



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Sandra and Edward
Meyer Cancer Center

Annual Report 2023–2024

A Word from the Director



Dear Friends,

For the past decade, the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine has remained steadfast in its mission to drive ground-breaking innovations in science and medicine that will advance outcomes and promote equity across the cancer continuum.

Through impactful recruitments, research productivity and intentional community outreach and engagement, the Meyer Cancer Center continued to be a leading cancer center in the country in the past year. True to our one Meyer Cancer Center ethos, transdisciplinary teams of basic and clinician-scientists across our network in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens collaborated closely to improve the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer, further advancing research discovery and translational clinical care. With the creation of a Research Advisory Council, we continued to strengthen our partnership with the community, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas between researchers and the very individuals we are dedicated to serving.

These achievements and more are covered in this year's annual report. I'm so proud of what we've accomplished together and look forward to an even better year ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jedd D. Wolchok". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

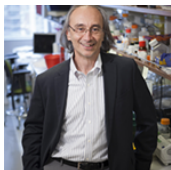
Jedd D. Wolchok, M.D., Ph.D.
Sandra and Edward Meyer Director, Meyer Cancer Center

Senior Leadership

The senior leadership team at the Meyer Cancer Center includes clinicians and scientists who are renowned for cancer research, prevention and care across the full breadth of the cancer center's scientific and programmatic priorities. Together, they are responsible for setting the strategic priorities of the Meyer Cancer Center while overseeing routine operations.

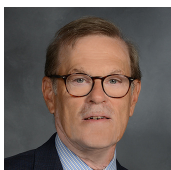
John Blenis, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Basic Science
Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen
Professor in Cancer Research



Paul Chapman, M.D.

Chief Medical Research Officer



Massimo Cristofanilli, M.D.

Associate Director,
Precision Medicine



Paraskevi Giannakakou, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Education



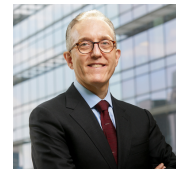
David Nanus, M.D.

Associate Director, Network
Mark W. Pasmantier Professor
of Hematology and Oncology
in Medicine



Jedd Wolchok, M.D., Ph.D.

Sandra and Edward Meyer
Director



Taha Merghoub, Ph.D.

Deputy Director
Margaret and Herman Sokol
Professor in Oncology Research



Julie Boyer, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Administration
and Strategy



Eloise Chapman-Davis, M.D.

Associate Director of Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion



Silvia Formenti, M.D.

Associate Director,
Translational Research
Sandra and Edward Meyer
Professor of Cancer Research



Peter Martin, M.D.

Associate Director,
Clinical Research



Erica Phillips, M.D.

Associate Director, Community
Outreach and Engagement
Jack Fishman Associate
Professor of Cancer Prevention



Senior Leadership

Anna Pavlick, D.O.

Associate Director,
Clinical Research



Vered Stearns, M.D.

Associate Director,
Clinical Services



Rulla Tamimi, Sc.D.

Associate Director,
Population Science



The Senior Leadership is advised by two external boards: the External Scientific Advisory Board and the Community Advisory Board. The External Scientific Advisory Board is comprised of 11 leading cancer center administrators, researchers and clinicians from around the world. Dr. Wolchok recruited three new distinguished members based on their outstanding leadership, experience, and knowledge. The group includes current directors of NCI-designated Cancer Centers.

The Community Advisory Board is a group of ten community stakeholders that serves as an essential link between the community and the Meyer Cancer Center, guiding the development of cancer research programs and advocating for policy initiatives that improve the lives of approximately six million people who reside in the Meyer Cancer Center catchment area. Each Meyer Cancer Center Research Program has a liaison who also serves as an official member of the Board to facilitate bidirectional communication between the community and Meyer Cancer Center leadership. The role of the Community Advisory Board is to provide community perspective to all Meyer Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement and research activities. They share feedback from the community on cancer issues that are most relevant to their constituencies, engage in bidirectional conversation about cancer research initiatives, and provide insight related to disseminating cancer prevention and treatment strategies.

Administrative Team

The administrative team meets the needs of senior leadership, research program leadership, shared resources, and members, and serves as a liaison between the Meyer Cancer Center and central institutional and hospital administration. The team's responsibilities include coordination of faculty recruitment and onboarding; management of the center's finances and other resources; planning and coordination of research program activities; coordination of support and reporting for the Meyer Cancer Center's shared resources; and internal and external communications.

- **Jaclyn Jansen, Ph.D.**, Director, Administration and Innovation
- **Maria Alexander**, Project Manager
- **Sharon Goldberg**, Executive Director, Clinical Research Strategy and Integration
- **Kellie Jack**, Assistant Director, Community Outreach and Engagement
- **Lucie Lu, M.Ed.**, Senior Research Operations Manager
- **Anita Ou**, Director, Cancer Clinical Trial Office
- **Sydney Pierzak**, Assistant Director for Research Development
- **Stephanie Rogers, Ph.D.**, Education Program Manager
- **Bo Wang**, Finance Administrator

A Snapshot of Research Activity

The Meyer Cancer Center membership encompasses cancer-related health professionals, including laboratory, clinical and population research scientists who hold a full-time faculty appointment at Weill Cornell Medicine. Through their dedication and contributions, Meyer Cancer Center members help fulfill the center’s mission of advancing the standard of cancer care.

