

Roswell Park Achieves National Accreditation for Rectal Cancer Care

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announced the recent accreditation of its rectal cancer program by the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC). This distinction signifies that Roswell Park meets the highest national standards in the surgical care of people with rectal cancer and is recognized as an American College of Surgeons (ACS) Surgical Quality Partner. Programs must have a high volume of cancer surgical resections during the most recent calendar year and demonstrate 12 months of compliance with NAPRC standards.

Shea's President Brian Higgins Named to Roswell Park Board of Directors

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center welcomed Shea's Performing Arts Center President Brian Higgins to its Board of Directors. He was appointed by President and Majority Leader of the New York State Senate Andrea Stewart-Cousins to fill a vacancy.

Laurel DiBrog named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 78 Hospital and Health System Chief Marketing Officers to Know 2025

A leader in the field of cancer care for over three decades, Laurel DiBrog has transformed the way healthcare organizations communicate, market and expand access to essential cancer services. Since joining Roswell Park in 1997 from City of Hope in Los Angeles, she has built and led a full-service in-house agency renowned for its expertise in digital marketing, business strategy, public relations, crisis management, creative services and market intelligence.

George "Buddy" Hickman named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 50 Hospital and Health System Chief Digital Officers to Know 2025

Buddy Hickman leads the planning, development and implementation of technology policy and activation across the organization. Since Buddy joined Roswell Park in early 2024, his team has delivered advances translating to benefits for patients, clinicians, researchers and workforce members. He stood up a framework for shared leadership and governance of progressive digital health and IT and impacted areas including organization-wide AI policy and governance.

Ryan Grady named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 190 Hospital and Health System CFOs to Know 2025

A key figure on the Roswell Park finance team since 2014, Ryan Grady has helped guide Roswell Park past the \$1 billion operating budget mark on the heels of the Covid-19

pandemic, increasing revenue by 30%. His focus on sustainable growth enabled several major capital projects – including the outreach and engagement center visited by more than 5,000 community members in its first year.

Kimberly Sweeney named to Becker’s Hospital Review’s list of 57 Hospital and Health System CXOs to Know 2025

Kim Sweeney helps 50,000-plus patients and their loved ones navigate through a variety of supportive services spanning medical, spiritual, mental, social and survivorship care. Kim began her career in nursing 25 years ago as a nurse in the ICU, moving to the leukemia and lymphoma unit, and nurse coordinator with the leukemia team. She subsequently took on leadership roles in patient access and concierge services. Today, she helps patients and families access care and services through a wide range of initiatives, including Medical International Concierge resources, the New Era Cap Foundation Elevate Salon and the 11 Day Power Play Resource Center.

George “Buddy” Hickman named to Becker’s Hospital Review’s list of 148 Hospital and Health CIOs to Know 2025

Buddy leads the planning, development and implementation of technology policy and activation across Roswell Park. Since he joined Roswell Park in early 2024, his team has delivered advances translating to benefits for patients, clinicians, researchers and workforce members.

Kristin Schwartz and Chris Dahl named to Becker’s Hospital Review’s list of 80 Health IT & Revenue Cycle Up-and-Comers 2025

Chris Dahl, Executive Director of Clinical and Revenue Cycle Applications, has been instrumental for efficient operations, positive patient experiences and research innovation at the pioneering Roswell Park. Having first joined Roswell Park in 2014, his recent focuses include reimaging clinic standardization and helping to pilot enterprise AI-based speech recognition.

Kristin Schwartz, Director of Health Informatics, oversees the strategic planning and operational delivery of the EHR and associated clinical integrations. She spearheaded the formation of a high-performing clinical informatics and workforce training team and collaborates closely with care providers and executive leaders to align technologies with Roswell Park’s clinical mission, patient care goals, regulatory concerns and daily needs.

Debora Alessi named to Becker’s Hospital Review’s list of 64 Supply Chain Leaders to Know

Just six years after joining Roswell Park as director of procurement and contracting, Debora Alessi has been responsible for the procurement of over \$700 million in supplies and services annually and helped lead the transition to a new end-to-end supply chain and procurement system before being promoted to her current role.

Ryan Grady named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 78 Academic Medical Center CFOs to Know 2025

A key figure on the Roswell Park finance team since 2014, Ryan Grady has helped guide Roswell Park past the \$1 billion operating budget mark on the heels of the Covid-19 pandemic, increasing revenue by 30%. His focus on sustainable growth enabled several major capital projects – including the outreach and engagement center visited by more than 5,000 community members in its first year.

Adam Rosen named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 53 Hospital and Health System CISOs and Chief Privacy Officers to Know 2025

Since 2019, Adam Rosen has served as the CISO. Overseeing Roswell Park's cybersecurity program, he has worked to bring broad awareness of cyber-risk issues to senior leaders and throughout the organization, providing deeper insight into risks, realities and opportunities. Adam's key accomplishments include expanding the security team to handle new challenges and overhauling cyber-risk management processes for greater effectiveness and efficiency.

Roswell Park named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 100 Hospitals and Health Systems with Great Oncology Programs 2025

"Rated as 'exceptional' by the National Cancer Institute," the online news outlet writes, "Roswell Park is regarded as a model for other cancer centers and serves as an innovator in care, prevention, treatment and education. One of the initial three cancer centers specially designated by the NCI as part of the 'War on Cancer' in the 1970s, Roswell Park has contributed numerous major advances since its founding in 1898."

