Website Information

Mission Statement

- To improve the quality of mentorship for all faculty at Rutgers Cancer Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
- To improve faculty satisfaction with academic and professional mentorship, satisfaction with pathways to promotion and leadership, and faculty retention

Mentor List

1. James Aikins: https://cinj.org/james-k-aikins-jr-md-facog-facs

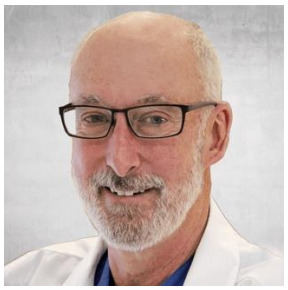
   Dr. Aikins leads Rutgers Cancer Institute's multidisciplinary Gynecologic Oncology Program which offers advanced treatment options including minimally invasive surgical techniques, clinical trials, precision medicine, and immunotherapy.

   With a special interest in global women's health issues, Dr. Aikins is the founder of International Healthcare Volunteers (IHCV), a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide sustainable programs and medical services to underserved women and their families living in Ghana, West Africa, and provide continuing medical education for health professionals, including students at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

   Dr. Aikins' previous research includes fertility preservation in gynecologic cancers, Effects of sexual function following Surgeries for gynecologic Malignancies. He also conducts global health research in the area of cervical cancer screening in low-resource communities. He currently serves as a visiting professor at Cape Coast Teaching Hospital in the OB/GYN Department (University of Cape Coast School of Medical Sciences) in Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa.

   Having received his undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania and medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Dr. Aikins completed a general surgery

internship at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore and an obstetrics/gynecology residency at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/Cooper University Hospital. He also completed gynecologic oncology fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American College of Surgeons, and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is also a member of numerous gynecologic oncology professional societies and committees in the United States and internationally. Dr. Aikins has published a variety of articles in peer reviewed journals as well as book chapters and presents regularly at regional, national and international meetings. He has been a Top Doctor in New Jersey for the Philadelphia Pennsylvania for the past ten years.



2. Henry Richard Alexander : https://www.cinj.org/h-richard-alexander-jr-md-facs

   Dr. Alexander is a surgical oncologist, cancer researcher, and surgical educator. His roles as Chief Surgical Officer at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and System Director of Surgical Oncology at RWJBarnabas Health have become the highlight of his career for several reasons. In particular is the opportunity to work with a world-class organization and collaborate with colleagues in the Gastrointestinal/ Hepatobiliary Oncology Program to further build and expand the portfolio of treatment and clinical research options for patients who may benefit from the surgical treatment of complex, rare, or recurrent cancers.

   His surgical career started as a medical officer in the US Navy where he served aboard both the USS Mt. Whitney (LCC-20) and the USS Midway (CV-41). After that he completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, he subsequently joined the Surgery Branch of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) where he eventually became a Deputy Director in the Center for Cancer Research. At the NCI and during his subsequent tenure in the department of surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, he led teams that developed internationally recognized clinical and research programs for patients with advanced primary, recurrent, or metastatic cancer.

   Dr. Alexander has focused his clinical and research efforts to define and expand the application of surgical resection for properly selected patients with recurrent or metastatic

gastrointestinal cancers. Specifically, he has a particular interest in defining the role of surgical treatment in patients with peritoneal surface metastases from peritoneal mesothelioma, appendiceal cancer, colorectal cancer, and other tumors.

Throughout Dr. Alexander's career, his professional and academic successes have been built on a foundation of values that we all share in caring for our patients; compassion, communication, respect, teamwork, and a commitment to providing patients exceptional, thoughtful and timely surgical care in the context of a multidisciplinary treatment plan. To that end, he has always valued the partnerships that he has developed with other physicians who are invested in their patient's cancer treatment.