The 211 Core members are divided among four research programs based on common research interests: Cancer Biology, Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics, Cancer Therapeutics and Cancer Prevention and Control. The goal of each program is to stimulate the exchange of ideas and to nucleate collaborations across the center. Senior leadership has appointed outstanding leaders to each program. These leaders are responsible for reviewing program membership, facilitating interactions among members and advocating for the needs of their members, including equipment, education and other resources. Below, we are pleased to share with you data on grants received, publications and clinical research accruals.

Center Metrics

Publications

- 486** 2023 peer-reviewed cancer publications
- 29%** Meyer Cancer Center collaborations
- 29%** High Impact Journals (>10)

Grants

- \$62.6M** All direct costs in 2023
- \$49.2M** Peer-reviewed (\$30.4M NCI)

Clinical Research Metrics

8,490 Analytical Cases (2021)	Total Accruals (2023)	2,130	24.2%
	URM Race Ethnicity 30% // Women 52%		
	Interventional Treatment Accruals (2023)	712	8.4%
	URM Race Ethnicity 30% // Women 44%		

Research Programs

Cancer Biology

The Cancer Biology Research Program is the laboratory discovery science program of the Meyer Cancer Center. Faculty with a home in this program focus on basic bench science in the lab. Basic science aims to improve scientific theories for better understanding of how cancer develops and progresses at biological and molecular levels.

The program is led by Dr. Timothy McGraw, professor of biochemistry and thoracic surgery, and Dr. Juan Cubillos- Ruiz, associate professor of microbiology and immunology in obstetrics and gynecology.

This basic science program has 53 Core program members who are supported by \$17.5 million in extramural, peer-reviewed funding (\$6 million from the NCI) and their research has been published in 99 cancer-related papers between July 2023 and June 2024 (32% in high impact journals).

Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics

The Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics Research Program explores cancer-related genetic mutations and epimutations. Faculty with a home in this program study how the information encoded in our DNA can lead to the development of cancer and influence how aggressive the disease is, with the goal of identifying individualized approaches to cancer treatment.

The program is led by Dr. Steven Lipkin, Harriman Professor of Medicine, and Dr. Ekta Khurana, WorldQuant Foundation Research Scholar and associate professor of physiology and biophysics.

The program's 31 members have a total of \$11 million in cancer-focused, peer-reviewed funding (with \$7.3 million from the NCI). Between July 2023 and June 2024, members authored a total of 87 publications, of which 39% were in high impact journals.

Research Programs

Cancer Therapeutics

The Cancer Therapeutics Research Program is our clinical research program. Faculty with a home in this program are developing cutting-edge therapies for cancer patients through clinical trials that test new ways to prevent, diagnose, treat and manage symptoms of cancer and side effects from its treatment.

The program is led by Dr. Nasser Altorki, the David B. Skinner, M.D. Professor and Chief of Thoracic Surgery, and Dr. Scott Tagawa, professor of medicine and urology.

This clinical research program has 89 Core members who either lead clinical trials or perform translational research. Cancer Therapeutics members are supported by \$12.1 million in cancer-focused, peer-reviewed funding (\$6 million from NCI) and authored a total of 118 cancer-relevant publications with 29% in high impact journals (between July 2023 and June 2024).

Cancer Prevention and Control

The Cancer Prevention and Control Research Program is our population science program. Faculty with a home in this program study how genetic, environmental and social factors influence cancer risk in the community, focusing cancer prevention, early detection and survivorship.

The program is led by Dr. Rulla Tamimi, professor of epidemiology in pathology and laboratory medicine and professor of population health sciences.

Founded in 2019, the program has grown to 38 Core members. As of December 2023, the Cancer Prevention and Control program has a total of \$6.9 million in cancer-focused, peer-reviewed funding (\$4.6 million NCI). Between July 2023 and June 2024, members authored a total of 50 cancer-related publications, with 4% in high impact journals.



Highlighted Publications

We are pleased to highlight several high-impact publications over the past year.

Sublobar Resection is Equivalent to Lobectomy in Early-Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

New England Journal of Medicine, 2023

Nasser Altorki, M.D. and Jeffrey Port, M.D.