Roswell Park's Orthopedic and Rehab teams named on Becker's Hospital Review's list of 100 Hospitals and Health Systems with Great Orthopedic Programs

A surgical technique developed at Roswell Park makes it possible to save the limbs of more than 90% of patients with soft-tissue sarcoma, who would otherwise face amputation. Access to an orthopedic surgeon is part of the multidisciplinary care for patients who have conditions that affect limbs, joints and movement. Through a collaboration with Buffalo-based UBMD Physicians' Group, Roswell Park provides access to orthopedic services early on in treatment planning to preserve patients' functioning and range of motion.

David Donovan named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 30 Hospital and Health System Chief Transformation Officers to Know 2025

David Donovan applies insights on business development, healthcare network-building, supply chain management, revenue cycle, payer relations and marketing to help conceptualize and lead new initiatives, as well as support existing objectives for growth

and transformation. Known for his commitment to philanthropic causes, David was critical to the successful development of the Roswell Park Care Network, which provides comprehensive cancer services to patients and their families at locations throughout the state.

Candace Johnson named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 61 CEO Influencers to Know 2025

Dr. Candace Johnson has served as President and CEO of Roswell Park since 2015, and also holds the M&T Bank Presidential Chair in Leadership and is a professor of oncology. The first woman to lead our historic cancer center, Dr. Johnson has guided Roswell Park through massive growth, expanding immunotherapy, cellular therapy and community engagement while attracting world-renowned clinicians and scientists to Western New York. A pioneering cancer biologist, her research focuses on novel therapeutic strategies, including vitamin D-mediated antiproliferative mechanisms and combination cytotoxic therapies. Prior to joining Roswell Park in 2002, she was deputy director of basic research at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and a professor of pharmacology and medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Roswell Park's spinal team named on Becker's Hospital Review's list of 100 Great Neuro and Spine Programs

Roswell Park's spinal oncology center is one of the nation's first and largest centers dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of tumors of the spine. Neurosurgeons, neuro-oncologists, radiation oncologists, neuropathologists and neuroradiologists unite to care for a high volume of patients with rare spinal tumors, both cancerous and nonmalignant. These experts specialize in care for patients with rare conditions, including chordoma and chondrosarcoma, spinal metastatic disease, thoracoscopic schwannoma, Pancoast tumor and comprehensive care for adults with neurofibromatosis. The program has a history of incorporating the latest technological advances in spine care, including Western New York's first O-Arm and New York State's first implant carbon fiber instrumentation.

Women's Choice Awards Recognizes Roswell Park as one of America's Best Hospitals

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been recognized by the Women's Choice Awards as one of America's Best Hospitals. Women's Choice ranked Roswell Park in the top 1% of hospitals in cancer care, comprehensive breast care and mammogram imaging — the only hospital in Buffalo with those designations.

Buffalo Spree Names 148 Roswell Park Physicians to its Top Doctors List for 2026

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to recognize the 148 physicians across 36 specialties named to Buffalo Spree magazine's Top Doctors list for 2026. The

annual list is compiled through survey responses submitted by Western New York physicians.

Roswell Park's Intensive Care Unit Earns Second Beacon Award for Excellence

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Intensive Care Unit has once again received a Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). This is the second consecutive year the unit has received the honor, which recognizes high-quality, patient-centered care for acutely ill patients. The Roswell Park ICU team was recognized this year with at the Silver level. The Beacon Award for Excellence recognizes individual nursing units, as opposed to whole hospitals and facilities, that consistently improve outcomes and align their practices with AACN's six Healthy Work Environment Standards.

More than 30 Roswell Park Physicians Named by Castle Connolly as 2026 'Top Doctors'

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to announce that 31 of its physicians have been named to Castle Connolly's Top Doctors 2026 list. Those named to this respected annual list represent the top 7% of doctors nationwide. More than 47,000 nominations were received for this year's list. Each Top Doctor was nominated by their peers through surveys and rigorously vetted by the Castle Connolly research team.

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center Joins NF Clinic Network

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to announce the recent addition of its [Adult Multidisciplinary Neurofibromatosis Clinic](#) to the [NF Clinic Network](#), an initiative of the Children's Tumor Foundation dedicated to providing high-quality patient-centered care for individuals living with neurofibromatosis or schwannomatosis. The network includes nearly 80 clinics across the United States and Canada.

Roswell Park Named Optum Cancer Center of Excellence for Adult and Pediatric Care

Health services leader Optum has once again named Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center a Center of Excellence (COE) for both adult and pediatric cancer treatment. Roswell Park is one of only 38 institutions in the nation awarded this designation, and the only one in Western and Upstate New York. To be eligible for Optum's [Cancer Centers of Excellence Network](#), centers undergo a rigorous evaluation process conducted by Optum's Clinical Sciences Institute to ensure it meets specific criteria. The evaluation includes assessing factors like clinical expertise, patient outcomes and quality of care.

International Research Community for Tobacco and Nicotine Honors Roswell Park Leader

One of the nation's foremost experts in tobacco control will receive recognition from the international research community for his contributions to the betterment of public health. At its 2026 annual conference held March 4 to 7 in Baltimore, the [Society for Research on](#)

Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) will bestow the John Slade Award to [Andrew Hyland, PhD](#), Senior Vice President of Population Sciences and chair of Health Behavior.

Castle Connolly Names Roswell Park to 2026 Top Hospital List

Research and information leader Castle Connolly has named Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center to its [2026 Top Hospitals](#) list for the cancer surgery and general surgery specialties, including honors for lung cancer surgery and colon surgery. This recognition is based on the same physician-led research behind their prestigious Top Doctor recognition, combining peer input with comprehensive patient data and performance metrics.

