OPENING SUMMER 2017, this 220,000 square-foot expansion will double HCI’s research capacity. Connected to the existing research facility via two skybridges, the new space is designed for the following:

- Study the leading causes of disease death in children: leukemia, sarcoma, and brain cancer.

- Advance our understanding of cancers that run in families.

- Accelerate the discovery of new treatments for all cancers.

- Improve long-term quality of life for cancer survivors.

- Provide world-class training opportunities for the next generation of cancer researchers.

WHY NOW?
The past has shown a 200% increase in cancer survivorship. By the year 2026, an estimated 20 million people will be diagnosed with cancer in the United States.

Cancer moves fast. We have to move faster.
OUR TIME BEGAN with an empty lot and a dream full of promise, determination, and audacity.

A dream to do the impossible. Achieve the unachievable. Defeat the undefeatable.

AS JON M. HUNTSMAN SAYS, "Cancer moves fast. And we have to move faster."
Thank you to all who support our mission, including donors, volunteers, researchers, clinical care professionals, administrators, and Huntsman Cancer Foundation staff.

A special acknowledgment to our friends at the Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah for ideas that inspired the production of this report.

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When I was a boy, people said we could never cure polio. Jonas E. Salk, MD, proved they were wrong. We know that devastating diseases can be conquered. It is our commitment that cancer, like polio, is someday only a haunting memory.

Jon M. Huntsman
ON FEBRUARY 26, 2016, Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) had the honor of hosting Vice President Joe Biden as a part of President Obama’s cancer “moonshot” initiative. During his visit, Vice President Biden toured the facility, was given an inside look at the Utah Population Database, and participated in a roundtable discussion comprising Huntsman Cancer Foundation board chair Governor Jon M. Huntsman, HCI CEO and director Mary Beckerle, PhD, University of Utah Health Care CEO and senior vice president for Health Sciences Vivian Lee, MD, PhD, MBA, and Senator Orrin Hatch. Local cancer survivors and physicians, researchers, and experts in the field also participated in the roundtable.

The Vice President’s visit was part of a national tour during which he traveled to select U.S. cancer institutes to learn from and collaborate with researchers and physicians. The goal is to find solutions to accelerate progress toward treating, preventing, and curing cancer.

During the discussion, Governor Huntsman said he hoped everyone would walk away with an understanding of three things that he views as chiefly important to the progress of cancer research: the power of community collaboration, the power of the Utah Population Database, and the importance of rural and frontier cancer care.

“You can go to Philadelphia, you can go to New York City, but it’s rare that you go to a cancer institute with this kind of rural outreach. We have Native Americans, veterans, and other minority groups who otherwise would not be able to access cancer treatment,” said Governor Huntsman. “What we do here is truly unique.”

“We are thrilled and honored that Vice President Biden and the entire White House administration has recognized Huntsman Cancer Institute as one of the best in the nation and is looking to us as a valuable resource in this fight to cure cancer,” Beckerle said. “If we can work together and effectively leverage and harness the information we are gathering, we can really accelerate progress.”

HCI holds Comprehensive Cancer Center designation by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and is the only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in the five-state Mountain West. HCI also manages the Utah Population Database, the largest genetic database in the world, with more than 22 million records linked to genealogies, health records, and vital statistics. Vice President Biden expressed a desire to figure out how this and other models of excellence created in Utah can be replicated throughout the country.

“I’ve seen Democrats, Republicans, and Independents transformed in this session. Politics have been put aside, and every American is behind you in your quest to finding a cure for cancer,” Governor Huntsman said to Biden. “We applaud you for doing that, and we’re here to help.”
IN APRIL 2016, a National Blue Ribbon Panel on the Cancer Moonshot initiative was formed. This group was tasked with making recommendations for cancer research priorities to help accelerate the progress against cancer. Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) CEO and director, Mary Beckerle, PhD, was invited to serve on this distinguished 26-member panel.

Beckerle was chosen to co-chair a working group dedicated to strategies in precision prevention and early detection of cancer. Two other HCI investigators, Martin McMahon, PhD, professor of dermatology, and Kathleen Mooney, PhD, distinguished professor of nursing, were invited to serve as members of Blue Ribbon Panel working groups. The results of the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations were presented in September 2016.

Organized at the request of Vice President Joe Biden, more than 270 organizations hosted Cancer Moonshot summits June 29, 2016. These brought together patients and survivors, researchers, physicians, advocates, philanthropists, and technology experts to brainstorm ways of speeding up progress in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care over the next five years—and to ultimately end cancer as we know it. HCI hosted an official regional summit at the University of Utah. The Vice President hosted a group at Howard University in Washington, DC, where Susan Sheehan, president and COO of Huntsman Cancer Foundation, and Kathleen Mooney, PhD, RN, co-leader of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at HCI and distinguished professor of nursing, were in attendance.
Mary Beckerle, PhD, HCI’s CEO and director; University of Utah president David Pershing; and Vivian Lee, CEO of University of Utah Health Care, senior vice president for Health Sciences, and dean of the School of Medicine, greeted His Holiness when he arrived at HCI. After taking time to talk with patients and loved ones, His Holiness was escorted to the G. Mitchell Morris Cancer Learning Center, where he met with HCI physicians, staff, several patients, and caregivers. Emma Houston, an HCI breast cancer survivor, said, “It was my pleasure to be in the presence of His Holiness and to physically feel peace and harmony as he shared his thoughts on teaching human values and inner happiness.”

SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE, MD, PHD, Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, visited HCI on March 23, 2016. Mukherjee provided a public lecture on campus, participated in a panel discussion at HCI with scientists and a cancer survivor, and spent time meeting with students from a variety of backgrounds during his visit. HCI, the School of Medicine, and the University of Utah Tanner Humanities Center co-hosted the event.

**To be globally minded is to have a sense of unity and oneness. Serve other human beings and promote a sense of concern for others.**

*His Holiness the Dalai Lama*  
**Speaking at the University of Utah**  
**June 21, 2016**
IT’S AN HISTORIC TIME for Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah. On July 9, 2015, HCI announced it had received the National Cancer Institute’s Comprehensive Cancer Center status, the highest designation possible.

“This designation is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication by all members of our community,” said Mary Beckerle, PhD, CEO and director of HCI. “Securing this designation required excellence at every level of our organization. It is especially gratifying that such an honor comes only after rigorous scientific peer review of our programs, people, facilities, and strategic plan for the future.”

That rigorous peer review included a day-long, on-site visit by national cancer research experts and thought leaders in the fourth quarter of 2014.

HCI is the only cancer center to be designated by the National Cancer Institute in the five-state Mountain West region, which includes Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Nevada—more than 17% of the continental U.S. landmass.

With this status, HCI joins distinguished cancer centers such as Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard University, Johns Hopkins Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center—among the top cancer centers in the world.

“Only a small percentage of the nation’s cancer programs have the excellence necessary to receive Comprehensive Cancer Center status. What a difference this will make to the cancer patients in our state, in the region, and in the world.”

Jon M. Huntsman
DOUG LOWY, MD, acting director of the National Cancer Institute, visited Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) on September 29, 2016. Lowy met with HCI faculty, staff, and trainees, and learned about HCI research in cancer genetics, rural cancer care and symptom management, and cancer models and mechanisms. He also presented on the topic “HPV Vaccine: FDA Approval Was Just the Beginning.”

**DOUG LOWY, MD**

**SELEcTED HCI SEMINARS**

HCI hosts numerous scientific seminars and symposia each year, attracting distinguished researchers from around the world.

**FEBRUARY 4, 2016**
DAVID LARGAESPA, PHD
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Functional Genomics of Osteosarcoma Development and Progression Using Transposon Mutagenesis and Targeted Nucleases

**FEBRUARY 13, 2016**
Sixth Annual HCI Hematology Review: Advances in Benign and Malignant Hematology
Co-Sponsored by HCI, the Division of Hematology and Hematologic Malignancies, and the Department of Medicine

**MARCH 11, 2016**
GERARD EVAN, PHD
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Targeting Cancer’s Engines, Not Its Drivers

**MARCH 25, 2016**
SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE, MD, PhD
PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR OF THE EMPEROR OF ALL MALADIES
Tackling Cancer in 2016: Precision Prevention and Treatment
Co-Sponsored by HCI, the University of Utah Health Sciences Center, and the Tanner Humanities Center

**APRIL 1, 2016**
DAVID GILBERT, PHD
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
Developmental Control of Replication Timing and Chromosome Architecture

**APRIL 15, 2016**
PATRICIA GANZ, MD
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES
Understanding the Biology of Late Effects of Cancer Treatment

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2016**
DOUG LOWY, MD, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
HPV Vaccine: FDA Approval Was Just the Beginning

**OCTOBER 19, 2016**
ANDREA MATTEVI, PHD
UNIVERSITY OF PAVIA
Uncovering and Drug Targeting of Complex Enzymatic Processes: From Phospholipid Biosynthesis to Chromatin Modification

**OCTOBER 26, 2016**
MONTE WINSLOW, PHD
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Molecular Drivers of Cancer Progression and Metastasis

**SELECTED FACULTY HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **Mary Beckerle, PhD**
  - DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY
  - 2014-2016 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER

- **Jakob Jensen, PhD**
  - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION
  - NIH NEW INNOVATOR AWARD, 2015

- **Martin McMahon, PhD**
  - PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY
  - 2015 PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH

- **Jody Rosenblatt, PhD**
  - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES
  - HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE FACULTY SCHOLAR AWARD, 2016

- **Jared Rutter, PhD**
  - PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY
  - HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE INVESTIGATOR, 2015

- **Joshua Schiffman, MD**
  - PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS AND ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES
  - TOP 5 MOST POPULAR JAMA PAPERS IN 2015

- **John Sweetenham, MD, FRCP, FACP**
  - PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
  - 2015-2016 UTAH CANCER ACTION NETWORK CHAIR

- **Alana Weim, PhD**
  - PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES
  - SUSAN G. KOMEN SCHOLAR, 2016

- **Theresa Werner, MD**
  - ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
  - NO CANCER CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR TEAM LEADERSHIP AWARD, 2016
EWING SARCOMA is a deadly bone cancer. Though rare, when it occurs it primarily affects children and young adults. In nearly every case, Ewing sarcoma is driven by a change in DNA that results in the production of a dysfunctional protein called EWS/FLI. This protein has been shown to turn off tumor suppressor genes—the genes that help prevent cancerous cells from forming or spreading.