Surgery that removes only a portion of one of the five lobes that comprise a lung is as effective as the traditional surgery that removes an entire lobe for certain patients with early-stage lung cancer, according to results of a phase 3 multicenter clinical trial sponsored by the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, an NCI-supported clinical trials network. In the trial, the investigators compared outcomes for nearly 700 patients with early-stage lung cancer, about half of whom were randomly assigned to "lobectomy" surgery, which removes the whole lobe, while the other half had "sublobar resection" surgery, which removes part of the affected lobe. Over a median follow-up period of seven years after surgery, the two groups did not differ significantly in terms of disease-free or overall survival, and the sublobar group had modestly better lung function.

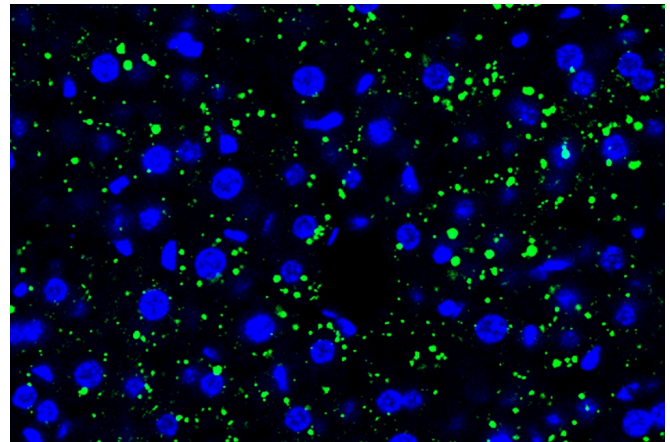


Tumor Extracellular Vesicles and Particles Induce Liver Metabolic Dysfunction

Nature, 2023

Irina Matei, Ph.D., Haiying Zhang, Ph.D. and David Lyden, M.D., Ph.D.

Cancers often release molecules into the bloodstream that pathologically alter the liver, shifting it to an inflammatory state, causing fat buildup and impairing its normal detoxifying functions. This discovery illuminates one of cancer's more insidious survival mechanisms and suggests the possibility of new tests and drugs for detecting and reversing this process. The researchers found that a wide variety of tumor types growing outside the liver remotely reprogram the liver to a state resembling fatty liver disease via secretion of extracellular vesicles and particles (EVPs) containing fatty acids. The scientists found evidence of this process in animal models of cancer and in the livers of human cancer patients.





Highlighted Publications

Neoadjuvant Durvalumab Plus Radiation in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Enhances Survival

The Lancet Oncology, 2021 and Nature Communications, 2023

Nasser Altorki, M.D., Jeffrey Port, M.D., Benjamin Lee, M.D., Paul Christos, Dr.P.H., Ashish Saxena, M.D., Ph.D., Nicholas Sanfilippo, M.D., Vivek Mittal, Ph.D., Silvia Formenti, M.D. and Timothy McGraw, Ph.D.

A new study reported that patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) treated with a combination of low-dose radiation and immunotherapy had higher progression-free survival compared to patients who received immunotherapy alone two years after treatment. The findings offer hope to those affected by NSCLC, the most common type of lung cancer in the United States—81 percent of all lung cancer diagnoses. Chemotherapy is frequently coupled with immunotherapy for treating people with lung cancer, but this study, suggests another option. The addition of low-dose radiation with immunotherapy could increase the options available to patients, particularly those who can't tolerate chemotherapy.



Clinician-Facilitated Genetic Cascade Testing Results in Targeted Screening and Prevention Among Relatives

Cancer, 2022 and American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 2024

Melissa Frey, M.D., Eloise Chapman-Davis, M.D., Ravi Sharaf, M.D., Evelyn Castillo, M.D. and Steven Lipkin, M.D., Ph.D.

Harmful variants in the BRCA1 gene greatly increase a person's lifetime risk of developing breast, ovarian and pancreatic cancers, but most people are unaware they are carriers. Researchers explored the possibility of including BRCA1 testing at the time of obstetrical prenatal carrier screening. They found that such an approach is not only cost-effective, it also can identify at-risk people at a time when cancer screening and other preventative strategies could save their lives.



Transdisciplinary Collaborations and Coordination

The Meyer Cancer Center is engaged in a number of efforts to bring individuals together from all Meyer Cancer Center Research Programs and foster transdisciplinary collaborations and coordination within the community. These include:

- Research Program Meetings: A platform for Meyer Cancer Center members to share scientific findings and potential collaborators.
- MCC 360: Quarterly series that explore critical research questions among the patients and community that we serve.
- Disease Management Team Meetings: Meetings to review and strategize on patient care cases and concerns specific to disease sites.
- Director's Seminar Series: Presentations on various clinical, basic, translational and population-based cancer research topics led by leaders and rising stars in cancer research and clinical practice.
- Annual Retreat: Deepens members' understanding of the Meyer Cancer Center and fosters greater engagement within the community.
- Pilot Funding Programs: Provide initial financial support to help members demonstrate feasibility of new ideas that leads to future success.