Andrew Storer named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 274 Hospital and Health System CNOs to Know 2026

Dr. Andrew Storer was named CNO of Roswell Park in 2023, three years after he joined the cancer center as Deputy CNO. Nurse engagement has risen dramatically through his leadership, resulting in record-low turnover and vacancy in nursing positions. His contributions also led to accreditation with distinction for the nurse residency program, approval for a continuing education program, the creation of the first nurse training facility at any cancer center to incorporate high-fidelity simulation and much more.

George "Buddy" Hickman named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 135 Hospital and Health CIOs to Know 2026

Buddy Hickman leads the planning, development and implementation of technology policy and activation across the organization. Since Buddy joined Roswell Park two years ago, his team has delivered advances translating to benefits for patients, clinicians, researchers and workforce members. He stood up a framework for shared leadership and governance of progressive digital health and IT, and has impacted organization-wide AI policy and governance, integrated AI and more.

Julia Faller named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 252 Hospital and Health Chief Medical Officers to Know 2026

Since joining Roswell Park in 2009, Dr. Faller has empowered clinical teams to deliver exceptional patient care, strengthened collaboration through innovative daily huddles and championed inclusion both within the organization and across the community. She also helped Roswell Park earn the American Medical Association's prestigious "Joy in Medicine" distinction and continues to support cancer research through her participation in the Empire State Ride.

Kimberly Sweeney named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 56 Hospital and Health System CXOs to Know 2026

Kim Sweeney helps 50,000-plus patients and their loved ones navigate through a variety of supportive services spanning medical, spiritual, mental, social and survivorship care. Kim began her career in nursing 25 years ago as a nurse in the ICU, moving to the leukemia and lymphoma unit, and nurse coordinator with the leukemia team.

Roswell Park named to Becker's Hospital Review's list of 165 Top Places to Work in Healthcare

This is the latest recognition for the organization, in addition to Forbes' top three employers in New York state, and best for company culture, for women and a top midsize employer. More than 20% of employees have a tenure of 15 or more years.

CLINICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Society of Surgical Oncology Highlights Roswell Park Experts at 2025 Annual Meeting

Cancer surgery leaders from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center shared their expertise with other cancer surgeons from around the world during the 2025 annual meeting of the Society of Surgical Oncology at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida, March 27-29. [Moshim Kukar, MD, FACS](#), Chair of Surgical Oncology and Chief of Foregut and Endocrine Surgery at Roswell Park, will discuss how emerging biomarkers can inform the treatment of patients with gastroesophageal junction cancers.

Brain Imaging Plus Virtual Reality Shows Promise for Effectively Managing Cancer Pain

A clinical research study led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has identified a way to objectively measure pain in cancer patients and treat it effectively without opioids. Published in Scientific Reports, [the study](#) advances the goal of better managing cancer pain using a non-invasive brain imaging technology and a non-drug treatment that incorporates virtual reality (VR).

The project was led by principal investigator [Somayeh Besharat Shafiei, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology in Roswell Park's Department of Urology, and co-investigator [Oscar de Leon-Casasola, MD](#), Chief of Pain Medicine at Roswell Park

Roswell Park-Led Research Reveals a Hidden Vulnerability of Lung Cancer

Treatment resistance and relapse in the most common type of lung cancer can be traced to a protein called agrin, according to a preclinical study led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Results of [the study](#), led by [Sayan Chakraborty, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics at Roswell Park, appear in the journal *Advanced Science*.

Roswell Park Reports Extraordinary Outcomes for Robot-Assisted Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center achieved textbook outcomes for 90% of 150 consecutive robot-assisted, minimally invasive esophagectomies (RAMIE) performed from 2020-2024, as [reported in a study](#) in the *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*. The term

“textbook outcomes” is used in the surgical field to refer to ideal outcomes, measured by such factors as the length of hospital stay and rate of complications, readmission to the hospital and mortality within 30 days after surgery. A recently published series documenting textbook outcomes from high-volume international centers reported a range of 40-45% — roughly half the percentage achieved at Roswell Park.

Chair of Surgical Oncology [Moshim Kukar, MD, FACS](#), is first author of the study, which analyzed data from a prospective database maintained by Roswell Park.

Survey Shows Majority of Americans Unaware of Innovative Cancer Treatment

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is at the forefront of a new approach to cancer treatment, called CAR T-cell therapy. The little known, but highly promising technology breakthrough makes it possible for your body to fight cancer, often without invasive surgery, offering patients new hope for the possibility of long-term remission. However, a new survey by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center of 1,021 adults in the United States shows 65% are unfamiliar with the personalized cancer treatment option.

Roswell Park Researchers to Discuss Recent Discoveries and Critical Issues in Oncology at AACR 2025

Researchers from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center reported their latest findings to colleagues from around the world at the 2025 annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in Chicago, Illinois, April 25-30. The event brings together more than 21,000 professionals from the oncology field — as well as patients, survivors and advocates — to share and learn about recent discoveries.

Among more than a dozen Roswell Park team members invited to share new research and insights are [Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW](#), [Prantesh Jain, MD, FACP](#), [Gokul Das, PhD](#), [Scott Olejniczak, PhD](#), and [Sayan Chakraborty, PhD](#).

Roswell Park Expert to Share Promising Results on New Immunotherapy Approach in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) are often treated with immunotherapy drugs known as checkpoint inhibitors, which are designed to strengthen the immune system’s ability to kill cancer cells — but these drugs do not produce a lasting response in most patients with this cancer type. Initial results of a phase 1 clinical trial of the investigational drug JNJ-86974680 reveal that it has the potential to overcome that limitation.