In 2012, two Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) investigators reported in the journal *Oncogene* they had found a new drug, HCI2509, which targets this protein. In 2014 additional findings from HCI labs, published in the journal *Clinical Cancer Research*, showed HCI2509 led to increased activity of genes involved in stopping or killing abnormal cells. In addition, it led to decreased activity of genes involved in cell division and growth. The investigators also found that HCI2509 alters the shape of cultured Ewing sarcoma cancer cells. The researchers hypothesize this could slow the metastatic spread of Ewing sarcoma.

In 2016, the drug is now being tested in a clinical trial in Ewing sarcoma, and subsequent studies are underway to determine if it may also be effective in treatment of other cancers, including endometrial and prostate (see Research Spotlight of Sunil Sharma, MD, HCI senior director of clinical research, opposite page).

“Clinical trials give us the data we need to advance appropriate therapies into the clinic as soon as possible,” Dr. Sharma said.
IN 2016, HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE (HCI) launched a unique program called HCI-T otal Cancer Care®, which will follow patients through cancer screenings and treatments and into good health throughout their lives.

The program, which is borne out of HCI’s membership in the Oncology Research Information Exchange Network (ORIEN), uses patient data to help match patients to clinical trials and treatment developments across the country.

Patients who participate in the HCI-T otal Cancer Care® program partner with HCI’s health care providers and researchers so they stay apprised of new treatments and information related to their cancer diagnosis. Patients donate tissue samples, share medical data for research, and may be asked to complete questionnaires about family history, health behaviors, and quality of life. The information is used to create a personal profile of the patient that will help HCI physicians provide better care.

“By joining with leading cancer centers across the country, we have access to much more information from many more patients, allowing us to do more than any one cancer center could do alone,” said John Sweetenham, MD, HCI executive medical director and senior director of clinical affairs, professor of internal medicine at the University of Utah, and co-leader of HCI-T otal Cancer Care®.

“It is becoming clear that cancers often have specific genetic defects and that patients may benefit from targeted treatments. However, since in some cases only a few HCI patients have the same defect in their tumor, it is not always possible for these patients to be included in clinical trials for specialized therapies,” said Cornelia Ulrich, PhD, HCI senior director of population sciences, professor of population health sciences at the University of Utah, Jon and Karen Huntsman presidential professor in cancer research, and co-leader with Sweetenham of HCI-T otal Cancer Care®. “By working with the ORIEN network of cancer centers and more than 150,000 participants, HCI patients have access to a broader set of clinical trials and the newest treatments.”

Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) joins other leading cancer centers as part of the ORIEN network.

ORIEN was founded in 2014 by Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida, and The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute in Columbus, Ohio.
One day in 1999, Jon M. Huntsman learned that Dee Smith’s son Richie, wife Julie, and sons Nicholas, Ryan, and Scott, had done something remarkable. They quietly donated $1 million to support cancer research at HCI.

WHEN HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE learned about the plans for Vice President Biden’s visit to Salt Lake City, out of the many areas of research strength, we showcased our work in remote symptom management. As the only National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center in the five-state Mountain West, an area that includes Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, HCI has long placed a priority on understanding how to best meet the needs of people impacted by cancer who live in rural areas.

Endowed Chairs show the important role philanthropy plays in advancing cancer research. Resources provided by an endowed chair can be used to attract and retain top faculty, fund lab trainees, and support innovative research. The Smith family is an example of this generosity.

Dee Glen Smith began his career at the family grocery store in Brigham City, Utah. He parlayed that modest beginning into the successful chain of grocery stores known today as Smith’s Food and Drug Centers. The brilliant entrepreneur was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 58 and passed away that same year. Recognizing the dire need for better treatments for brain cancer, he and his sweetheart, Ida, made a gift from the family business to pursue medical research at the University of Utah. Generosity is a trait that runs in the Smith family, and a subsequent, major gift was given by Richie and Julie Smith, continuing the legacy (see letter).
UTAH POPULATION DATABASE IN INFORMATION SOURCES

THE UTAH POPULATION DATABASE (UPDB) is a unique and vast computerized research resource that contains records from many sources, including genealogies, cancer registry records, Utah birth and death certificates, hospitalization records, and driver license data. These records are linked to patient records from the University of Utah and Intermountain Healthcare.

Started in 1975 with data from the Utah Family History Library, the UPDB contains genealogies for the original Utah pioneers and their modern-day descendants. Today, the UPDB has expanded its genealogical coverage by using vital records. It now includes information for more than 9 million persons—some that go back 14 generations and as long ago as the late 17th century.

Researchers have used the UPDB to identify and study families with an excess incidence of cancer, analyze patterns of genetic inheritance, and identify specific genetic mutations. This resource contributed to important gene discoveries, including those for colon cancer (APC), breast cancer (BRCA1), melanoma (p16), and cardiac arrhythmia (KCNH2).

The UPDB is the only database of its kind in the United States and one of few such resources in the world. And it is housed right here at the University of Utah’s Huntsman Cancer Institute.
KATHY AND HER NIECE, RHONDA, regularly make the trip from their small town in Illinois to Salt Lake City. It isn’t to see family and friends or to cheer for University of Utah sports teams. They travel to Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) to be tested for polyps in their intestines. Kathy and Rhonda have familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), an inherited genetic disease. FAP causes hundreds of polyps to form throughout the small and large intestines. Any polyp in the intestine has the potential to become cancer. With so many polyps, people with FAP have nearly 100% risk of developing colon cancer. People with FAP often have surgery to remove the colon to prevent cancer.

“I remember my grandmother having surgery,” Rhonda said. “After that, I can remember my mom having surgery right away, and then my aunt having surgery right away, and then me having to undergo some testing.”

Kathy had a similar experience. As kids, she and her siblings knew their grandfather and mother had a condition, but she didn’t yet understand the effect it would have on them.

Family members started searching for specialists in genetic cancers. They found HCI where the genetic cause of FAP was discovered. There, they met Jewel Samadder, MD, clinical director of HCI’s high-risk cancer clinics and assistant professor of medicine. He led a clinical trial to test a new medicine that reduces the number of polyps forming in the intestine.

“We can target the use of a medication to people with the highest risk of cancer,” Dr. Samadder said. “Whether it’s cancer in the colon or the small intestine, we can reduce or eliminate the chance that they develop those cancers.”

This preliminary trial showed very promising results, with patients who received the medication seeing a greater than 70% drop in their polyp numbers. For some, the polyps disappeared completely. The results, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, are a step toward preventing cancers and the need for bowel surgery in patients at the highest risk.

Kathy and Rhonda both took part in the trial—not only for their own health, but for the health of their families. Rhonda said, “HCI has given me hope for my children and my grandchildren. Now that they know the genetic marker, my children can have children without the disease. It gives my family hope.”

Kathy agrees, adding that she knows the researchers and doctors at HCI won’t stop looking for ways to end the threat of all types of cancer. “There isn’t complacency,” she explained. “When they get through with this trial, they’ll move on to something else. They’ll keep working.”

Dr. Samadder said he’s thankful to have people like Kathy and Rhonda fly across the country to be part of this important trial. Currently, HCI is working with the National Cancer Institute to open a trial for this treatment that includes several other cancer centers nationwide.

“We hope this treatment will spur future trials looking at chemoprevention or precision cancer prevention in high-risk disorders such as FAP, Lynch syndrome (another cause of colon cancer), and hereditary breast and ovarian cancer,” said Dr. Samadder.
WHEN KIERA WAS DIAGNOSED with cancer at age 19, she fought not only sarcoma, but also a deadly mystery that had loomed over her family for generations. Now years out of treatment, Kiera has answers and is conducting research to help families like hers better understand a rare genetic mutation.

Saying Kiera’s family has a history of cancer is an understatement. Her grandfather was one of 16 children, several of whom were diagnosed with cancer. Still, when Kiera went to the emergency room in pain and a CT scan revealed a mass in her abdomen, the emergency doctors didn’t suspect cancer. The mass was diagnosed as diverticulitis. She was sent home but returned two weeks later with the same pain. Her mother, Eleana, insisted on taking her to Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI). Kiera was diagnosed with pleomorphic sarcoma, an aggressive form of cancer. After several months of treatment and surgery on her abdomen, she was pronounced cancer-free.

Kiera’s experience with cancer gave her a new life mission. She became a cancer researcher at HCI. “I had cancer, and now I’m helping others that also have cancer,” Kiera said. “I feel like I have this special connection that makes me more passionate and gives me a bigger drive to find answers.”

While working on a project in the Dr. Joshua Schiffman Lab at HCI about Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS)—an inherited genetic mutation that means a nearly 100% risk of cancer—Kiera mentioned her family’s cancer history to a colleague, who suggested Kiera be tested for LFS. Two weeks later, Kiera received a diagnosis confirming that she has LFS.

“It’s crazy that I was working in the Schiffman Lab before I was diagnosed with LFS because it is one of the leading labs in Li-Fraumeni research,” said Kiera. “What are the odds?”

She knew her next step. “I brought my paperwork home and I showed my mom. I told her she needed to be tested and that my dad needed to be tested as well,” Kiera said.

Knowing about her genetic mutation means Kiera can take preventive measures. She does yearly cancer screenings, gets a full-body and brain MRI, has blood work taken, and meets with several oncologists to watch out for any sign of cancer.

Kiera is now in a PhD program at the University of Utah. Her goal is to finish school and continue to do “the nitty-gritty research” that helps move knowledge about cancer forward, so she can give hope to her family and others diagnosed with LFS.