Dr. Alexander is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American Surgical Association, the Society of Surgical Oncology, and an honorary member of the Royal College of Surgeons (Glasgow). I have received numerous teaching awards and was the recipient of the National Institutes of Health Award of Merit in 2005. I have served on the Executive Committee, Training Committee, and as chair of the Research Committee for the Society of Surgical Oncologists. Next year he will complete his term as chair of the board for the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation. Dr. Alexander has published over 250 peer-reviewed articles and 50 book chapters and has lectured in 17 countries. He currently serves on the editorial board of the journal, *Surgery*.

3. Wadih Arap : https://www.cinj.org/wadih-arap-md-phd
   Dr. Arap serves as the Director of Rutgers Cancer Institute at University Hospital Newark and Chief of Hematology/Oncology. In this role, he leads the clinical faculty and provide oversight and direction for the Newark location of New Jersey's only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, bringing innovative cancer care and services to the Greater Newark region. His clinical expertise is in the area of genitourinary (GU) cancers with a specialty in prostate cancer. Through an individualized treatment plan, he provides his patients with the most advanced and compassionate care including access to clinical trials.

Dr. Arap received his medical degree from the University of São Paulo Medical School in Brazil and completed his Residency in Internal Medicine at the São Paulo Medical School University Hospital and Clinical Fellowship in Medical Oncology and Hematology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. These experiences led him to pursue a doctoral degree at Stanford University and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in translational medicine. Following his studies, Dr. Arap joined The Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute in 1997 and the faculty at The University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Genitourinary Medical Oncology in 1999.

As a physician-scientist, Dr. Arap's laboratory-based research focuses on the rapid translation of discoveries into clinical applications. He co-directed a joint laboratory team with Renata Pasqualini, PhD since October 1999 starting at The University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center, and currently at Rutgers Cancer Institute at University Hospital. Their research program is based on the scientific premise that differential protein expression in disease tissues enables development of novel, targeted drugs to treat human disease. By integrating genomic analyses and analytical high-throughput technology, functional protein-protein interactions can be manipulated to develop clinical strategies for effective disease management. This technology is the core of our research and drug development programs and the reasoning behind evolving disease-specific receptor discovery to develop transformative mechanistic and translational applications. Their targeting technologies have led to the design and engineering of targeted therapeutic drug candidates to treat disease in patients.

Dr. Arap served on the National Cancer Institute's Board of Scientific Counselors, several review boards for the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Defense's Prostate and Breast Cancer Research Program in addition to several international funding agencies. He is also an ad hoc reviewer for journals such as: American Journal of Pathology, Blood, Cancer Cell, Cancer Research, EMBO Molecular Medicine, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Journal of Clinical Investigation, Nature Biotechnology, Nature Medicine, Nature Protocols, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and Science.

4. Elisa Bandera: https://www.cinj.org/research/bandera-research-program
   Dr. Bandera is Professor and Chief, Cancer Epidemiology and Health Outcomes, Unilever Endowed Chair in Nutrition and Cancer Prevention and Co-Leader, Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Rutgers Cancer Institute and Professor of Medicine at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Medicine.

   Major research interests include the impact of obesity and body composition and related comorbidities on breast and ovarian cancer risk, treatment and survival outcomes and survivorship, with a focus on minorities and underserved populations. She has served as Principal Investigator in several epidemiologic studies, including the New Jersey Ovarian Cancer Study, which is a member of the Ovarian Cancer Association International Consortium, the Jersey Girl Study (a study evaluating factors affecting puberty in girls), the Women's Circle of Health Study (a study of breast cancer in African American women, which is a member of the AMBER Consortium), the Women's Circle of Health Follow-up Study (a cohort study of African American/Black breast cancer survivors) and KP-ROCS (a cohort study evaluating racial/ethnic disparities in treatment outcomes and survival). Her research has been funded by several grants from the National Cancer Institute.