Pilot Funding Programs

Collaborative Research Initiative Recipients

- **Congenital CMV Infection and Development of B-ALL in Childhood**
Lisa Roth, M.D., Shahin Rafii, M.D., Sallie Permar, M.D., Ph.D.
- **Characterizing the Epigenome and Transcriptome of Metastatic Aggressive Prostate Cancer in African American Men Using Cell-Free DNA**
Ekta Khurana, Ph.D., Peter Gregos, M.D., Nausheen Hakim, D.O.
- **Determination of the Interplay of Blood-Microbiome-Inflammatory Networks in Patients at Risk for Hematologic Malignancies**
Pinkal Desai, M.D., M.P.H., Saurabh Mehta, Sc.D.

Masin Family Award for Collaborative Research in Cancer

- **Dissecting the Impact of Insulin Resistance vs. Obesity on Breast Cancer**
Tim McGraw, Ph.D., Aitziber Buque Martinez, Ph.D., Lorenzo Galluzzi, Ph.D., Laura Santambrogio, Ph.D.
- **Tumor Cell Intrinsic and Extrinsic Mechanisms of Immune Evasion in Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)**
Ashley Laughney, Ph.D., Harold Varmus, M.D.

Clinical Trials Innovation Fund Recipients

- **Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 Expression in Circulating Tumor Cell as A Bio-Marker for Response to CDK 4/6 Inhibitors in Hormone Sensitive Metastatic Breast Cancer**
Massimo Cristofanilli, M.D.
- **Phase 1/2 Trial of Priming CAR-T Cells with Radiation for Relapsed/refractory Large B-cell Lymphoma (Prime-CAR)**
Silvia Formenti, M.D., Monica Guzman, Ph.D., Lorenzo Galluzzi, Ph.D.
- **Mobile Health Platform for Hereditary Cancer Genetic Risk Assessment in an Underserved Population**
Melissa Frey, M.D.
- **A Prospective, Observational Study of Serum Methylmalonic Acid Levels and Objective Response Rates in Treatment-Naive Patients with Stage IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer**
John Blenis, Ph.D., Ashish Saxena, M.D., Ph.D., Bobak Parang, M.D., Ph.D.

Pilot Funding Programs

EGFR Gene Mutations in Lung Cancer

- **"Total Wellness" Multidimensional Assessments of Asian Patients with EGFR-mutated Lung Cancer at Meyer Cancer Center (NewYork-Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medicine, Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn & Queens)**
Cynthia X. Pan, M.D., Christine Garcia, M.D.
- **Augmenting EGFR Inhibition By Targeting E3 Ubiquitin Ligases To Treat EGFR Mutant Lung Cancer**
Benjamin Hopkins, Ph.D., Olivier Elemento, Ph.D.
- **Identifying Patient-Level Drivers of EGFR-Positive Lesions: Opportunities to Guide Clinical Management and Innovation for Lung Adenocarcinoma**
Lauren Groner, D.O.
- **Establishing a Molecularly Annotated Lung Cancer Registry to Study Risk Factors and Care Patterns in EGFR-Mutated Lung Cancers**
Yiwey Shieh, M.D.
- **Rapid Evaluation of Cell-Free Circulating Tumor DNA for Monitoring EGFR-Positive Lung Cancer: A Pilot Study for Early Detection of Disease Relapse and Progression and Characterization of Resistance to Targeted Therapy**
Hanna Rennert, Ph.D.
- **Circulating Tumor DNA as a Biomarker to Characterize Early-Stage, Ground-Glass Predominant, EGFR Mutant Lung Cancers**
Oliver S. Chow, M.D.



Meyer Cancer Center

Recruitments



Bashir Al Hussein Al Awamlh, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Urology



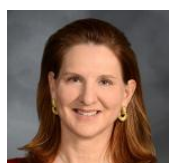
Anna Alperovich, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine



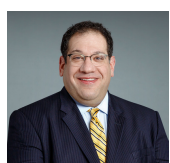
Michal Bar-Natan, M.D.
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine



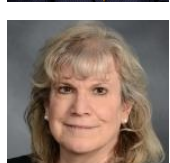
Juliet Barker, M.B., B.S.
Director of Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapy



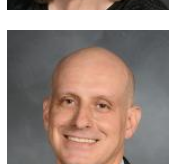
Kathryn Beal, M.D.
Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology



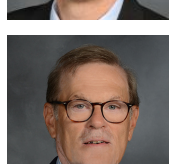
Russell Berman, M.D.
Associate Director of Clinical Education and Surgical Integration



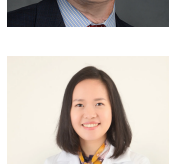
Michelle Bradbury, M.D., Ph.D.
Endowed Professor of Imaging Research in Radiology



Jonathan Canaani, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine



Paul Chapman, M.D.
Chief Medical Research Officer



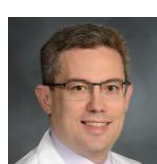
Yi-Ju Chen, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology



Eunji Choi, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Population Health Sciences



Juan Garisto, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Urology



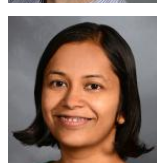
Chris Hackett, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine



Mohamad Hamieh, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Immunology in Pediatrics



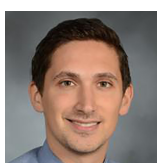
Mateo Mejia Saldarriaga, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine



Pooja Murthy, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine



Vered Stearns, M.D.
Associate Director, Clinical Services



Brandon Swed, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine



Elisa ten Hacken, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Cancer Biology in Medicine

Member Awards

Top 10 Clinical Research Achievement Awards



Nasser Altorki, M.D.