CANCER SCREENINGS CAN SAVE LIVES

Kiera’s mom, Eleana, had genetic testing and found she also has Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS). She began regular cancer screenings, which led doctors to discover kidney cancer and, more recently, breast cancer. Both cancers were found early and Eleana underwent successful treatments.

Kiera and Eleana now encourage other family members to be tested for LFS, and if they have it, to start annual screenings to spot cancer before it spreads.
Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) is known for leading-edge cancer care, and our oncology nurses are on the leading edge of their profession.

HCI’s nurses and support professionals contribute to excellent patient care at every step—from clinic visits to treatment to wellness and family support. HCI routinely scores in the 99th percentile in patient satisfaction based on nationwide surveys conducted by Press Ganey. Our nurses are essential to this exceptional standard of care.

Some recent comments from our patients reflect the major role their nurse had in contributing to an exceptional patient experience:

“I had an infusion… I can’t say enough good things about my nurse. She is efficient and very kind.”

“The nurse who saw me was so, so kind and so sweet and just made me feel like they wanted to help take care of my health. Each even gave me a hug at the end of my visit. I’ll always remember that.”

Nurses play an especially important role, not only in delivery of outstanding cancer care, but also in support of clinical research on new and better cancer treatments. The contributions of nurses are critical to our mission to advance understanding of research discoveries to better prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer patients and their families.

During the visit of Vice President Biden to HCI in February 2016, a number of panelists joined the vice president in a discussion about the unique ways we in Utah are working to advance cancer research. The discussion included a conversation about the critical contributions made by nurses in delivery of cancer care.

Vice President Biden conveyed to HCI what a profound impact the nurses had on him and his family while his son, Beau Biden, underwent treatments for glioblastoma.

Vice President Biden said, “If there are any angels in heaven, they are all nurses.”

Oncology Nurses—Providing Exceptional Patient Care

When Career and Passion Collide

I’ve wanted to be a nurse since I was six years old. It was all about the cap and uniform! It has been the best career I could have chosen. I never realized the lifelong friendships I would have with colleagues. Getting to know our patients and the difficult journeys they make has been inspiring and humbling.

As a group, oncology nurses are smart and kind, competent and creative, and always seem to be one step ahead of me. As I visit patients, I often hear their passionate appreciation for their physicians. And then they pause. The emotion involved in trying to tell me about how the nursing staff has impacted their cancer experience is overwhelming. I have seen stoic men get choked up and tearful as they try to tell me the impact HCI nurses have had on their lives and their families.

It is a beautiful moment when a person realizes their career and passion have collided.

Thanks to Jon and Karen Huntsman, HCI is an outstanding environment to care for our patients. It is also an amazing environment for our nurses to practice the art of oncology nursing.

Sue Childress RN, MN, OCN
Director of Nursing Services
Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah

This is a picture of me the day in 1979 when I got ‘pinned’ by my favorite nursing instructor, Dr. Mary Bruton. She was my first mentor.”

Sue Childress

Best Practices Inform Unique HCI Training Program for Oncology Nurse Professionals

Nursing is a demanding profession, and oncology nursing requires specialized knowledge. Training is key to help new nurses in oncology develop a strong foundation for future success. The Huntsman Oncology Nurse Residency (HONR) program is designed to help new nurses be successful in their first year in cancer care.

The curriculum includes an evidence-based project to improve patient outcomes. Mentorship and professional development are also important aspects of the program. The rigorous 12-month training, which recently began its fifth cohort, prepares HONRs to become Oncology-Certified Nurses.
PEOPLE WHO LOSE PART OF their face to disease or injury can have a lifelike replacement, thanks to anaplastologist Paul Tanner, who oversees Facial Prosthetics at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI). Started in 2004, this program restores self-image and self-confidence to people with facial disfigurements due to illness and injury, including cancer.

At HCI’s onsite lab, Tanner works personally with each individual to create a custom prosthesis precisely matched to skin color and translucency.

"Applying science to the art of making prostheses yields remarkable results," said Tanner. "I tell people I am an artist who needs to think like a scientist in order to solve problems and innovate."

Research at HCI focuses on the color and translucency of skin and prosthetic materials. Tanner contributes to skin color studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Tanner enjoys the art and science of his work. But the most rewarding part? “A sincere thank you after I’ve helped someone move on with life.”

Jim Lindow underwent many treatments for melanoma: one surgery to amputate his ear, one surgery to remove 35 lymph nodes, dozens of radiation treatments, and a year of chemotherapy. He also faced the question of what to do about his missing ear. Should he have plastic surgery, a prosthesis, or nothing at all?

Jim met another patient with a very realistic prosthesis who convinced him to see anaplastologist Paul Tanner. When asked about his experience, Jim said: “Let me put it this way: unless I point it out, most people can’t tell I have a prosthetic ear. And even when I tell people, some can’t tell which ear it is.”

Today Jim is cancer-free, active, and healthy. His prosthesis fits into his active lifestyle, which includes hiking and rock climbing. “I’m able to do just about anything,” he said.
IMAGING IS A CRITICAL TOOL in the fight against cancer. Imaging used in cancer treatment and research is a noninvasive way to evaluate the impact of a therapy, to see if cancerous tissues are growing or retracting, and to identify whether cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

The Center for Quantitative Cancer Imaging (CQCI) at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) is led by John M. Hoffman, MD, investigator and professor of radiology and imaging sciences and neurology; and Jeffrey T. Yap, PhD, investigator and research associate professor of radiology and imaging sciences. The CQCI integrates HCI’s research in new cancer therapies with two dedicated human research PET/CT scanners, including a new state-of-the-art, time-of-flight PET/CT.

In addition, the CQCI has established a preclinical imaging laboratory with SPECT/CT and PET/MRI scanners for imaging rodent models of cancer. As HCI’s focus on clinical research and clinical translation expands, the CQCI plays a key role in ensuring state-of-the-art technologies are available, along with the analytical expertise to interpret data.

New imaging technologies and techniques are critical in our fight against cancer.”

John M. Hoffman, MD

Cancer cells often use more glucose, or sugar, than healthy cells. In PET imaging, patients are injected with a special form of glucose called FDG, which accumulates in parts of the body using more glucose. Potentially cancerous lesions can be identified as areas of increased glucose consumption. Using a combined PET/CT scanner, the images produced show not only anatomy from CT, but also the actual biological function of the body using PET.

IT IS EXCELLENCE YOU CAN SEE. HCI was named a Center for Quantitative Imaging Excellence by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2011. A prestigious recognition, but what exactly does it mean? Being named a Center for Quantitative Imaging Excellence means that HCI has demonstrated expertise in cancer imaging technology—that is, taking pictures of the inside of the body to look at healthy tissue as well as cancer tissue. This recognition means HCI is “trial-ready” to conduct rigorous NCI trials that have an imaging component.

The clock is nearing midnight, and the clinics have long been closed. But that’s just when the Cyclotron Operations team at HCI gets started.

The cyclotron is a machine that manufactures very short-lived radioisotopes that can be used to manufacture PET radiopharmaceuticals. One such agent is Fluoro-2-deoxyglucose, or FDG. PET is one of the most accurate imaging techniques to detect, characterize, and stage various types of cancers. Since FDG decays rapidly within a day, time is of the essence in getting it synthesized and delivered.

When the first person walks in the door at night, the initial step is to start up the cyclotron. While it produces the Fluorine-18, staff members prepare for the other manufacturing processes that will attach the Fluorine-18 to FDG. After about 30 minutes of chemical synthesis, the agent is quality tested and then transferred to HCI’s internal radiopharmacy for dispensing into doses.

“When everything is tested for safety and out the door around 6 a.m.,” said Brandon Buckway, PhD, senior PET radiochemist at HCI. Doses are delivered to HCI clinics, local area clinics, and neighboring state clinics throughout the Mountain West by ground or by air.

Yet this is only part of the cyclotron team’s day. Once the imaging agents are completed, the focus turns to research compounds needed by HCI labs and outside researchers.

“The compounds we develop and produce allow researchers to measure and observe exactly what is happening in a tumor or diseased tissue in real time,” said Buckway. As demand from oncologists and other researchers increases, he said, “there will only be more growth and diversity of the products we supply.”
From Terminal to Cancer-Free

Larry Hegland’s Metastatic Melanoma wasn’t going away. After he finished treatment, more tumors began appearing as lesions on his arm.

Enter Robert Andtbacka, MD, CM, a surgeon and investigator with Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI). Dr. Andtbacka is principal investigator of multiple clinical trials testing talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC), a mutated version of the cold sore virus, in late-stage melanoma. This is an example of immunotherapy: using a patient’s own immune system to fight cancer.

The science behind this treatment sounds more like a video game—researchers hijack the virus and change its genome so it attacks only melanoma cells. Once inside the body, the virus replicates, blows up the melanoma cells, and releases a factor that trains the patient’s immune system to chase down and deactivate melanoma-related proteins wherever they may be.

After the lesions in Larry’s arms were injected with the mutated virus, “they started disappearing,” Larry said. Larry’s post-treatment scans showed he was cancer-free. His reaction? “Wow. Just wow.”

Initial results of the Phase III trial, published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* in 2015, showed 64% of tumors treated with T-VEC shrank, and some tumors disappeared completely. “We have a new modality for treating melanoma, and we can now look at combining this therapy with other therapies,” said Dr. Andtbacka. “At HCI we’ve been instrumental in looking at these combination therapies.

“What is encouraging with many of these therapies,” adds Andtbacka, “is that the patients who respond tend to have very long-lasting responses.”

Larry said he feels lucky to have been treated at HCI by Dr. Andtbacka and his team. “I owe them my life.”

“I always call Tammy and Brittany my angels,” said Larry Hegland. Brittany Thomas, PA-C, MPAS, and Tammy Willis, RN, were part of Larry’s care team. After his treatment was finished, Larry gave them each a necklace with an angel pendant and a card that said, “You’re an angel to me.”

“Fifteen years ago, we had very few treatments that improved survival in patients with melanoma. In the past 10 years or so, the focus changed to immunotherapy. With these studies, survival continues to improve.”