[Prantesh Jain, MD, FACP](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology, will share initial results of the study Tuesday during the 2025 annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Jain is the presenting and first author of abstract CT137, “[Initial results from a phase 1 study of an A2a receptor antagonist, administered as](#)

[monotherapy and in combination with anti-PD1 therapy in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer.](#)”

Roswell Park Announces Positive Progress in Clinical Trial of Novel Immunotherapy SurVaxM

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center announced that the ongoing phase 2B SURVIVE clinical trial of SurVaxM in glioblastoma will continue following an interim analysis of trial data. The clinical trial is designed to evaluate the safety, efficacy and overall survival benefit of SurVaxM in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma who receive standard-of-care treatment (resection, chemoradiation and adjuvant temozolomide) combined with SurVaxM.

Duration of Overweight/Obesity During Treatment Linked to Worse Outcomes in Pediatric Leukemia Patients

New research on children diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) shows that the longer a patient’s body mass index (BMI) falls within the overweight/obese category during treatment, the greater the risk of relapse and the lower the chance of survival. [The study](#), led by a collaborative team of investigators at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and Columbia University Irving Medical Center, was published by *JAMA Network Open*.

[Kara Kelly, MD](#), Chair of the Roswell Park Oishei Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Program and the Waldemar J. Kaminski Endowed Chair of Pediatrics at Roswell Park, and [Song Yao, MD, PhD](#), Professor of Oncology, Department of Cancer Prevention and Control at Roswell Park, are co-senior authors of “Overweight or Obesity and Outcomes in Children with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.”

ASCO 2025 Highlights: Menin Inhibitor for Acute Myeloid Leukemia; Organ Transplant and Checkpoint Inhibitors

Faculty from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center are among the international experts invited to share their research findings at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting May 30-June 3 at McCormick Place in Chicago. The world’s largest clinical cancer research gathering brings together more than 45,000 participants each year, including clinicians, scientists and patient advocates.

Among those invited to share new research and insights were five Roswell Park team members who will give oral abstract presentations at the meeting: [Eunice Wang, MD](#), Chief of Leukemia; [Muhammad Awidi, MD](#); [Zunairah Shah, MBBS](#); [Pragati Gole Advani, MD, DrPH, MPH](#); and [Song Yao, MD, PhD](#).

Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors ‘High-Risk Yet Promising’ for Cancer Patients Who Undergo Organ Transplant

A meta-analysis led by a researcher at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has identified key factors that could improve outcomes for cancer patients treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) before or after a solid-organ transplant. The study, which examined how ICI therapy affected the risk of transplant rejection in cancer patients who were also solid organ transplant recipients, will be featured as an oral abstract during a Clinical Science Symposium Monday at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago.

[Muhammad Awidi, MD](#), Hematology/Oncology Fellow at Roswell Park, is senior author on the new work.

Roswell Park Quick Talks: Breast Cancer and ADCs, Risk of Second HPV-Related Cancer, Cognitive Function and ICIs

In talks at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), experts from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will give remarks on racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes among people with metastatic breast cancer; risk patterns for second cancers associated with human papillomavirus (HPV); and effects of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) on cognitive function.

[Zunairah Shah, MBBS](#), Hematology/Oncology Fellow, [Pragati Gole Advani, MD, DrPH, MPH](#), and [Song Yao, MD, PhD](#), were invited to share new research in rapid oral abstract sessions at McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago.

Study Featured at ASCO 2025 Highlights Potential New Treatment for Aggressive Form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia

An international clinical trial co-led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has demonstrated that the investigational drug ziftomenib can produce deep, durable responses in people with a specific biological subtype of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). [Eunice Wang, MD](#), Chief of Leukemia at Roswell Park, will present phase 1B/2 results of the KOMET-001 study ([NCT04067336](#)) during an oral abstract session Monday at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Study Lays Groundwork for Precision Treatment of HR+/HER2- Breast Cancer

Preliminary results of an observational clinical trial underway at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center are shedding light on why some patients with an aggressive form of metastatic breast cancer fare better than others after receiving standard treatment with cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) 4/6 inhibitors, a form of targeted therapy that prevents cancer cells from growing and multiplying. The [new study](#) appears in NPJ Breast Cancer, part of the Nature network of academic journals.

The research team was led by a research team led by Principal Investigator and study senior author [Agnieszka Witkiewicz, MD](#), Professor of Oncology and Director of the Advanced Tissue Imaging Shared Resource at Roswell Park, and included [Stephanie](#)

[Tzetzto, PhD, MA](#), Postdoctoral Research Affiliate at Roswell Park and first author of the new study.

Roswell Park Team Produces Genomics-Guided Tool to Inform Treatment of Advanced Kidney Cancers

A study led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center helps explain why a rare and hyper-aggressive subtype of kidney cancer is susceptible to immunotherapy — information that helped researchers create a first-of-its-kind tool to guide treatment decisions for advanced kidney cancers. The collaborative work by a team of immunologists and urologists was [published](#) in the journal *Cancer Cell*.

[Jason Muhitch, PhD](#), Associate Professor and Co-Chair of the Genitourinary Translational Research Group in the Department of Immunology at Roswell Park, and [Eric Kauffman, MD](#), Associate Professor of Oncology in the Departments of Urology and Cancer Genetics & Genomics, are senior authors of the study. [Nicholas Salgia](#), an MD/PhD candidate through the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo who completed his thesis work in the lab of Dr. Muhitch, is first author.