   Dr. Bandera is very involved in the development of nutrition and physical activity guidelines for cancer prevention on a national and global scale. For more than a decade, Dr. Bandera served as a member of the International Expert Panel for the World Cancer Research Fund International (WCRF)/American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) Continuous Update Project and the WCRF/AICR Third Expert Report on Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Cancer: A Global Perspective, released in May 2018 which provided the most comprehensive review of the epidemiologic literature relating dietary factors and cancer published to date. She was recently appointed by WCRF/AICR as chair of the expert committee on cancer incidence and member of the expert panel to continue this work. She has also been involved in the American Cancer Society's Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity for Cancer Prevention and Survival Advisory Committees since 2006 and has served as chair of the Lifestyle Behaviors, Energy Balance and Chemoprevention Special Interest Group of the American Society of Preventive Oncology. At the state level, Dr. Bandera led the Nutrition and Physical Activity Workgroup of the New Jersey Task Force

on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment for more than ten years and served as Vice Chair of the Advisory Group for Cancer Prevention and Control of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research.

Other Service: Dr. Bandera has served in many grant review panels as standing member or ad hoc reviewer including NIH Cancer, Heart and Sleep Epidemiology Study Section Panel B (CHSB), NCI Initial Review Group Subcommittee J for Population and Patient-Oriented Training, NCI Review Group Subcommittee G for Education, NCI Special Emphasis Panel Loan Repayment Program for Clinical Research, Ovarian Cancer Research Program of the Department of Defense's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, American Institute for Cancer Research Grant Review Panel, World Cancer Research Fund International Grant Review Program.

Mentoring: Dr. Bandera has also continuously devoted considerable efforts to mentoring the next generation of cancer researchers, including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty, serving as mentor in many NIH K grants (career development grants) over the years. She is particularly committed to mentoring underrepresented minorities and has served as mentor in three NIH Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research.

5. Peter Cole: https://www.cinj.org/peter-cole-md
   As the Embrace Kids Foundation Endowed Chair in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Dr. Cole's vision is for us to continue to advance the field through a combination of laboratory and clinical research, making treatments more successful and less toxic for our pediatric patients.

   He studied medicine at Weill Cornell College of Medicine and completed his residency training in pediatrics at Mount Sinai Medical Center. His fellowship training in pediatric hematology and oncology was at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. While there, he

also trained in laboratory science, working in molecular pharmacology under the mentorship of Joseph R. Bertino, MD. Currently, Dr. Cole is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

His research efforts remain focused on developing new treatments to improve the lives of children and adolescents with blood disorders and cancer. Dr. Cole's laboratory, funded by the National Institutes of Health, investigates why some patients suffer side effects of cancer treatment, while others do not. They have identified common genetic variants and specific dietary factors that increase the risk of experiencing side effects of anticancer therapies. In addition, they are working to develop interventions to reduce specific side effects, such as the loss of short-term memory or attention span (symptoms of "chemo brain").

Clinically, Dr. Cole have been actively involved on a global level, in designing and conducting clinical trials for children diagnosed with leukemia or lymphoma, through my leadership or advisory roles in a number of cooperative groups, including the Dana Farber Cancer Institute Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Consortium; The Consorcio Latinoamericano de Enfermedades Hemato-Oncológicas Pediátricas; the Indian Pediatric Oncology Group; and the Children's Oncology Group (COG). He is the vice-chair for COG's Hodgkin lymphoma committee, and have led multiple COG clinical trials testing innovative, targeted combination therapy for adolescents and young adults with relapsed or refractory Hodgkin lymphoma.

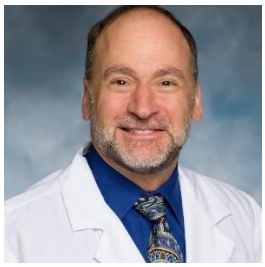
6. Katie Devine Recuay: https://www.cinj.org/research/katie-devine-phd-mph
   Katie Devine is the Associate Director of the New Jersey Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Research Center of Excellence (NJPHORCE) at Rutgers Cancer Institute and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and the Section Chief of Pediatric Population Science, Outcomes, and Disparities Research in the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She received her BS in human development from Cornell University. She earned her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Georgia and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology at Loyola

University Chicago. She earned her MPH from the University of Rochester Medical Center and is a licensed psychologist.