Robert Andtbacka, MD, CM
Helping the Medically Underserved

When Wayne Reaud won major lawsuits against Big Tobacco and Toshiba, he did more than celebrate a big payday for his law firm, Reaud, Morgan, and Quinn. He also founded Beaumont Foundation of America so he could continue to champion causes for working men and women and the underserved.

After learning about the Native American Outreach Program at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI), Wayne became the single largest donor to HCI’s programs for the medically underserved. In doing so, he ensured that those who need cancer services the most are able to access them.

Wayne is known throughout the legal community as a champion of working men and women. He received his law degree from Texas Tech University in 1974 and is a former member of the Lamar University Board of Regents, former director of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, and past president of the Southeast Texas Trial Lawyers Association. He is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Association and a fellow of the International Society of Barristers, and he is listed in Best Lawyers in America.

AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES continue to have the poorest five-year survival rates among all racial and ethnic groups, for all cancers combined, according to the National Cancer Institute. Since Utah is home to seven Native American Tribes and Nations, Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) established the Native American Outreach (NAO) Program in June 2008, providing culturally competent education about cancer and forging formal agreements to support research partnerships.

Phyllis Pettit Nassi, MSW, associate director of the NAO Program, is enrolled in the Otoe-Missouria Tribe and a member of the Cherokee Nation. Lynne Hall, MSW, is the NAO Program administrative coordinator and is enrolled in the Klamath Tribes and a descendant of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. “This program is more than outreach. It’s about advocating for change... it’s about empowering the people,” said Nassi.

The NAO Program has reached more than 920,000 people. Services have been used by 204 tribal (United States), first (Canada), and aboriginal (Australia) nations’ members.

“Closing the Health Equity Gap for Native Americans

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In September 2016, Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) announced a new initiative: the HCI Center for Health Outcomes and Population Equity (HOPE). This will focus on discovering new ways to prevent and treat cancer among underserved populations, including people living in poverty and residents of rural and frontier areas.

HCI and the Department of Population Health Sciences at the University of Utah recruited David W. Wetter, PhD, an international leader in the study of health-related behavior in high-risk and underserved populations, minorities, and women. He previously led groundbreaking studies focused on tobacco use and cessation, alcohol, diet, and physical activity at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

At the HCI Center for HOPE, Wetter will lead a team of scientists dedicated to improving cancer prevention and cancer outcomes for underserved populations.
GMaP is designed to enhance and expand cancer health equity research while simultaneously promoting workforce diversity.

GMaP stands for the Geographical Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP). Supported through a National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant, GMaP brings together researchers, trainees and students, new and early-stage investigators, and community members from specific regions throughout the United States. Groups, which include 152 partners, collectively identify and prioritize the cancer research, training, education, and outreach topics that matter most in their areas. It’s a national program with an appreciation for geographically unique issues, but with an overarching goal: to end cancer health inequities and make quality cancer care accessible for everyone nationwide.

Ana Maria Lopez, MD, MPH, director of Cancer Health Equity at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) and project director for GMaP Region 6, said the GMaP grant is one of the first efforts at HCI to cultivate cancer researchers focused specifically on cancer health disparities. HCI was eligible to apply for the grant after earning Comprehensive Cancer Center status from the NCI in July 2015. Region 6 serves Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

“This grant enables us to contribute in the field of developing researchers who are focused on addressing these inequities,” Lopez said.

By sharing information, resources, and tools, GMaP regions set out to do the following:

• Advance cancer health equity research
• Encourage the next generation of competitive underrepresented cancer and cancer health equity researchers
• Contribute to measurable reductions in cancer health disparities in our region
• Increase sharing of cancer information and best practices among researchers and trainees

To date, GMaP Region 6 has awarded seven travel stipends of $800 each for career development opportunities and two $20,000 pilot awards for new or early-stage investigators. An inaugural conference will kick off in spring 2017, bringing regional partners together to share research and lessons learned.

Utah’s Hispanic/Latino population is the 2nd largest and fastest growing, according to the 2013 U.S. census.

Navigating the Way through Cancer Treatment

Being diagnosed with cancer is difficult enough, but what comes next can be just as overwhelming—making appointments with multiple doctors, planning how to get to those appointments, filling out insurance forms. Things can be complicated and hard to understand. There’s a whole new language of cancer to learn.

Spanish-speaking patient navigators at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) work with Spanish-speaking patients and their families to guide them through the complex health care system. The patient navigator serves as a single, consistent point of contact between patients and their health care team throughout treatment.

Launched in 2009, the Patient Navigator Program has a primary goal to eliminate barriers to quality care. This includes assessing patient and family needs, setting or changing appointments, getting or refilling prescriptions, and accompanying patients to critical appointments where diagnosis and treatment options are discussed. Patient navigators also help patients understand instructions or changes to treatments and communicate needs and concerns to care providers.

“When patients are diagnosed with cancer, they don’t know what to do. The emotional impact is really hard for them,” said patient navigator Guadalupe Tovar. “Misunderstanding can lead patients to drop treatment or be non-compliant. We navigators are linguistically and culturally able to address their concerns.”

As of 2016, HCI’s patient navigator program has served more than 800 Hispanic patients and their families. “Every patient is unique,” said Guadalupe. “Maybe a patient doesn’t have as many needs at the beginning, but along the way they may need much more.”
Embraced by Beauty

WHEN DEVELOPING PLANS for Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI), Jon M. and Karen Huntsman envisioned an inspirational environment and believed art was an important part of that vision.

Patients, families, staff, and care providers enjoy hundreds of works of art throughout the buildings. Curated by volunteer experts, the collection was donated by patients, doctors, and artists. “It warms up the space and gives it life,” said Karen.

Mark Peterson noticed the beautiful art when he spent time as an inpatient. He and his family have shown their gratitude to HCI in myriad ways. He and his wife, Nancy, made generous financial contributions, named the hospital family room in honor of HCI oncologist John Ward, MD, and introduced their adult children to the importance of giving back. Their children also became major donors to HCI.

Throughout their relationship with HCI, which continues to this day, the Peterson family asked, “What more can we do to improve the experience for other patients and families who will walk in our shoes as cancer patients and caregivers?”

Imagine the collective surprise and gratitude when the family donated its entire collection of early Utah art to Huntsman Cancer Foundation, to be displayed at HCI for all to enjoy.

Thanks to the generosity of the V. Mark and Nancy Peterson family and the P.I. Foundation, HCI exhibits a significant selection of extraordinary Utah art. These works feature artists such as C.C.A. Christensen, Henry Culmer, John Hafen, James Harwood, Frank Huff, Alfred Lambourne, B.F. Larsen, William Major, George Martin Ottinger, LeConte Stewart, and Mahonri Young.

A number of these works are featured in the first floor pharmacy area, on the sixth floor adjacent to the Cancer Learning Center (where a collection of the work of landscape artist LeConte Stewart is housed), in the hallway leading from the cancer hospital to the research building, and in the fourth floor waiting area.

Visitors to HCI are invited to view the collection and celebrate Utah’s artistic heritage while enjoying the beautiful art and architecture throughout the cancer hospital and research buildings.

This 16-foot-long LeConte Stewart painting, Mt. Ben Lomond and Foothills, was too massive to fit in the HCI elevators. During a major expansion of the cancer hospital, the painting was lifted by crane and carried through the windows. The painting is on display on the sixth floor of the cancer hospital near the Cancer Learning Center.

“People who come here are sick, or they wouldn’t be here. You want to embrace them with all the beauty you can, so they can take their minds off their troubles.”

Karen Huntsman

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Karen Huntsman
Ron and Jodie Smart are pleased to work with many important charities in our local and national community. But Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) is a standout in their minds. Having already lost his father to cancer, in 2004 Ron watched his dear friend, business partner, and brother-in-law slip away to the disease. Ron and Jodie were devastated by this loss and decided to help support cancer research in honor of Ronald Lee Richardson.

Ronald Lee Richardson loved life, and he loved Utah Utes football. His last season cheering for the Utes was one of the most winning seasons in University of Utah history. The Runnin’ Utes gave him much to celebrate, and their winning ways were a welcome distraction from cancer. It was only fitting that upon his passing, Ron and Jodie would choose a private patient room at HCI affording a perfect view of Rice-Eccles Stadium to honor Richardson’s memory. The patient room—the one Ronald actually stayed in—is dedicated to the memory of Ronald Lee Richardson and in honor of his wife Ruth Ann and their children.

The first to name a patient room at HCI, Ron and Jodie knew if they modeled philanthropy, others would follow their example. They are proud to witness every private patient room—100 in all—has since been named by other generous donors, each representing a gift between $50,000 and $150,000 for cancer research.

The Smart family and their company, Won-Door, have steadfastly supported HCI each year since that first gift. Not only do they lead as philanthropists, they encourage friends and associates to do so as well. Thanks to their generosity, millions of dollars have been raised through the gala and golf events Ron chairs annually.

The next phase of Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) is now underway—a project that will double our research capacity and accelerate discoveries leading to better treatments and prevention strategies for cancer. Thank you to our generous supporters who have joined with us to advance cancer research that saves lives through the Primary Children’s and Families’ Cancer Research Center at HCI, opening summer 2017:

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- The State of Utah
- Intermountain Healthcare
- Salt Lake County
- The University of Utah
- The Jon M. Huntsman family and more than 100,000 donors to the Huntsman Cancer Foundation
These words from the 68th Grand Consul of Sigma Chi Fraternity, Michael Greenberg, echo the thoughts of Sigma Chi members throughout North America. The fraternity named Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) a preferred charity in 2005 in honor of Significant Sig and Order of Constantine Sig Jon M. Huntsman. In 2013, Huntsman Cancer Foundation was named the sole philanthropic partner of Sigma Chi. To date, Sigma Chi has raised more than $4.5 million for cancer research at HCI.

On June 15, 2015, Sigma Chi announced a seven-year, $10 million fundraising commitment in support of HCI. In honor of this commitment, HCI named the sixth floor of the cancer hospital The Sigma Chi International Fraternity Sixth Floor.

