

Core Mentors

Mentor	Expertise
Ronald Ennis, Professor	Medical Director of the Clinical Network for Radiation Oncology for Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. A radiation oncologist with expertise in prostate cancer, genitourinary malignancies and gynecologic malignancies. Extensive experience with high dose-rate and low dose-rate brachytherapy, stereotactic body radiosurgery (a.k.a. "Cyberknife"), intensity modulated radiotherapy, three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy, image-guided radiotherapy, hormone therapy, surveillance and survivorship.
Salma Jabbour, Professor	Radiation Oncologist with a subspecialty in lung and gastrointestinal cancers (colon/rectum, pancreas, stomach, liver, esophagus, small intestines). Research interests in gastrointestinal cancers, lung cancers, stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT, SABR, Cyberknife), proton therapy, radioembolization (SIRT), chemoradiation therapy, immunotherapy, and clinical trials.
David August, Professor	Associate Director for Faculty Affairs and surgical oncologist with a strong interest in cancers of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas, colorectum, and retroperitoneum. Clinical and research interests in nutrition and cancer prevention, and the treatment of advanced esophageal and pancreatic cancers. Some of his long-standing research has focused on the use of food-based agents to prevent cancer, and on the use of vaccine therapies for pancreas cancers.
Bruce Haffty, Professor	Chair, Radiation Oncology and Associate Vice Chancellor for Cancer Programs. Clinical expertise is in breast cancer. Research interests include clinical, pathological and molecular factors, which may predict for outcome in patients treated with radiation therapy (primarily breast and head/neck cancer). Evaluation of molecular and genetic markers that may be useful as prognostic factors and in guiding treatment decisions. Evaluation of long-term outcome in women with breast cancer as a function of BRCA1/2 status.
Deborah Toppmeyer, Professor	Chief Medical Officer; Director, Stacy Goldstein Breast Cancer Center; Director, LIFE Center; Chief, Medical Oncology. Expertise is in breast cancer and breast genetics. Research interests in genetic susceptibility for breast and ovarian cancer, Phase I clinical trials of new anti-cancer agents with correlative pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies, and women health issues.
Eric Singer, Associate Professor	Urologic Surgeon with expertise in the management of genitourinary malignancies and a special interest in using robotic and minimally invasive surgery to treat cancers of the kidney, prostate, bladder and adrenal glands. Research interests include systemic therapies for prostate and kidney cancer, active surveillance for prostate cancer, neoadjuvant/adjuvant treatments for high-risk prostate cancer, and bioethics. He is an exemplar of a successful clinical scholar.

Wenwei Hu, Associate Professor	Basic scientist with research interests in the function and regulation of tumor suppressor p53, which in turn impacts tumorigenesis. Her group discovered that chronic psychological stress impairs wild type p53 function, which contributes to the promoting effect of chronic stress on tumorigenesis. Her group's work also made important contributions toward understand the mechanisms of mutant p53 accumulation and gain of oncogenic activity in tumors. In addition, Dr. Hu studies the function of LIF, a cytokine that is a p53 target, in tumorigenesis.
Carolyn Heckman, Associate Professor	Co-Leader, Cancer Prevention and Control Program. Expertise in skin cancer prevention and detection, grant writing, digital interventions, and implementation science.
Roman Groisberg, Assistant Professor	Director for Sarcoma Program; Medical Oncologist with expertise in sarcoma and melanoma malignancies, and phase 1 clinical trial development.
Sharon Pine, Associate Professor	Assistant Director for Research, Center for Community Outreach and Engagement. Basic scientist with focus on lung cancer, in the areas of cancer health disparities, preclinical and translational studies, resistance to targeted therapies, and tumor models. She completed her post-doctoral training in Molecular Epidemiology and Molecular Biology with a specialty in lung cancer at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Pine serves on the Editorial Board of Carcinogenesis, Frontiers in Oncology, and Physiological Genomics, and she is a grant reviewer for the US National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and many other organizations. Dr. Pine has authored or co-authored more than 55 peer-reviewed research articles in reputable, international journals, and the recipient of several awards and honors including the Brigid Leventhal Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology, CRTA Fellowship Award from the National Cancer Institute, and Richard C. Devereaux Outstanding Young Investigator Award in Lung Cancer from the Prevent Cancer Foundation.
Anita Kinney, Professor	Associate Director for Cancer Population Science and Community Outreach; Director of the Center for Cancer Health Disparities; Population scientist with a focus on behavioral, ethical, social and care delivery genetics research and equity. Her research brings a combination of behavioral science, clinical, and epidemiologic perspectives to address unsolved cancer prevention and control problems in diverse populations and settings. Her research has focused on documenting determinants of interest, access and use of genomic tests and related health services in diverse populations and using this information to better understand and address health disparities. She has experience leading and collaborating on large community-based and population-based randomized trials that have developed and implemented effective interventions to promote cancer risk assessment and screening in average-risk and high-risk populations, and appropriate translation of genetic discoveries into clinical practice.
Biren Saraiya, Associate Professor	Medical Oncologist with interests in genitourinary malignancies and palliative care services. He has also contributed to Oncotalk Teach Program, which provides education on patient-centered communication skills to build rapport and help patients make well-informed treatment decisions.
Aliza Leiser , Associate Professor	Director for Minimally Invasive Surgery for Gynecologic Oncology; Gynecologic Oncologist with expertise in radical tumor debulking surgery as well as advanced minimally invasive and robotic surgery, and leading the division's multidisciplinary team with a new HIPEC (heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy) ovarian cancer program.

Sharon Manne, Professor	Chief of Behavioral Sciences; Co-Director, Center of Excellence in Cancer Survivorship; Population Scientist with focus in psychological interventions to reduce distress and improving quality of life for cancer survivors and their family members; survivor-focused interventions to improve post-treatment care quality and outcomes; and digital skin cancer risk reduction interventions for melanoma survivors and their families as well as the general population. Her primary goal is to improve psychological, behavioral, and care quality outcomes for cancer patients, survivors, and their family members, as well as foster better sun protection and reduce UV exposure among the general population.
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