NCI Outstanding Investigator Award



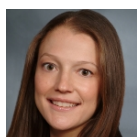
Holly Prigerson, Ph.D.

NIH S10 SIG



Sandra Demaria, M.D.

Ritu Banga Healthcare Disparities Research Awards

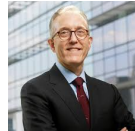


Melissa Frey, M.D.



Kevin Kensler, Sc.D.

Elected to National Academy of Medicine



Jedd Wolchok, M.D., Ph.D.



Lisa Newman, M.D.

Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences



Tobias Meyer, Ph.D.

Elected to Association of American Physicians



Shahin Rafii, M.D.

AAI-BD Biosciences Investigator Award



Gregory Sonnenberg, Ph.D.

Member Awards

Princess Lilian Foundation Award



David Lyden, M.D., Ph.D.

Mathers Foundation Grants



David Simon, D.O.

Mary Kay Ash Innovative Grants



Matthew Greenblatt,
M.D., Ph.D.

Irma T. Hirschl/Monique Weill-Culier Research Award



Bishoy Faltas, M.D..



Iman Hajirasouliha, Ph.D.

Gladys and Roland Harriman Foundation "Research Bridge Grant"



Yushu Shi, Ph.D.



Heather Yeo, M.D.

Manhasset Women's Coalition Against Breast Cancer



Nancy Du, Ph.D.

Feldstein Medical Foundation



Nicholas Collins, Ph.D.

2023-24 Seminar Series and Endowed Lectureships

CARs and Armored CARs: Moving Cellular Therapy Forward

July 19, 2023

Renier Brentjens, M.D., Ph.D.
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Martin Lipkin and Irving Weinstein Foundation Endowed Lectureship:

Building a Career in Cancer Prevention to Make My Mentors Proud

September 20, 2023

Elena Martinez, M.P.H., Ph.D.
University of California, San Diego

Meyer Cancer Center Mark S. Brower, M.D., Lecture:

Precision Medicine for Breast and Ovarian Cancer Control in Diverse Populations

October 20, 2023

Olufunmilayo Olopade, M.D.
University of Chicago

What Makes A Stem Cell A Stem Cell and How does it Go Bad

November 15, 2023

John Dick, Ph.D.
University of Chicago

Mapping Somatic Evolution with Single-Cell Multi-Omics

December 13, 2023

Dan Landau, M.D., Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medicine

A Skeletal Stem Cell Driving Vertebral Metastasis

January 18, 2024

Matthew Greenblatt, M.D., Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medicine

"Unlocking Data Potential: Understanding the Resources Available for Cancer Research in MCC's Catchment Area"

February 29, 2024

Rulla Tamimi, Sc.D.
Erica Phillips, M.D.
Weill Cornell Medicine

Endogenous and Environmental Factors That Induce Mutations and LOH in Haploinsufficient BRCA1 Cells

March 21, 2024

Jeannine Gehardt, Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medicine

Engineering Insights into ECM Dynamics in the Tumor Microenvironment

April 25, 2024

Claudia Fischbach, Ph.D.
Cornell University

A Rheostat Model for Genome Organization: From Senescence to Cancer

May 6, 2024

Arygis Papantonis, Ph.D.
University of Göttingen

Daniel G. Miller Endowed Lecture: Metabolic Syndrome, Breast Cancer Risk and Exercise in the FIERCE Study: A Community Based Clinical Trial

May 21, 2024

Lucile Adams-Campbell, M.D.
Georgetown University

Community Outreach and Engagement

In 2023, the Meyer Cancer Center Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) programs have served a total of 24,860 community members through 364 events. The Office was responsible for completing 877 screenings, which resulted in two diagnosed cancers. Many of the COE programs leverage “citizen scientist” training, which allows community members to serve as educators for their peers. This model has the advantage of exponentially increasing our reach while also maximizing the impact of community stakeholders.

As one such example, Dr. Rulla Tamimi and Dr. Erica Phillips, along with collaborators from Columbia University, have been awarded a \$9.8 million, five-year grant from the NCI, to reduce cancer health inequities in persistent poverty throughout New York City. To do so, they are working to promote multi-generational health and increase workforce diversity through education programs for youth, fellows, research coordinators and faculty. The first project, led by Dr. Phillips, tests the effectiveness of a six-week cancer education and social justice curriculum among middle-school students at 10 New York City public schools.