“I know from personal experience that cancer can be relentless and discouraging. But I believe together we can do what might seem impossible: end cancer.”

Brandon Plewe

“We believe this is the generation to end cancer, and we believe Huntsman Cancer Institute is the place to make this happen.”

Everyone who walks through our doors and onto this floor will know that an entire generation is working on their behalf to beat this horrible disease,” said Huntsman. “To our researchers, patients, and caregivers, this will be a reminder that young people all around the United States and Canada are pulling for them.”

“The Sigma Chi International Fraternity Sixth Floor is a healing space for patients and their families, reinforcing our values of friendship, justice, and learning,” said Greenberg.

“This gift represents huge efforts across campuses in North America,” said Brandon Plewe, a Sigma Chi member and former HCI patient. “I am proud that our fraternity has dedicated its efforts to people like me and this place that gave me a fighting chance.”

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GAYE MARRASH began giving generously to Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) in 2004. Her gifts were directed to advancing sarcoma research, specifically Ewing sarcoma—a lethal cancer that takes the lives of children and young adults.

HCI’s most generous donor to sarcoma research, Marrash was also a private woman. For years, she preferred that her philanthropy and her motivation for doing so be kept quiet. Likewise, she was reticent to share much about herself. Each year, she closely followed research and accomplishments at HCI and cheered on discoveries.

As Gaye’s relationship with HCI deepened, she began to share more about her extraordinary life. Born on a humble farm in rural Arkansas, Gaye went on to obtain four university degrees, travel the world, and live in many exotic and exciting places in her career with the State Department.

And while she had entrusted her hard-earned financial resources to HCI, she gave her most generous gift when she confided she was ready to share and honor her most cherished, most heartfelt treasure, the memory of her son Philip. Diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, Philip passed away at the age of seven. The loss was so painful and private that Gaye could not openly discuss it for decades. In 2008, with Gaye’s blessing, HCI dedicated the Philip Alford Stairway at the hospital. It will honor Philip’s memory in perpetuity.

Because of generous support from Gaye and so many others, HCI’s sarcoma research is some of the strongest in the country, and its team of researchers and clinicians is making great strides in improving outcomes for this deadly cancer. Gaye passed away in 2016, but her impact will be felt by patients at HCI for many years to come.

Just three weeks after their wedding in 2007, newlyweds Dan and Melanie Hedlund were in for some startling news—Dan had osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer.

Because of his age and strong overall health, Dan’s physician, R. Lor Randall, MD, director of Sarcoma Services at HCI, chose an aggressive treatment regimen. Dan said it was rough, but he accepted the challenge—and it worked.

Dan had his last surgery in 2012 and has been cancer-free since. In 2013, Dan and Melanie welcomed a baby boy into their lives. His name is Noah Randall—in honor of Dr. Randall. In 2016, Noah became a big brother when Dan and Melanie welcomed twin boys to the family.

“[The lessons I’ve learned, the strength I’ve been given, the support I’ve received, and the faith I’ve developed have all shaped me into who I am today.]”

Dan Hedlund
WHEN VISITORS COME TO HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE (HCI), they consistently remark that it does not look like a hospital. It does not feel like a hospital. That is exactly the intended impression. And it is thanks to the vision of Jon M. and Karen Huntsman that the cancer campus resembles a beautiful five-star hotel. Jon is a four-time cancer survivor. During his treatment for prostate cancer, he felt the clinics and hospitals he went to were "cold and clinical, inspiring anxiety but not hope." When Jon and Karen decided to seed the Mountain West’s only cancer specialty hospital, they insisted on hope. At that same time, a talented architect’s teenage daughter was battling cancer. And as that father watched his child slip away, he too felt the need to create a cancer treatment space that inspired beauty, serenity, inspiration, and above all, hope. He envisioned beautiful vistas and soothing spaces that brought the stunning Utah landscapes into the patient’s room.

Together, principal architect Don Finlayson, the firm Architectural Nexus, and Jon and Karen dreamed, then designed, and then put the first shovel in the ground to create the stunning cancer campus we have today. They never lost sight of the vision to create the very best spaces possible to marry exceptional research and exceptional care. As we celebrate the 20th year of its founding, and just 16 years since its first building opened, the fourth phase is underway to create the Primary Children’s and Families’ Cancer Research Center at HCI. The Center will advance cures for childhood cancers and for families at higher risk for cancers throughout their lifetimes. The pace of investment in science and researchers, the rate of building facilities, the unprecedented discoveries of cancer predisposition genes, and the uncompromising insistence for the very best have all been breathtaking. They have made HCI the fastest growing cancer institute in the world.

After retiring in 2016, Don reflected on a career as an architect and a lifetime of accolades and awards earned by his firm. He said he is proudest of his 20-year engagement as HCI’s principal architect. He continues to contribute to HCI as a volunteer in its chemotherapy infusion center.

A philanthropist with a life-threatening disease and an architect grieving the loss of a daughter. Together, they changed the very nature of the cancer treatment experience in Utah and the Mountain West.
THE ANNUAL HUNTSMAN CANCER FOUNDATION Gala was held September 29, 2016, at the Grand America Hotel. More than 1,000 supporters, doctors, researchers, and patients attended the event, presented by Corbin and Kara Church. The gala was hosted by Jon M. and Karen Huntsman, founders of Huntsman Cancer Institute, Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., Peter R. Huntsman, and Susan Sheehan.

The evening kicked off with a silent auction followed by dinner and a program. Afterward, attendees were invited to the Take a Night Off from Cancer celebration.
Mary Beckerle, PhD
INTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR
CEO AND DIRECTOR, HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE
RALPH E. AND WILLIA T. MAIN PRESIDENTIAL ENDOWED CHAIR IN CANCER RESEARCH
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Angie Fagerlin, PhD
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES

John Zone, MD
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF DERMATOLOGY

Edward Benz, MD
PRESIDENT AND CEO EMENTUS, DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE
RICHARD AND SUSAN SMITH DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS
PROFESSOR OF GENETICS
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Elizabeth Blackburn, PhD
NOBEL LAUREATE
IRWIN M. JACOBS PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR
PRESIDENT OF THE SALK INSTITUTE FOR BIOLOGICAL STUDIES

Michael Caligiuri, MD
DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER
CEO OF THE JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND SOLVAY RESEARCH CENTER
J. MARAKAS NATIONAL INSURANCE ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION CHAIR OF CANCER RESEARCH, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Timothy R. Rebbeck, PhD
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HARVARD T. H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PROFESSOR OF MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
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Ernest T. Hawk, MD, MPH
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BOONE PICKENS DISTINGUISHED CHAIR FOR EARLY PREVENTION OF CANCER
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

Edward Clark, MD
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF PEDIATRICS
WILMA T. GIBSON PRESIDENTIAL PROFESSOR
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH MEDICAL GROUP

Peter Jensen, MD
ARUP PRESIDENTIAL PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF PATHOLOGY
CHAIRMAN OF THE ARUP LABORATORIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Shrieve, MD, PhD
HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE ENDOWED CHAIR IN CANCER RESEARCH
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DISTINGUISHED MOFFIT SCHOLAR
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
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Kathleen Cooney, MD
H. J. AND EDNA BENNING PRESIDENTIAL ENDOWED CHAIR
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Vivian Lee, MD, PhD, MBA
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DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
CEO OF UNIVERSITY OF UTAH HEALTH CARE

Dean Li, MD, PhD
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Elaine Fuchs, PhD
REBECCA C. LANCEFIELD PROFESSOR OF MAMMALIAN CELL BIOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT
INVESTIGATOR AT HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE
THE ROCKELELLER UNIVERSITY

Brian Druker, MD
DIRECTOR OF KNIGHT CANCER CENTER
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ONCOLOGY
OHSU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
JELD-WEN CHAIR OF LEUKEMIA RESEARCH
INVESTIGATOR AT HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE
OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

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OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY
The National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) provides funding for programs that promote scientific excellence through coordinated, broad-based transdisciplinary research. H.C.’s four Cancer Center programs include almost 170 members from across the University of Utah campus.

CANCER CENTER PROGRAM MEMBERS

**ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

**Kathleen Mooney, PhD, RN**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING

Research Focus: Cancer clinical trials

**Bradley Cairns, PhD**

PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES

**Jared Rutter, PhD**

PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY

**Jayant Agarwal, MD (ET)**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY/PLASTIC SURGERY

Research Focus: Plastic surgery and reconstructive microsurgery

**Neeraj Agarwal, MD (ET)**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/ONCOLOGY

Research Focus: Prostate and kidney cancers

**Wallace Akerley, MD (ET)**

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/ONCOLOGY

Research Focus: Experimental therapeutics; cancer clinical trials

**Sean Tavtigian, PhD**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Research Focus: Director of the Histology Section of the Anatomic Pathology Branch Resources

**Melinda Angus-Hill, PhD (NC)**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/GENETICS

Research Focus: Genomic and functional genomics

**Lisa Cannon-Albright, PhD (CCPS)**

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research Focus: Breast cancer susceptibility genes; disease predisposition genes with an emphasis on melanoma and prostate cancer

**Alana Welm, PhD**

PROFESSOR IN CANCER RESEARCH

**Montgomery H. Boice, Jr., PhD**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GENETICS

Research Focus: Chromatrin remodeling transcription; mammalian histone deacetylases and genetic recombination

**Donald Ayer, PhD (NC)**

PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Research Focus: Signal transduction in tumor initiation and metastasis; molecular diagnostics

**Nicola Camp, PhD (CCPS)**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Research Focus: Retrospective database studies and prospective patient assessment; patient care guidelines in epilepsy; pain management; outcomes; drug delivery systems

**Cynthia Burrows, MD (NC)**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER STUDIES

Research Focus: Food and nutrition education and lifestyle intervention

**Kathleen Mooney, PhD, RN**

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF NURSING

Research Focus: Cancer clinical trials targeting MD

**Phillip Barnette, MD (ET)**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY

Research Focus: Cancer clinical trials in pediatric patients

**Brenda Bass, PhD (NC)**

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY

Research Focus: Development of novel therapeutic approaches to cancer and inflammation