7. Richard Drachtman : https://www.cinj.org/richard-drachtman-md
   Since completing his residency at North Shore University Hospital and a fellowship at Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Drachtman has always believed in treating the "whole" child. The Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Program at the Cancer Institute interacts closely with the Medical Oncology Program allowing young adults who can otherwise fall through the cracks be treated by both teams, ensuring they receive appropriate therapy.

   Working closely with colleagues across all disciplines in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Program, he helps educate patients and their families about the treatment options available to them, which often include clinical trials. As a member of the Children's Oncology Group, he helps design clinical trials for children affected by cancer. The Children's Oncology Group is the world's largest pediatric cooperative cancer research entity conducting trials sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Drachtman is a member of the Hodgkin's disease, committee an affliction which is common in adolescents. He is also the chair of NCI-Pediatric Central Institutional Review Board, reviewing NCI-sponsored pediatric clinical trials to ensure that they are conducted in a safe and scientifically sound fashion. Many of these national trials are available at the Cancer Institute, where our team is able to translate these research findings and directly apply them to patient therapies.

   He also has an interest in benign hematology and is particularly interested in sickle cell disease and am the director of the Pediatric Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Children with sickle cell disease benefit from the expertise of an entire team dedicated to their care.



8. Ronald Ennis: https://www.cinj.org/ronald-d-ennis-md
   Dr. Ennis is a radiation oncologist with expertise in prostate cancer, genitourinary malignancies and gynecologic malignancies. He has an 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.

   As the Medical Director of the Clinical Network for Radiation Oncology for Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jeresy, Dr. Ennis work to unify the highest quality radiation oncology practice across our facilities. On a national level, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), the largest society representing the radiation oncology specialty, serving as the Vice Chair of the Government Relations Council. He has been involved in government relations for ASTRO for over a decade, helping the society advocate on behalf of cancer patients and the field on a myriad of issues.

   Additionally, since 2015, Dr. Ennis have served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Use of Medical Isotopes (ACMUI) of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). This thirteen-member committee advises the NRC on regulatory issues regarding the safe use of radioactive materials in medical practice.

   Prior to joining Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, he served as Chairman of the Genitourinary Oncology Disease Management Team within the Mount Sinai Health System, unifying practices across the health system and leading the process of adopting practices aligned with the value-based approach of the Oncology Care Model of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. In addition, he served as Director of Radiation Oncology at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital as part of the Continuum Health Partners (CHP) and continued in that capacity at what became known as Mount Sinai West Hosptial when CHP merged with Mount Sinai.

   Before taking the Directorship at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Medical Center in 2005, he was a faculty member in Radiation Oncology at Columbia University College of Physicians and

Surgeons and the Medical Director of the Department of Radiation Oncology at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia.

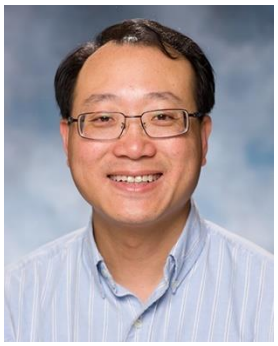
Dr. Ennis received his B.A. from Columbia University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and Cum Laude with a major in computer science. He received my medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine and completed his residency training in Radiation Oncology at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He conducts clinical research and has published dozens of articles, book chapters and editorials focusing on prostate cancer, gynecologic cancer and health policy. He also lectures throughout the country on issues related to prostate cancer and health care policy.