The Office of COE also collaborates with the Research Programs to foster bidirectional communication between researchers and the community. Each Research Program has a liaison to the Community Advisory Board. The liaisons join the quarterly meeting and report on discoveries in their respective research programs. They also listen to updates from community stakeholders and disseminate that information at Research Program meetings.

In 2024, the Meyer Cancer Center established the Research Advisory Council, in which community members provide feedback on research proposals and newly published discoveries. This group also participates in the review of Meyer Cancer Center pilot funding programs to assess the potential impact of the research on the community.



Education

Educational commitment and innovation are critical to the Meyer Cancer Center mission. The Meyer Cancer Center uses education and training at every stage of the biomedical career path to develop creative solutions to challenging healthcare problems, advance cutting-edge biomedical research and implement innovative teaching modalities to train the next generation of leaders in cancer research and care.

In 2023, Meyer Cancer Center members mentored more than:

- 521 trainees including 60 high school and undergraduate students
- 111 medical and graduate students
- 273 postdoctoral and clinical fellows.



Through the Meyer Cancer Center Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination (CRTEC) Office, led by Dr. Giannakakou, the Meyer Cancer Center leverages existing Weill Cornell Medicine programs to promote cancer research education and training opportunities. To support implementation and evaluation of CRTEC initiatives, Dr. Giannakakou established a CRTEC Leadership Committee, composed of ten faculty members who lead cancer-related training programs at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Giannakakou is supported by Dr. Stephanie Rodgers, the Meyer Cancer Center education manager, in the creation of academic programs that complement existing education at Weill Cornell Medicine while supporting Meyer Cancer Center strategic priorities.

During the summer of 2023, CRTEC hosted the fourth year of the joint Summer Internship Program (SIP) between the Meyer Cancer Center and the Englander Institute for Precision Medicine. This summer program provides high school and undergraduate students with hands-on mentored research experiences, cancer biology lectures and career development workshops over a six-week period. In 2023, the SIP welcomed 35 high school and undergraduate students, with 16 Meyer Cancer Center faculty serving as research mentors and seven Meyer Cancer Center faculty serving as lecture preceptors. Furthermore, CRTEC helped sponsor four medical students to complete a summer internship in cancer research. CRTEC also funded two students through the ACCESS program, a Weill Cornell Medicine program that provides mentored laboratory research for college students from underrepresented populations in medicine. Through other Weill Cornell Medicine programs, such as the Travelers Program and the Gateways to the Laboratory program, Meyer Cancer Center faculty mentored seven and three students, respectively.

Meyer Cancer Center faculty also benefitted from the innovative FARM (Faculty Advancement and Research Mentorship) program, established by Dr. Giannakakou in 2015. This program offers junior faculty longitudinal support to obtain their first R01 or equivalent major grant, with an NIH-funding success rate of 87%, with 20 Meyer Cancer Center early career faculty obtaining a total of 37 NIH/DoD/foundation grants, 18 of which were funded by the NCI. For the 2023-2024 FARM cycle, eight out of 26 FARM members are affiliated with the Meyer Cancer Center, with one returning for their second year in the program.

Meyer Cancer Center

Media Coverage Mentions

July 2023-June 2024

Friday, July 21, 2023

Using A Patient's Immune System To Treat Skin Cancer

CURE

- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok discusses how immunotherapy is being used to treat skin cancer, available options, potential side effects and what to expect in the future.
- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine

Monday, July 31, 2023

Larchmont's Swim Across America Nears \$25M Mark In Overall Donations For Cancer Research

News 12 Westchester

- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine
- Dr. Taha Merghoub, the co-director of the Ludwig Collaborative Laboratory, the Margaret and Herman Sokol Professor in Oncology Research, professor of research in pharmacology, professor of immunology research in medicine

Thursday, August 31, 2023

BriaCell Therapeutics, Weill Cornell Partner To Study Immunotherapy In Neoadjuvant TNBC

Precision Medicine Online

- Dr. Massimo Cristofanilli will lead a Phase II trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the neoadjuvant Bria-IMT immunotherapy in combination with a checkpoint inhibitor for patients with early-stage, newly diagnosed, high-risk triple negative breast cancer.
- Dr. Massimo Cristofanilli, director of breast medical oncology, associate director of precision oncology in the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine

Friday, September 15, 2023

Newfound Stem Cell Might Explain How Breast Cancer Spreads To The Spine

Scientific American

- Continuing coverage of Dr. Matthew Greenblatt and colleagues' study that discovered a new type of stem cell that causes the frequent metastasis of breast tumors and other cancers to the spine.
- Dr. Matthew Greenblatt, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
(This article originally appeared in Nature Magazine)

Meyer Cancer Center

Media Coverage Mentions

July 2023-June 2024 (continued)