**Susan Beck, PhD, RN (CCPS)**

PROFESSOR OF NURSING/ANALYTICAL AND PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

Research Focus: Cell adhesion; cell migration; cancer therapy

**Mary Beeker, PhD (CCPS)**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Research Focus: ROLE OF DISEASE PROGRESSION IN CANCER RESEARCH

**Andrea Bild, PhD (NC)**

PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Research Focus: Cancer clinical trials targeting MD

**Bradley Cairns, PhD**

PROFESSOR OF NURSING IN THE HEALTH SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE DIVISION

Research Focus: How aspects of cancer caregiving influence health and well-being outcomes; interventions and relationships with social care professionals

**Lisa Cannon-Albright, PhD (CCPS)**

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research Focus: Breast cancer susceptibility genes; disease predisposition genes with an emphasis on melanoma and prostate cancer

**Mario Capocci, PhD (NC)**

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GENETICS

**Jan Christian, PhD (CRR)**

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research Focus: Research Focus: Cancer clinical trials targeting MD

**Lisa Cannon-Albright, PhD (CCPS)**

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research Focus: Breast cancer susceptibility genes; disease predisposition genes with an emphasis on melanoma and prostate cancer

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DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GENETICS

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RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research Focus: Cancer clinical trials targeting MD

**Lisa Cannon-Albright, PhD (CCPS)**

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY

Research Focus: Breast cancer susceptibility genes; disease predisposition genes with an emphasis on melanoma and prostate cancer

**Mario Capocci, PhD (NC)**

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GENETICS
Research Focus: Cancer communications with breast and chronic care

Margaret Clayton, PhD, APRN (CCPS)

Assistant Professor of Nursing/acute and chronic care
Research Focus: Communication between patients and their physicians

Deanna Kepka, PhD, MPH, MA (CCPS)

Assistant Professor of Nursing/acute and chronic care
Research Focus: Cell adhesion and migration in cancer

Brian Dailey, PhD (NPA)

Research Focus: Directing high-throughput gene discovery and bioinformatic analysis shared resource

Robert Deans, PhD (CRR)

Research Focus: Cell differentiation in the zebrafish as a prelude to the development of better therapeutic strategies and approaches

Michael Cohen, MD (CRR)

Professor of pathology
Anatomical pathology
Research Focus: Signaling pathways in prostate cancer as a prelude to the development of better therapeutic strategies and approaches

Howard Conteras, JD (CCPS)

Associate Professor of Law
Research Focus: Gene patenting, particularly the Myriad Genetics case involving the patenting of the BRCA1/2 breast/ovarian cancer genes and alleles

Kathleen Cooney, MD (CCPS)

Professor of medicine
h. a. and edna benning presidential endowed chair
Research Focus: Furbishing the ability to identify genetic defects in sporadic and hereditary prostate cancer

Samir Courdy, MBA (NPA)

Research Focus: Bioinformatic and statistical tools for analysis of large-epidemiology of complex diseases; development of genealogy systems for clinical cancer therapy

Margaret Clayton, PhD, APRN (CCPS)

Assistant Professor of nursing/acute and chronic care
Research Focus: Communication between patients and their physicians

Deanna Kepka, PhD, MPH, MA (CCPS)

Assistant Professor of Nursing/acute and chronic care
Research Focus: Cell adhesion and migration in cancer

Brian Dailey, PhD (NPA)

Research Focus: Directing high-throughput gene discovery and bioinformatic analysis shared resource

Michael Deiningter, MD, PhD (ET)

Professor of medicine/Genetics and hematologic malignancies
M. M. Wintrobe Professor of medicine
Research Focus: Molecular therapy of hematologic malignancies; target and drug discovery; biomarkers to predict clinical response

Gary Donaldson, PhD (CCPS)

Professor of anesthesiology
Research Focus: Subtractive and methodological integration in the fields of acute and chronic pain, cancer, and quality of life in progressive disease

Lee Ellington, PhD (CCPS)

Associate Professor of nursing/acute and chronic care
Research Focus: Patient-provider communication psycho-oncology

Michael Eng, MD, PhD, FAAP (NC)

Assistant Professor of pediatrics/Pediatric Hematology/oncology
Research Focus: Molecular pathogenesis of acute leukemias and the perturbations of regulatory relationships that govern normal hematopoiesis

Kimberly Evanson, MD, PhD (CRR)

Assistant Professor of pathology/anatomical pathology
Research Focus: Mechanisms of HCC initiation and progression and identifying potential treatments for HCC using a combination of approaches, including human tissue, cultured human cells, and zebrafish models

Rachel Factor, MD, MHS (CRR)

Assistant Professor of pathology/anatomical pathology
Research Focus: Breast cancer pathology

Angela Fagerlin, PhD (CCPS)

Professor of population health sciences
Research Focus: Methods to improve shared decision making regarding cancer screening and cancer treatment between patients and their physicians

Bingjian Feng, PhD (NPA)

Research Assistant Professor of medicine/Genetic epidemiology
Research Focus: Genetic and epigenetic risk factors for cancer and their relationship to environmental influences

Karen Curtin, PhD, M.Stat (CCPS)

Research Assistant Professor of medicine/Genetic Epidemiology
Research Focus: Genetic and epigenetic risk factors for cancer and their relationship to environmental influences

Brian Dailey, PhD (NPA)

Research Focus: Directing high-throughput genomics and bioinformatic analysis shared resource

Christopher Hill, PhD (NC)

Professor of Radiation Oncology
Research Focus: Apoptotic mechanisms underlying skin cancer development, with focus on apoptosis and cell cycle regulator Brunnin; oxidative stress in melanoma

Allie Grossmann, MD, PhD (CRR)

Associate Professor of Pathology/anatomical pathology
Research Focus: Mechanisms of cancer disease progression; identification and development of therapeutic interventions

Kenneth Grossmann, MD, PhD (CRR)

Professor of medicine
Research Focus: Demethylase enzyme complex and other signaling pathways in melanoma tumors

David Grunwald, PhD (NC)

Professor of human genetics
Research Focus: Global and molecular epidemiology of cancer

Mia Hashibe, PhD (CCPS)

Research Assistant Professor of Family and preventive medicine/public health
Research Focus: Healthy aging and longevity by focusing on longevity and other signaling pathways in melanoma tumours

Heidi Hansen, PhD, MS (CCPS)

Associate Professor of medicine/medicine/public health
Research Focus: Cancer care; underlying genetic and environmental determinants of health throughout the life course

Margit Janet-Amsbury, MD, PhD (ET)

Research Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Gynecologic oncology
Research Focus: Novel, mainly nanotechnology-based systems for clinical cancer therapy

Jubal Jensen, PhD (CCPS)

Associate Professor of Communications
Research Focus: Cancer communication; psychometrics of key cancer constructs; design and behavioral interventions

Randi Jensen, PhD (ET)

Professor of Nursing/surgery
Adolescent surgery
Research Focus: Brain tumor angiogenesis and hypoxia

Kevin Jones, MD, NC

Associate Professor of Orthopaedics
Research Focus: Musculoskeletal transformation; sarcoma progression

Dan Kadms, PhD (ET)

Professor of Radiology
Research Focus: Biomaterials and drug delivery; position-avionent tomography (PET) imaging

Julie Kadms, PhD (CRR)

Research Assistant Professor of Oncologic Sciences
Research Focus: Cell adhesion and migration in cancer

Kimberly Kaphingst, ScD (CCPS)

Professor of communications
Research Focus: Communication and genetic information related to cancer risk

Deanna Kepka, PhD, MPH, MA (CCPS)

Assistant Professor of nursing/acute and chronic care
Research Focus: Cervical cancer prevention and control, specifically HPV vaccination; prevention of cancer-related disparities among vulnerable populations

Hung Khong, MD, ET (NPA)

Assistant Professor of Medicine/oncology
Research Focus: Cancer immunotherapy; epigenetic modulation

L. Eric Huang, MD, PhD (NC)

Professor of oncological sciences
Division of biostatistics
Research Focus: Global and molecular epidemiology of cancer

Christopher Hill, PhD (NC)

Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry
Dr. Leo T. Samuel and Barbara K. Samuel Presidential Endowed Chair in biochemistry
Research Focus: Structure and mechanisms of proteins that function in prostate activation; nucleosome remodeling and reorganization

John Hoffman, MD (ET)

Professor of Radiation Oncology
Clinical radiology
Willard Scho Hensen Presidential endowed chair in cancer research established in loving memory by his daughter, Mary Schoe
Research Focus: Molecular imaging; PET imaging; imaging of cancer-associated physiologic changes and complications

Mia Hashibe, PhD (CCPS)

Research Assistant Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine/Public Health
Research Focus: Healthy Aging and longevity by focusing on longevity and other signaling pathways in melanoma tumors

Heidi Hansen, PhD, MS (CCPS)

Associate Professor of Medicine/Preventive Medicine/Public Health
Research Focus: Healthy aging and longevity by understanding genetic and environmental determinants of health throughout the life course

Margit Janet-Amsbury, MD, PhD (ET)

Research Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Gynecologic oncology
Research Focus: Novel, mainly nanotechnology-based systems for clinical cancer therapy

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Assistant Professor of Nursing/Acute and Chronic Care
Research Focus: Cervical cancer prevention and control, specifically HPV vaccination; prevention of cancer-related disparities among vulnerable populations

Hung Khong, MD, ET (NPA)

Assistant Professor of Medicine/oncology
Research Focus: Cancer immunotherapy; epigenetic modulation

L. Eric Huang, MD, PhD (NC)

Professor of Oncological Sciences
Division of Biostatistics
Research Focus: Global and molecular epidemiology of cancer

Christopher Hill, PhD (NC)

Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry
Dr. Leo T. Samuel and Barbara K. Samuel Presidential Endowed Chair in biochemistry
Research Focus: Structure and mechanisms of proteins that function in prostate activation; nucleosome remodeling and reorganization