Myeloma Experts Uncover Key Role for Neutrophils, Potential New Treatment Strategy

Multiple myeloma, a relatively rare form of blood cancer, remains difficult to treat despite significant advancements in new treatments, largely because it generates a pro-tumor environment that allows it to escape the body's immune defenses. A team of collaborators from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Dana-Farber Cancer Research Institute uncovered the important role played by certain immune cells — called neutrophils — in this process. The findings appear in [a new study](#) in the journal *Blood*.

The work was led by Hemn Mohammadpour, DVM, PhD, and Jens Hillengass, MD, PhD, of Roswell Park.

RP1 Oncolytic Therapy Provides New Hope for Patients Whose Melanoma Resists Conventional Immunotherapy

About half of all patients with advanced melanoma face a poor prognosis because their cancer doesn't respond to immunotherapy — but results of a recent clinical trial show that an unusual treatment strategy could change that. [Michael Wong, MD, PhD, FRCPC](#), Physician in Chief and Professor of Oncology in the Department of Medicine at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, was part of an international research team that demonstrated the effectiveness of combining the FDA-approved immunotherapy nivolumab (Opdivo) with RP1, a modified version of HSV-1, the herpes simplex virus. Dr. Wong is first author of [the study](#), which appears in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Roswell Park Leads Largest-Ever Genomic Study of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer in African American Women

Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), the deadliest breast cancer subtype, disproportionately affects African American women — but until now, they were underrepresented in genomic studies aimed at identifying the genetic mutations driving the disease. A landmark study led by researchers at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and collaborating institutions fills that knowledge gap. [Song Yao, MD, PhD](#), Professor of Oncology at Roswell Park, is lead author of the study, “[Mutational Landscape of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer in African American Women](#),” which appears in Nature Genetics.

Innovative Cancer Treatment Proves ‘Miracle’ for 6-Year-Old with Leukemia

The most common cancer in children, leukemia, may have met its match. [Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) is at the forefront of a personalized cancer treatment option, called CAR T-cell therapy, which transforms a patient’s own cells into cancer-fighting supercells, often without invasive surgery, offering new hope for the possibility of a long, healthy life.

Meghan Higman, MD, PhD, led the Roswell Park Oishei Children’s Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders Program team that cared for Brynlee, a 6-year-old whose aggressive leukemia is now in remission.

Roswell Park Study Reveals New Clues to Pancreatic Cancer Spread — and a Possible Way to Stop It

Researchers at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center have uncovered new evidence on how pancreatic cancer spreads. In a new study in the journal Molecular Cancer, the team describes how a protein called HNF1A may help drive metastasis — the process by which cancer spreads to other parts of the body — and highlights another protein, FGFR4, as a potential target for future therapies.

A team led by [Ethan Abel, PhD](#), reports that HNF1A, a transcription factor that regulates gene expression, appears to play a role in making cancer cells more mobile and, therefore, more dangerous.

Study Led by Roswell Park’s Dr. Sai Yendamuri Finds GLP-1 Receptor Agonists Improve Lung Cancer Outcomes

Lung cancer patients who take medications called GLP-1 receptor agonists — commonly prescribed for weight loss and diabetes management — fare better than those who don’t, according to research led by [Sai Yendamuri, MD, MBA, FACS](#), Chair of Thoracic Surgery at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, and [Joseph Barbi, PhD](#), Assistant Professor, Department of Immunology. Results of the study, which involved investigators from both Roswell Park and the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, [appear in JCI Insight](#).

Innovative Roswell Park Radiation Therapy Protocol in Lung Cancer to Be Highlighted at ASTRO Annual Meeting

Experts from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will share the findings of a novel approach using radiation therapy to treat lung cancer at the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Annual Meeting Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2025, in San Francisco. First author [Mark Farrugia, MD, PhD](#), Clinical Assistant Professor of Oncology in Roswell Park's Department of Radiation Medicine, will present an oral abstract of a study evaluating a new approach to delivering radiation therapy post-surgery in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The study will also be included in an ASTRO Science Highlights Session featuring top-rated abstracts.

Final Landmark Clinical Trial Data Demonstrates Deep, Durable Responses to Menin Inhibition in Acute Leukemia Patients

Final data from a landmark clinical trial in patients with an aggressive form of leukemia were published in the [Journal of Clinical Oncology](#). The results of the international phase 1B/2 KOMET-001 clinical trial co-led by [Eunice Wang, MD](#), Chief of Leukemia at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, show that ziftomenib produced deep, durable responses in patients with recurrent or treatment-resistant acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with NPM1 mutations.

Single Dose of Radiation as Effective as 5-Week Course for Lung Cancer: Roswell Park Shares Results at ASTRO

Research from a team of radiation oncology experts at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been selected as one of the “most clinically relevant” presentations at the annual meeting of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), which continues through Oct. 1, 2025, in San Francisco. The study reports the results of a clinical trial at Roswell Park demonstrating that a single dose of highly precise radiation delivered post-operatively to patients with non-small cell lung cancer provides the same local disease control as the traditional five-week course of radiation — but is less toxic, causing fewer side effects.

Study first author [Mark Farrugia, MD, PhD](#), Clinical Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Radiation Medicine at Roswell Park, will discuss the findings of studies co-led by Anurag Singh, MD, on Monday, Sept. 29, in an [oral abstract presentation](#) at the meeting.