Stem Cells In Vertebral Bones Can Act Like Cancer Magnets

Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News

- Ongoing coverage of Dr. Matthew Greenblatt and colleagues' study that discovered a new type of stem cell that causes the frequent metastasis of breast tumors and other cancers to the spine.
- Dr. Matthew Greenblatt, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Vertebral Stem Cell Lineage Promotes Cancer Metastases

Inside Precision Medicine

- Further coverage of Dr. Matthew Greenblatt and colleagues' study that discovered a new type of stem cell that causes the frequent metastasis of breast tumors and other cancers to the spine.
- Dr. Matthew Greenblatt, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Drs. Jedd D. Wolchok And Lisa Newman Elected To National Academy Of Medicine

Practical Dermatology

- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine
- Dr. Lisa Newman, chief of breast surgery, professor of surgery

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Dr. Allan On The Investigation Of Obinutuzumab Triplet Consolidation In MRD-Positive CLL

OncLive

- Dr. John N. Allan, the David M. Nanus, M.D. Clinical Scholar in Cancer, associate professor of clinical medicine

Monday, October 30, 2023

Wolchok Discusses Possibilities In Cancer Treatment

The Scarsdale Inquirer

- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine

Meyer Cancer Center

Media Coverage Mentions

July 2023-June 2024 (continued)

Friday, November 3, 2023

Combination Of Chemotherapies Addresses Treatment-Resistant Lymphomas Inside Precision Medicine

- Drs. Sarah Rutherford and Leandro Cerchietti and colleague's study, published in the journal Cancer Research, identified a mechanism that eventually allows for DNA repair in cancer cells and found a combination of chemotherapies that could address treatment-resistant lymphomas.
- Dr. Leandro Cerchietti, the Richard Stratton Associate Professor in Hematology and Oncology, associate professor of medicine
- Dr. Sarah Rutherford, assistant professor of medicine

Monday, November 6, 2023

Novel Strategy May Improve Outcomes In Patients With Treatment Resistant DLBCL The ASCO Post

- Continuing coverage of Drs. Sarah Rutherford, Leandro Cerchietti and colleague's study that identified a mechanism that eventually allows for DNA repair in cancer cells and found a combination of chemotherapies that could address treatment-resistant lymphomas.
- Dr. Leandro Cerchietti, the Richard Stratton Associate Professor in Hematology and Oncology, associate professor of medicine
- Dr. Sarah Rutherford, assistant professor of medicine

Monday, November 20, 2023

Lenalidomide Plus Rituximab Elicit Prolonged Responses In Mantle Cell Lymphoma OncLive

- Dr. Samuel Yamshon, assistant professor of medicine

Monday, November 27, 2023

Lenalidomide/Rituximab Induces Durable Responses In Mantle Cell Lymphoma In 9-Year Follow-Up

Oncology Nursing News

- Dr. Samuel Yamshon, assistant professor of medicine

Technique Highlights How Abnormal RNA Splicing Leads To Disease

Oncology Times

- Dr. Dan Landau, associate professor of medicine, associate professor of physiology and biophysics

Meyer Cancer Center

Media Coverage Mentions

July 2023-June 2024 (continued)

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Weill Cornell To Take Over 5 Floors Of Sotheby's UES Building

Patch

- Ongoing coverage of Weill Cornell Medicine announcing plans for expansion and a new research center after acquiring five floors of a building located at 1334 York Avenue, the current home of the Sotheby's auction house.
- Dr. Robert A. Harrington, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and provost for medical affairs of Cornell University

National Academy Of Medicine Elects New Members

The ASCO Post

- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine
- Dr. Lisa Newman, chief of breast surgery, professor of surgery

Friday, December 1, 2023

Dr. Allan On The Importance Of BTK Inhibitors And BCL2 Inhibitors In CLL

OncLive

- Dr. John N. Allan, the David M. Nanus, M.D. Clinical Scholar in Cancer, associate professor of clinical medicine

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Parker Institute Expands To Weill Cornell Medicine As It Grows Immunotherapy Work

ENDPOINTS

- Dr. Jedd Wolchok discusses The Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI) adding Weill Cornell Medicine to its network of preeminent academic and medical research institutions at the forefront of the fight against cancer.
- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine

Monday, December 18, 2023

Colorectal Tumors May Be Boosted By Cholesterol Production

Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News

- Dr. Jorge Moscat, vice chair for Cell and Cancer Pathobiology, the Homer T. Hirst III Professor of Oncology in Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
- Dr. Mario T. Diaz-Meco, the Homer T. Hirst Professor of Oncology in Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
- Dr. Yu Muta, postdoctoral associate

Meyer Cancer Center

Media Coverage Mentions

July 2023-June 2024 (continued)

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Cholesterol-Lowering Therapy Could Help Prevent And Treat Serrated-Type Colorectal Tumors

Medical Dialogues

- Dr. Jorge Moscat, vice chair for Cell and Cancer Pathobiology, the Homer T. Hirst III Professor of Oncology in Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
- Dr. Mario T. Diaz-Meco, the Homer T. Hirst Professor of Oncology in Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
- Dr. Yu Muta, postdoctoral associate

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Rethinking Immunotherapy For Cancer: When Is The Best Time To Stop?