John Hoffman, MD (ET)

Professor of Radiation Oncology
Clinical Radiology
Willard Scho Hensen Presidential Endowed Chair in Cancer Research Established in Loving Memory by His Daughter, Mary Schoe
Research Focus: Molecular Imaging; PET Imaging; Imaging of Cancer-associated Physiologic Changes and Complications
Elizabeth Leibold, PhD (NC)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Genetic regulation of stress

William Lowrance, MD, MPH (CCPS)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY/ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: Surgical treatment of urologic malignancies

Gabor Marth, DSc (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GENETICS  
Research Focus: Melanoma genetics translation; human genetics

Alexander Lex, PhD (NPA)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE  
Research Focus: Visual analysis of biological data, bioinformatics, and human computer interaction

Dean Li, MD, PhD (CRR)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/ CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE  
Research Focus: Signaling in angiogenesis; targeting angiogenesis in cancer

Carol Lim, PhD (CRR)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHARMACEUTICS AND PHARMACOCHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: Targeting apoptotic mechanisms in cancer cells

Lauri Linder, PhD (CCPS)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING/ACUTE AND CHRONIC CARE  
Research Focus: Symptom management for children and adolescents with an emphasis on the use of technology to support symptom assessment and interventions

Shane Lloyd, MD (NPA)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: Comparative effectiveness research to determine the best ways to combine treatment modalities in cancer care; bibliometric analysis of clinical trial research questions, enrollment, and funding; guideline creation and use

Ryan Looper, PhD (ET)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: Synthesis of new compounds with under-utilized or under-appreciated mechanisms of action, with a particular interest in natural-product-inspired compounds that cause zinco-dysmetabolism in cancer cells

Ania Maria Lopez, MD, MPH (CCPS)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHARMACOLOGY/ HEMATOLOGY AND HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES  
Research Focus: Collaborative research to inform access to care with a focus on integrative oncology

Elisa Neklason, PhD (CCPS)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Medulloblastoma and multi-drug resistance in multiple myeloma

Elizabeth Severson, PhD (NC)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS/ PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: Research in pediatric oncology

Sung Wan Kim, PhD (ET)  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF PHARMACOGENOMICS AND PHARMACOHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: Medical polymers and drug delivery

Anne Kirchhoff, PhD, MPH (CCPS)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS/ PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: How cancer affects social and economic outcomes for childhood cancer survivors

Wendy Kohlman, MA (NPA)  
Director of Genetic Counseling  
Research Focus: Biomarkers and drug delivery

Jindrich Kopecek, MD (ET)  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF PHARMACEUTICS AND PHARMACOCHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: Computational biology; genomic variant identification and interpretation

Paul LaStayo, PhD (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
Research Focus: Aging cancer patients and survivors

Tibor Kovacsosvic, MD (ET)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Prevention and treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), acute myeloid leukemia (AML), and multiple myeloma

Lori Kowalewski-Jones, PhD (NPA)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER STUDIES  
Research Focus: Cancer-related associations between the social environment and energy balance, physical activity, and obesity

Paul LaStayo, PhD (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
Research Focus: Aging cancer patients and survivors

Sancy Leachman, MD, PhD (CCPS)  
ADJOINT PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY  
Research Focus: Melanoma genetics translation

Amy Lee, PhD (CCPS)  
VISITING INSTRUCTOR OF FAMILIA AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
Research Focus: Utilize etiological information, identify interventions, perform controlled trials, and establish sustainable interventions in the population to improve cancer prevention measures and quality of life for cancer patients

Catherine Lee, MD (CCPS)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY AND HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES  
Research Focus: Expression and function of t-cell receptor and mucin domain (T-M2), a candidate biomarker of acute myeloid leukemia stem cells

Philip Moos, MD, MPH (CRR)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Redox dysregulation in cancer; selenium protein function in cancer

Glen Morrell, MD, PhD (ET)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RADIOLOGY/CLINICAL RADIOLOGY  
Research Focus: Breast MRI and MRI characterization of breast cancer

Cindy Matsen, MD (NPA)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY/GENERAL SURGERY  
Research Focus: How patients perceive and understand their disease and management and how we can influence these perceptions through better communication and education

Martin McMahon, PhD (CRR)  
PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY  
Research Focus: Signal transduction, oncogenes, tumor suppressors, experimental therapeutics, and mouse models of cancer

Michelle Mendoza, PhD (CRR)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Research Focus: Biochemical signaling mechanisms that control the epithelial-to-mesenchymal cell cycle's

Rodney Miles, MD, PhD (NPA)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY/ CLINICAL PATHOLOGY  
Research Focus: Role of gene copy number changes in the biology, prognosis of pediatric lymphoblastic leukemia and Burkitt lymphoma

Lauri Linder, PhD (CCPS)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING/ACUTE AND CHRONIC CARE  
Research Focus: Symptom management for children and adolescents with an emphasis on the use of technology to support symptom assessment and interventions

Shane Lloyd, MD (NPA)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: Comparative effectiveness research to determine the best ways to combine treatment modalities in cancer care; bibliometric analysis of clinical trial research questions, enrollment, and funding; guideline creation and use

Ryan Looper, PhD (ET)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: Synthesis of new compounds with under-utilized or under-appreciated mechanisms of action, with a particular interest in natural-product-inspired compounds that cause zinco-dysmetabolism in cancer cells

Marcus Monroe, PhD (CRR)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY/OTOLARYNGOLOGY  
Research Focus: Surgery in head and neck and thyroid cancer; thyroid cancer risk stratification; HPV head and neck cancers

Kathleen Mooney, RN, PhD (NC)  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF NURSING/ACUTE AND CHRONIC CARE  
Research Focus: Survival in head and neck and thyroid cancer; thyroid cancer risk stratification; HPV head and neck cancers

John O'Shea, PhD (NPA)  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Target discovery and inhibitor development for chronic and acute leukemias; mechanism-based targeting of leukemic cells, including leukemia stem cells; design, validation, and coordination of fund- and profit-seeking for new therapeutic target in leukemia

Joshua Scholar, MD (CCPS)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Preclinical cancer modeling; mechanisms of metastasis

Trudy Oliver, PhD (CRR)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Research Focus: Mesothelioma and regulation of cell death and division; novel mechanisms for inhibiting tumor cell metastasis

Erin Rothwell, PhD (CCPS)  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING, HEALTH SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE DIVISION  
Research Focus: Cancer support groups and biobehavioral models for improving quality of life for individuals with cancer

June Royd, PhD (CRR)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RADIOLOGY/ MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY  
Research Focus: How the microbiota influences the immune response

Randall Rupper, MD, MPH (CCPS)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/GERIATRICS  
Research Focus: Cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment decisions of older adults

Jared Rutter, PhD (NC)  
PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: Quick obtaining patient specimens and therapeutic target in leukemia

N. Jewel Samadder, MD, MSc (CCPS)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/GASTROENTEROLOGY  
Research Focus: Gastrointestinal cancer syndromes; endoscopic oncology

Wade Samowitz, MD (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY/ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY  
Research Focus: Colorectal cancer genetics

Courtney Scallie, MD (ET)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY/GENERAL SURGERY  
Research Focus: Pancreas cancer modeling; mechanisms of metastasis

Joshua Schiffman, MD (NC)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS/ PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: Pediatric hematologic cancers with a special interest in genetic susceptibility to childhood cancers

Paul Shami, MD (ET)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Nuclear and hematopoietic cell biology; acute leukemia; myelodysplastic syndromes

Sunny Y. Shi, PhD (CRR)  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RADIOLOGY/CLINICAL RADIOLOGY  
Research Focus: Developing new targeted treatments for soft tissue sarcomas

Dennis Parker, PhD (ET)  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY  
Research Focus: Malignant mesothelioma and other sarcomas

Joshua Scholar, MD (CCPS)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Preclinical cancer modeling; mechanisms of metastasis

H. A. and Edna Benning Presidential Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
Cancer Center Research Program Leaders and Members