Leading Cancer Scientists Anticipate Next ‘Eureka Moment’ in Tumor Treatment

A new national survey from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center shows nearly one in five people diagnosed with cancer would prefer an innovative treatment called CAR T-cell therapy. It transforms a patient's own healthy cells into cancer-fighting supercells.

The survey results revealed that if participants were diagnosed with cancer:

- 17% would prefer CAR T-cell therapy over traditional cancer treatments like chemotherapy or radiation
- 63% are comfortable with either CAR T-cell therapy or traditional treatments, and would rely on their doctor's recommendation
- 4% would prefer traditional treatments over CAR T-cell therapy

Scientists at Roswell Park are building on the success of treating patients with blood cancer, developing CAR T-cell therapies that can target and destroy cancer tumors that other therapies cannot. “We think we can have another one of those eureka moments,” said [Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD](#), the Deputy Director and Chair of Medicine at Roswell Park.

Biomarker Analysis Reveals Clues to Long-Term Survival in Glioblastoma Patients Treated with SurVaxM

Results of a study led by researchers at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center are shedding light on why some newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients survive longer than others after receiving standard treatment in conjunction with the therapeutic brain cancer immunotherapy SurVaxM. The team’s findings, [newly reported](#) in the journal Cancer Immunology & Immunotherapy, linked long-term survival to the tumor’s molecular characteristics prior to treatment.

Glioblastoma is the most common, aggressive and deadly type of brain tumor, with fewer than 7% of patients surviving five years after diagnosis. [Michael Ciesielski, PhD](#), and [Robert Fenstermaker, MD](#), co-developed SurVaxM and are co-senior authors of the new study.

Immunotherapy Strategy Based on T-Cell Engagers Could Point Way to Breakthrough for Ovarian Cancer Patients

Results of a study led by researchers at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center show that combining two types of immunotherapy — engineered T cells that secrete bispecific T-cell engagers and an immune checkpoint inhibitor — can alter the tumor microenvironment to launch a stronger attack against ovarian cancer and reduce the risk of relapse. The findings also demonstrate that this combination therapy can be supplemented with therapeutic cancer vaccines to further extend treatment responses. [A. J. Robert McGray, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology and Immunotherapy in Roswell Park’s Department of Immunology, led the study with co-corresponding author [Mark Long, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Oncology, Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics.

Roswell Park Experts Share Latest Hematology Research at 67th ASH Annual Meeting

Experts from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will discuss their latest discoveries at the 67th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) December 6-9 in Orlando, Florida. Every year, more than 30,000 attendees from around the world gather at this prestigious meeting to learn about emerging treatments and other

important advances in the field. Members of the Roswell Park team have been invited to present their work on cellular therapy, targeted therapy and other aspects of treating hematological malignancies, or blood cancers.

Four oral abstract sessions during the meeting will showcase work led by Roswell Park experts: [Meredith Stone, PhD](#), with [Marco Davila, MD, PhD](#); [Eunice Wang, MD](#), was a lead author on two different oral abstract studies; and [Megan Herr, PhD](#). Roswell Park is hosting the satellite symposium “Bridging the Gaps in Cell Therapy for Hematological Malignancies: Expert Guidance, Clinical Experience and Increased Access,” co-chaired by [Marco Davila, MD, PhD](#), and [Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD](#), on Friday, Dec. 5.

Exercise Boosts Recovery for Stem Cell Transplant Patients

Physical activity, from walking to strength training, helps boost recovery for patients after their stem cell transplants, often sending them home from the hospital months early.

[Shernan Holtan, MD](#), Chief of Blood and Marrow Transplant at [Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#), is leading this transformation by introducing early movement into patient recovery following allogeneic transplant, a procedure where healthy stem cells from a donor are transplanted into the patient as a way to treat leukemias and other blood cancers. Dr. Holtan reported that Roswell Park has achieved a 100% six-month patient survival rate for allogeneic transplants performed in 2024.

Roswell Park-Led Clinical Trial Paves Way for FDA Approval of Targeted Drug for Aggressive Leukemia

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug to treat an aggressive form of leukemia, based on the results of a clinical trial co-led by [Eunice Wang, MD](#), Chief of Leukemia at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The FDA recently [approved](#) use of the oral therapy ziftomenib as treatment for adults with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) carrying an NPM1 mutation. The approval is based on findings from the pivotal phase 1/2 KOMET-001 trial, for which Dr. Wang served as global Principal Investigator.

Attendees at ASH 2025 Hear Strategy for Improving Efficacy and Reducing Toxicity of CAR T-Cell Therapy

Why do some patients experience disease resistance or recurrence after undergoing [CAR T-cell therapy](#) for the treatment of large B-cell lymphoma? A study led by hematology/oncology expert [Marco Davila, MD, PhD](#), Senior Vice President and Associate Director for Translational Research at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, sheds light on factors in the [tumor microenvironment](#) that contribute to resistance — and suggests ways to overcome them. Co-author [Meredith Stone, PhD](#), Assistant Director for

Cell Therapy Translation in Dr. Davila's lab, will share the findings in an oral presentation at the 67th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) in Orlando, Florida.

Roswell Park Experts Share Cutting-Edge Breast Cancer Studies at SABCS 2025

More than a dozen Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center teams will showcase new research at the 2025 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) this week, highlighting how Roswell Park experts are applying precision-medicine tools and insights to shape the future of breast cancer management.

"Our team is addressing some of the most pressing challenges in breast cancer," says [Sheheryar Kabraji, BMBCh](#), Chief of Breast Medicine at Roswell Park. The work spans the areas of clinical trials, health disparities, AI and new treatment strategies.