The Wall Street Journal

- Dr. Jedd Wolchok comments on preliminary research into halting treatment with immune-boosting drugs earlier, which could spare cancer patients side effects and costs.
- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine

Cholesterol Production May Help Drive Colorectal Cancer Growth

Inside Precision Medicine

- Dr. Jorge Moscat, vice chair for Cell and Cancer Pathobiology, the Homer T. Hirst III Professor of Oncology in Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
- Dr. Mario T. Diaz-Meco, the Homer T. Hirst Professor of Oncology in Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
- Dr. Yu Muta, postdoctoral associate

Friday, January 5, 2024

Cholesterol-Lowering Therapy Could Deter Aggressive Colorectal Cancer

Oncology Times

- Dr. Jorge Moscat, vice chair for Cell and Cancer Pathobiology, the Homer T. Hirst III Professor of Oncology in Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
- Dr. Mario T. Diaz-Meco, the Homer T. Hirst Professor of Oncology in Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine
- Dr. Yu Muta, postdoctoral associate

Monday, January 8, 2024

Rare Immune Cell May Predict Immunotherapy Response In Melanoma

CURE Magazine

- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine

Meyer Cancer Center

Media Coverage Mentions

July 2023-June 2024 (continued)

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

[Radiation Oncologists Make AACR Academy's 2024 Class List](#)

Aunt Minnie

- Dr. Silvia C. Formenti, chair of radiation oncology, the Sandra and Edward Meyer Professor of Cancer Research, professor of radiation oncology, professor of medicine

Friday, January 19, 2024

[Rare Immune Cell May Predict Immunotherapy Response In Melanoma](#)

Dermatology Times

- Dr. Jedd D. Wolchok, Sandra and Edward Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of medicine

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

[Stromal Cells May Help Predict Prostate Cancer Metastasis](#)

Pathology News

- Dr. Massimo Loda, chair of pathology and laboratory medicine, the David D. Thompson Professor of Pathology, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

[Mouse Model Sheds Light On How Lung Adenocarcinoma Can Transform Into A More Aggressive Type Of Lung Cancer](#)

Managed Healthcare Executive

- Dr. Eric Gardner, the Kenneth G. and Elaine A. Langone Fellow of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, postdoctoral associate in medicine

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

[Pembrolizumab Plus Chemotherapy Elicits Continued Survival Benefit In Advanced Esophageal Cancer](#)

OncLive

- Dr. Manish A. Shah, the Bartlett Family Professor in Gastrointestinal Oncology, professor of medicine

Thursday, February 29, 2024

[Dr Shah On Responses With Pembrolizumab Plus Chemo By PD-1 Status In Esophageal Cancer](#)

OncLive

- Continuing coverage of Dr. Manish Shah discussing the outcome from the KEYNOTE-590 study of first line pembrolizumab (Keytruda) plus chemotherapy in patients with advanced esophageal cancer.
- Dr. Manish A. Shah, the Bartlett Family Professor in Gastrointestinal Oncology, professor of medicine

Meyer Cancer Center

Media Coverage Mentions

July 2023-June 2024 (continued)

Friday, April 5, 2024

Dr Shah On 5-Year Outcomes With Pembrolizumab/Chemo In Esophageal Cancer
OncLive

- Dr. Manish A. Shah, the Bartlett Family Professor in Gastrointestinal Oncology, professor of medicine

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Dr Tagawa On The Rationale For Investigating First-Line Nivolumab Plus Cisplatin In Urothelial Cancer
OncLive

- Dr. Scott T. Tagawa, professor of medicine, professor of medicine in urology

Monday, April 22, 2024

Dr Saxena On Shifts In Treatment With Targeted And Immune Therapies In NSCLC
OncLive

- Dr. Ashish Saxena, the Madeline and Stephen Anbinder Clinical Scholar in Hematology/Oncology, assistant professor of medicine

Lunning And Rutherford Detail Considerations For BV-AVD Use In Older Patients With Hodgkin Lymphoma

OncLive

- Dr. Sarah Rutherford, assistant professor of medicine

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Tagawa On Balancing Cost And Clinical Benefits Of Antibody-Drug Conjugates
Targeted Oncology

- Dr. Scott T. Tagawa, professor of medicine, professor of medicine in urology

Friday, June 14, 2024,

AI-Powered Liquid Biopsy Delivers Ultrasensitive Cancer Detection
Inside Precision Medicine

- A study led by Dr. Dan Landau and colleagues, along with researchers from other institutions, published in Nature Medicine, found an artificial intelligence-powered method for detecting tumor DNA in blood that has shown unprecedented sensitivity in predicting cancer recurrence.