Sunil Sharma, MD, MBA, FACP (ET)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/ONCOLOGY  
ON THE SPECIFIC CELLular RESPONSES TO PHARmACEUTICALS PROGRAM  
Research Focus: Phase I clinical trials; development and testing of new cancer therapies; treatment of patients with gastrointestinal cancers and rare tumors  
Jill Shea, PhD (NPA)  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SURGERY/GENERAL SURGERY  
Research Focus: Better understanding of the importance of tumor-stroma interactions in the progression of pancreatic cancer; improve patient care by developing new imaging and treatments  
Dennis Shrieve, MD, PhD (ET)  
PROFESSOR OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
HUNTINGTON CANCER INSTITUTE ENDED CHAIR IN CANCER RESEARCH  
Research Focus: Intricately radiosensitivity of human tumors, mechanisms of intrinsic cellular resistance to radiation and chemotherapy and combined chemotherapy/radiotherapy  
Martha Slattery, PhD (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/EPIDEMIOLOGY  
Research Focus: Epidemiological methods, environmental and genetic factors affecting cancer development  
Ken Smith, PhD, MS (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER STUDIES  
Research Focus: Psychosocial consequences of genetic testing  
Eric Snyder, MD, PhD (NC)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY/ANATOMY  
PATHOLOGY PROGRAM  
Research Focus: How changes in cellular identity affect cancer progression and response to therapy  
Holly Spraker-Perfman, MD, MS (NPA)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS/PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: Phase I developmental therapeutics; quality of life assessment; decision making in adolescent and young adult cancer patients  
Gillian Stanfield, PhD (CRR)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GENETICS  
Research Focus: Cell polarity, cell migration and the role of proteases in cancer  
Rodney Stewart, PhD, MPHil (CRR)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Research Focus: Cell survival and migration during embryogenesis and cancer  
Wesley Sundquist, PhD (CRR)  
PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: Membrane trafficking; cytokines  
Sankar Swaminathan, MD (NC)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE  
Dr. Don Mindell-Keib Endowed Chair in the Division of Infectious Diseases for the Investigation of Vector borne Diseases  
Research Focus: Post-translational gene regulation in herpes viruses; RNA export  
Carol Sweeney, PhD (CCPS)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/EPIDEMIOLOGY  
Research Focus: Molecular epidemiology of cancer  
John Sweetenham, MD, FRCP, FACP (ET)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: New treatment strategies for malignant lymphomas  
Dean Tantin, PhD (NC)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY/MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY  
C. SCOTT AND DOROTHY E. WATKINS CHAIR IN PATHOLOGY IN HONOR OF ERNEST J. BARKER  
Research Focus: Mammalian gene regulation in cancer  
Sean Tavtigian, PhD (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
JON AND KAREN HUNTSMAN PRESIDENTIAL PROFESSOR IN CANCER RESEARCH  
Research Focus: Identification and characterization of intermediate-risk and high-risk cancer susceptibility genes, primarily breast, ovarian, and prostate  
Carl Thummel, PhD (NC)  
PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GENETICS  
Research Focus: Gene expression; sterol hormone action  
Katharine Ullman, PhD (CRR)  
PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Research Focus: Cell division, biomarkers, and tumor suppressors in breast cancer  
Cornelia Ulrich, PhD, MS (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES  
DIVISION OF CANCER CONTROL AND POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES  
JON AND KAREN HUNTSMAN PRESIDENTIAL PROFESSOR IN CANCER RESEARCH  
Research Focus: Colorectal cancer; exercise and cancer  
Matthew VanBrocklin, PhD (CRR)  
PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: Novel molecular targets that can be developed for therapeutic intervention strategies  
Katherine Varley, PhD (NC)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Research Focus: Characterizing the transcriptional deficits in breast cancer that are associated with treatment responses and disease progression  
David Viskochil, MD, PhD (NPA)  
PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS  
Research Focus: Neurofibromatosis type 1; malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor; genetics of familial cancer syndromes  
Xuli Wang, PhD (ET)  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: Targeted therapies for advanced cancers; design of biomarkers for cancer imaging and therapy  
John Ward, MD (ET)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: Breast cancer prevention trials; breast cancer treatment guidelines  
Sharon Weinstein, MD, FAAHPM (NPA)  
PROFESSOR OF ANESTHESIOLOGY  
Research Focus: Pain, neuropathic pain, palliative care, and end-of-life care  
Alana Weilm, PhD (CRR)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Research Focus: Tumor inflammation and cancer; particularly breast cancer  
Bryan Weilm, PhD (CRR)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ONCOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
Research Focus: Breast cancer stem cells; cancer drug screening  
Ming Wen, PhD (CCPS)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY  
Research Focus: Socio-environmental influences on health, including cancer  
Theresa Werner, MD (ET)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/ONCOLOGY  
Research Focus: High-risk breast-thoracic cancer  
Matthew Williams, PhD (CRR)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY/MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY  
Research Focus: Cellular and molecular signals that regulate the differentiation and cell fate decisions of activated T cells in vivo  
Dennis Winge, PhD (NPA)  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/HEMATOLOGY/BMT  
Research Focus: Molecular pathway for the biogenesis and regulation of succinate dehydrogenase  
Yelena Wu, PhD, MA (CCPS)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FAMILY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE/PUBLIC HEALTH  
Research Focus: Psychological and behavioral factors impacting health self-management within pediatric oncology populations, and designing interventions to improve self-management and health outcomes  
Mark Yandell, PhD (CCPS)  
PROFESSOR OF HUMAN GENETICS  
H.A. AND EDNA BENNINGTON PRESIDENTIAL ENDOWED CHAIR  
Research Focus: Computational genomics tools for personalized medicine, cancer, infectious disease, population biology, agriculture, and forensics  
Jiyuan Yang, PhD (NPA)  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHARMACUTICS AND PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY  
Research Focus: New combination on several animal models, including transgenic mouse model for pancreatic cancer treatment and acute myeloid leukemia treatment  
Jeffrey Yap, PhD (ET)  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY/CLINICAL RADIOLoGY  
Research Focus: Evaluation and characterization of therapeutic response using imaging biomarkers  
Jaehee Yi, PhD (NPA)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK  
Research Focus: Young adult survivors of childhood cancer; photovoice methodology; post-traumatic stress and growth  
Guy Zimmerman, MD (CRR)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE/PHARMACOLOGY  
Research Focus: Cell adhesion and inflammation; thrombosis in cancer  
NC: NUCLEAR CONTROL OF CELL GROWTH AND DIFFERENTIATION PROGRAM  
CR: CELL RESPONSE AND REGULATION PROGRAM  
ET: EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS PROGRAM  
CCPS: CANCER CONTROL AND POPULATION SCIENCES PROGRAM  
NPA: NON-PROGRAM ALIGNED

Help drive research even faster.  
Show our community you help fund cutting-edge science with a Huntsman Cancer Institute specialty license plate.  
1. Go to dmv.utah.gov.  
2. Click Special Group Plates.  
3. Select Cancer Research, then follow the instructions.  
4. Invite your family and friends to help drive cancer research.
Multidisciplinary Disease Group (MDG) Leaders

Multidisciplinary Disease Groups (MDGs) include specialists such as physicians, surgeons, researchers, genetic counselors, and social workers who meet for weekly patient treatment planning conferences.

EXECUTIVE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

BREAST MDG

GASTROINTESTINAL/ PANCREATIC MDG

GENITOURINARY MDG

GYNECOLOGICAL MDG

HEAD AND NECK MDG

HEMATOLOGY/BMT MDG

INVESTIGATIONAL THERAPEUTICS MDG

SKIN MDG

NEURO-ONCOLOGY MDG

NEURO-ONCOLOGY MDG (CONT.)

THORACIC MDG

SARCOMA MDG

SUPPORTIVE ONCOLOGY AND SURVIVORSHIP MDG

John Sweetenham, MD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Saundra Buys, MD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Edward Nelson, MD

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Courtney Scaife, MD

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Neeraj Agarwal, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Christopher Dechet, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

David Gaffney, MD, PhD

PROFESSOR OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Andrew Soisson, MD

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Jason Hunt, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Daniel Couriel, MD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Michael Deininger, MD, PhD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Martha Glenn, MD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Sunil Sharma, MD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Robert Andtbacka, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Glen Bowen, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY

Howard Colman, MD, PhD

PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY

William Couldwell, MD, PhD

PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY

Randy Jensen, MD, PhD

PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY

Wallace Akerley, MD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

Thomas Varghese, MD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

R. Lor Randall, MD

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY

Anna Beck, MD

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
### Disease-Oriented Research Team (DOT) Leaders

Disease-Oriented Research Teams (DOTs) support collaboration and advancements by bringing together laboratory, clinical, and population scientists with expertise in specific disease areas.

#### SENIOR DIRECTOR

**TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLON CANCER DOT</th>
<th>GENITOURINARY MALIGNANCIES DOT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michael Deininger, MD, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Medicine</td>
<td><strong>Ignacio Garrido-Laguna, MD, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Associate Professor of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cornelia Ulrich, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Population Health Sciences</td>
<td><strong>Jonathan Tward, MD, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology</td>
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#### GENITOURINARY MALIGNANCIES DOT (CONT.)

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<tr>
<th>HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES DOT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Will Lowrance, MD, MPH</strong>&lt;br&gt;Associate Professor of Surgery</td>
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<td><strong>Elizabeth Raetz, MD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Pediatrics</td>
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#### HEPATOBILIARY CANCERS WORKING GROUP

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<tr>
<th>MELANOMA DOT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Robin Kim, MD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Surgery</td>
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<td><strong>Doug Grossman, MD, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Dermatology</td>
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#### NEURO-ONCOLOGY DOT

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<th>PANCREATIC CANCER DOT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Howard Colman, MD, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Neurosurgery</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Matthew Tiryo, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Research Associate Professor of Human Genetics</td>
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#### PANCREATIC CANCER DOT (CONT.)

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<th>SARCOMA DOT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Courtney Scaife, MD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jeffrey Yap, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Research Associate Professor of Radiology</td>
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#### UPPER AERODIGESTIVE TRACT DOT (CONT.)

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<th>WOMEN’S CANCERS DOT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mia Hashibe, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Associate Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nicola Camp, PhD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Medicine</td>
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Cancer Care and Outreach Highlights

**CLINICAL RESEARCH**

**200 clinical trials** open at any given time

18% of new trials opened in 2015 are immunotherapy trials

HCl participates in major national trials such as NCI-MATCH and NCI Exceptional Responder

>$93 million invested in research

**ACROSS THE CANCER CENTER**

170 cancer center members representing >25 academic departments or colleges at the University of Utah

**MORE THAN 450 CANCER RESEARCH PROJECTS** supported by scientific funding agencies

**LOCATIONS**

**A DAY AT HCI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surgeries</th>
<th>Inpatients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>70</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Infusion treatments</th>
<th>Radiation therapy treatments</th>
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<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>110</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Radiology procedures</th>
<th>Outpatient visits</th>
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<td>245</td>
<td>354</td>
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</table>

**PATIENT CARE ANNUAL STATISTICS**

4,000 new cancers diagnosed

1,200 genetic counseling consultations

125,000 outpatient visits

**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ANNUAL STATISTICS**

14,000 individuals served through visits, calls, and emails

73,000 people reached through community health events

>500 visitors to HCl at inaugural “Be Well Utah” Open House

Educational events held in 15 Utah counties and four U.S. States: UT, WY, ID, NV

**FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENINGS IN 2016:**

436 screened for skin cancer

69 screened for oral cancer

**WELLNESS AND SUPPORTIVE CARE**

The Linda B. and Robert B. Wiggins Wellness and Integrative Health Center offers 36 programs to support people impacted by cancer. Offerings include acupuncture, group fitness, massage, mindfulness groups, and many others.

The Wellness and Integrative Health Center hosted nearly 18,000 patient visits in 2016.