Race, Ethnicity and Donor Type Continue to Affect Survival After Donor Stem Cell Transplant

A study led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center reveals that a patient's race and ethnicity, as well as how closely matched they are to their stem cell donor, can all significantly affect clinical outcomes for those who undergo stem cell transplant as treatment for cancer — despite the introduction of a new standard-of-care drug regimen shown to lower the risk of graft-versus-host disease, a potentially fatal side effect. Study results are expected to lay the groundwork for improved selection of stem cell donors.

The findings relate to allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HCT), in which patients receive stem cells drawn from a consenting donor's blood as part of their treatment for some cancers, including many forms of leukemia and lymphoma. The work presented during the 67th annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) in Orlando, Florida, was led by [Megan Herr, PhD](#), and [Theresa Hahn, PhD](#).

Roswell Park Leukemia Expert Led ASH 2025 Studies Assessing 2 New Treatment Strategies for Advanced AML

While patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) are routinely treated with chemotherapy and other cell-killing therapies, existing options do not lead to favorable clinical outcomes in all patients. Targeting certain mutations in AML patients with specific inhibitor drugs has improved outcomes in 20-30% of cases. The promising results of two clinical trials led by [Eunice Wang, MD](#), Chief of Leukemia at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, suggest that combining targeted inhibitors with chemotherapy could induce clinical responses in 60-80% of AML patients with relapsed aggressive subtypes of the disease and prolong overall survival.

Researchers Identify Strategy for Reducing Risk of Acute Graft-Versus-Host Disease for Many with Blood Cancers

Preclinical research from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University of Minnesota demonstrates that inhibiting a particular metabolic pathway decreases the incidence and severity of a serious side effect, acute graft-versus-host disease, while preserving beneficial effects of treatment for cancer patients who receive an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant. The findings from this early-stage research outline a new strategy for limiting side effects and improving outcomes for people who undergo stem cell transplant as treatment for blood cancer.

Newly published in [JCI Insight](#), the study was led by Saeed Daneshmandi, PhD, [Philip McCarthy, MD](#), and [Hemn Mohammadpour, DVM, PhD](#).

Roswell Park Study Shows IL-36 Gamma ‘Armored’ CAR T Cells Can Eradicate Solid Tumors

A laboratory study out of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center outlines a new way to boost the effectiveness of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy in solid-tumor cancers, resulting in their eradication. Led by [Renier Brentjens, MD, PhD](#), Deputy Director and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Roswell Park and a pioneer in the field of CAR T-cell therapy, with Yihan Zuo, PhD, research scientist in Roswell Park’s Department of Medicine, the research represents a hopeful new step toward achieving the same success in solid tumors that the treatment has realized in hematological malignancies.

Roswell Park and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Analysis Confirms Benefit of Nivolumab Combo in Teens with Advanced Hodgkin Lymphoma

Teens with advanced-stage Hodgkin lymphoma survive longer without their disease getting worse when they receive the immunotherapy nivolumab (Opdivo) instead of the immunotherapy brentuximab vedotin (brand name Adcetris) along with chemotherapy, according to the updated results of a subset analysis of a landmark phase 3 clinical trial. [Kara Kelly, MD](#), of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, is senior author of the analysis, [published Jan. 9](#) in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

New Roswell Park Strategy for Boosting Cancer Immunotherapy Hinges on Blockade of Metabolic Enzyme

New work from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center shows that the metabolic function of a key enzyme helps suppress the immune system’s antitumor response. In preclinical findings published in [Nature Communications](#), a team led by [Saeed Daneshmandi, PhD](#), and [Hemn Mohammadpour, DVM, PhD](#), highlights a way to use a small-molecule inhibitor that targets specific steps of glucose breakdown to improve the effectiveness of a common form of immunotherapy, blocking the enzyme’s effects to “release the brakes” on the immune system.

Roswell Park Team Exploring Promising Biomarker for Tracking Breast Cancer Response to CDK4/6 Therapy

Many patients with a common form of advanced breast cancer experience good responses when they're treated with targeted drugs known as CDK4/6 inhibitors in addition to endocrine (hormone) therapy. But about 20% of patients don't benefit, and many breast tumors ultimately prove resistant to this treatment approach. A team at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is focusing on a new biomarker to help answer that question. [Writing in the journal JCO Precision Oncology](#), a team led by [Agnieszka Witkiewicz, MD](#), reports that lower levels of thymidine kinase activity in the blood plasma, either before or during treatment, were associated with longer progression-free survival.

Roswell Park Team Provides First Direct Evidence of CD28 Effects on CAR T-Cell Therapy

While chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, an emerging form of immunotherapy, has significantly improved survival rates for patients with multiple myeloma, 30-60% of people with this cancer will eventually relapse. A preclinical study led by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has generated critical information to support future clinical studies aimed at reducing the relapse rate and improving patient outcomes, with [new findings](#) reported in *Blood Cancer Discovery*, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

The research team was led by a research team led by [Scott Olejniczak, PhD](#), and Ehsan Malek, MD.

Tandem 2026: Roswell Park CAR T-Cell Pioneer Dr. Marco Davila Reports Discoveries on Treatment Resistance

Experts from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center have been invited to share their recent discoveries at the [2026 Tandem Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings](#) of the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) and Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR), to be held Feb. 4-7 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Drawing more than 5,000 clinicians and researchers from all over the world, the conference focuses on the latest advances in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, cellular therapy and gene therapy for blood cancers.

CAR T-cell therapy pioneer Dr. Marco Davila gave an invited talk on a strategy for overcoming resistance to therapy, and 4 other Roswell Park teams shared new research in podium presentations.

Insights on Sarcomas, Gastroesophageal Cancers, Peritoneal Tumors Anchor Roswell Park Presentations at SSO 2026

The latest research from surgical experts at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center will be featured at the Society of Surgical Oncology 2026 Annual Meeting at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona, March 5-7, 2026.

Highlights included Dr. Moshim Kukar debating total gastrectomy at the prestigious Great Debates session, Dr. Gary Mann discussing strategies for reducing perioperative waste and Dr. Drew Erali winning the Best Paper Award for work on peritoneal surface malignancies.

New Regimen Protects Against Cancer Relapse, Graft-Versus-Host Disease After Donor Stem Cell Transplant

Results of a [phase 1 clinical trial](#) show that patients who undergo a blood stem cell transplant involving a donor have a lower risk of relapse and lower rates of graft-versus-host disease when they receive the targeted therapy VIC-1911 along with the standard-of-care regimen that includes post-transplant cyclophosphamide and sirolimus. Led by [Shernan Holtan, MD](#), Chief of Blood and Marrow Transplantation, and [Brian Betts, MD](#), Vice Chair of Strategic Initiatives for Transplant and Cellular Therapy at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, [the study appears](#) in Blood Advances, a journal of the American Society of Hematology.

Roswell Park Faculty to Present at National Comprehensive Cancer Network 2026 Annual Conference

Clinical researchers from Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center are among the experts invited to share insights and clinical best practices at the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) 2026 Annual Conference March 27-29 in Orlando, Florida.

Roswell Park is a longtime member of the NCCN.

[Andrew Storer, PhD, DNP, RN, NP-C, FAANP](#), Chief Nursing Officer, spoke at the Operational Excellence in Cancer Care Program, and nine other Roswell Park team members presented new clinical and translational insights during the meeting.

Roswell Park First in Region to Offer New Treatment for Tumors

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to be the first care provider in the region to begin offering [adaptive radiation therapy](#). This advanced new treatment option is a more personalized and precise form of radiation therapy most beneficial for patients with tumors in areas of the body that may change or shift due to treatment or day to day life.

Adaptive radiation therapy uses state-of-the-art technology to enable a linear accelerator — the device used to deliver radiation used in medical treatment — to target cancer.

Lung Cancer Patients Can Safely Receive Half the Usual Radiation Dose — in Just One Treatment

Many people with lung cancer can be treated with a highly precise, high dose of radiation given in just one session — without compromising the effectiveness of the treatment. That's the striking conclusion of [a new study](#) led by [Anurag Singh, MD](#), of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center that has the potential to change the treatment recommendations for many patients with a common form of lung cancer.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

Roswell Park Joins Other Leading Cancer Centers in Reinforcing Importance of HPV Vaccination to Prevent Cancer

[Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#), along with 61 other [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\)-Designated Cancer Centers](#) and leading national organizations endorsed [a joint statement](#) urging the nation's health care systems, physicians, health care professionals, parents, caregivers and the public to promote and choose human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for cancer prevention.

Journalist, Cancer Survivor Loriana Hernández-Aldama Headlines Roswell Park Speaker Symposium

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center welcomed Loriana Hernández-Aldama as the keynote speaker at its Second Annual [Pro Perspectives Speaker Symposium](#).

Hernández-Aldama is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, international speaker, and two-time cancer survivor. Author of *Becoming the Story: The Power of PREhab*, Hernández-Aldama shares her deeply personal journey from reporting the news to becoming the story herself — after surviving both leukemia and breast cancer. Her experience exposed critical gaps in the healthcare system and inspired her mission to transform care and empower patients.

Roswell Park Expands EDDY Program with Region's First Mobile Screening Center for Breast and Prostate Cancer

Determined to make cancer screening accessible for people across Western New York, [Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) is proud to unveil the region's most comprehensive mobile cancer screening initiative. With the addition of a new EDDY Mobile Breast & Prostate Cancer Screening Center, Roswell Park has launched the first program in the region to address early detection for the three most common invasive cancers.

Roswell Park Launches New 'Research Matters' Commercial

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is spotlighting research and the role it plays in advancing cancer care with its new 'Research Matters' commercial. The ad, set to make its television debut during Sunday's big game, marks the beginning of a campaign focusing on the importance of research at National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers like Roswell Park. The 60-second ad gives audiences a look at some of the

cancer center's most accomplished scientists conducting the research that keeps cancer care moving forward. It also highlights Roswell Park patients who today are able to receive life-saving treatments that started out as an idea someone wanted to test in the lab.

Senator April Baskin and Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes Announce \$3 million for Roswell Park's Community Outreach Expansion

New York State Senator April N.M. Baskin and Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes announced \$3 million in State investment for an expansion project at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Community Outreach & Engagement Center. The funding will support the development of the HOPE (Health, Outreach and Prevention Excellence) Center, a new wing at 907 Michigan Ave. dedicated to advancing Roswell Park's cancer prevention and early detection mission. Construction on the \$4 million expansion is slated to begin in the fall of 2026.

Roswell Park Brings Lung Healthcare Initiative to Indigenous Communities Across North America

A three-year grant from Lilly to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center is bringing rich new lung health resources to Indigenous workplaces located across North America. Collaborating with human resources specialists with Tribal Nations and communities covering many regions of the U.S. and Canada, Roswell Park's Department of Indigenous Cancer Health team, led by Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW, will provide lung cancer screening workflow resources, lung wellness education and patient navigation services for thousands of eligible individuals.