9. Andrew Evens: https://www.cinj.org/andrew-m-evens-do-mba-msc
   Dr. Evens is the Deputy Director for Clinical Services; System Director of Medical Oncology and Oncology Lead for the Combined Medical Group with RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH); and Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical Innovation and Data Analytics, within Rutgers Health at Rutgers University. He completed a fellowship in hematology/oncology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center in Chicago, Illinois, where he also remained as a faculty member altogether for 11 years. Most recently, He served as the director of the Cancer Center at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, chief of their division of hematology/oncology, and Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine.

   Dr. Evens' clinical expertise and research interests are focused on the field of lymphoid malignancies, in particular Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Over the past 20 years, he has been the principal investigator of more than 100 cancer clinical trials that have included phase I, II, and III studies, and has helped lead several national and global health outcomes and data analytics projects in lymphoma. Collectively, his research has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2005. This has resulted in 400+ research abstract presentations at national and international cancer

symposiums, 230+ manuscripts in peer-reviewed publications, and 40+ book chapters with an emphasis on the prognosis, treatment, and health outcomes of cancer.

Nationally, he is a core member of the Hodgkin Lymphoma Working Group for the NIH/NCI Steering Committee, and an ad hoc member of additional clinical and scientific committees for the NIH, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He was an associate editor for the British Journal of Haematology for 8 years and now serves as the inaugural editor-in-chief of the gold open-access journal, eJHaem. He is Vice-Chair of the Lymphoma Committee for the ECOG-ACRIN cancer research group; Co-Chair of the Big 10 Cancer Research Consortium lymphoma working group; and a re-elected member and the Chair-elect for the esteemed North American Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) for the Lymphoma Research Foundation that is comprised of 45 world-renowned lymphoma experts. Finally, he helps lead a multitude of regional, national, and international educational forums and scientific events.



10. Zhaohui Feng: https://www.cinj.org/research/zhaohui-feng-phd
    Zhaohui Feng, PhD, is a tenured Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology of Rutgers Cancer Institute at Rutgers University. Dr. Feng received his MD and PhD from Zhejiang University School of Medicine. Dr. Feng completed his postdoctoral training in NYU Medical School focusing on DNA damage and repair before he moved to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey continuing his postdoctoral training with Dr. Arnold Levine focusing on tumor suppressor p53.

    Since 2008, Dr. Feng has been a faculty member at Rutgers Cancer Institute. A major research interest of Dr. Feng's group is to study the function and mechanism of tumor suppressor p53. His group discovered that p53 regulates metabolism through regulation of AKT/mTOR signaling pathways, and p53 target genes, such as GLS2, Parkin and RRAD. His group identified new mechanisms and regulators for p53 regulation, including miR504, TRIM32, and LIF. His group's work also made important contributions toward understanding the mechanisms underlying mutant p53 gain of oncogenic activity in

tumors, including promoting glycolysis through activation of RhoA/Rock signaling. In addition, Dr. Feng studies the role and mechanism of metabolic reprogramming in cancer and how metabolic reprogramming in cancer can be targeted for therapy. The research conducted in Dr. Feng's laboratory has been supported by NIH and the NJ Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR).

11. David Foran: https://www.cinj.org/research/david-j-foran-phd
    David J. Foran, PhD, joined Rutgers Cancer Institute in 2002 and is Professor of Pathology, Laboratory Medicine and Radiology; Chief of Medical Informatics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Chief Informatics Officer and Director of Computational Imaging and Biomedical Informatics at Rutgers Cancer Institute; and inaugural Chief Research Informatics Officer, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences.

    Because of his wide-reaching work on bioinformatics, computational imaging, and integrative diagnostics, Dr. Foran functioned as a charter member on the Biomedical Computing and Health Informatics (BCHI) study section at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). While serving as a consultant to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2014, he also became a standing member for the Biodata Management and Analysis (BDMA) Study Section for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at NIH. He currently serves as a reviewer for the NIH-NCI Special Emphasis Panel on Innovative Informatics Methods and Algorithms for Cancer Research.

    In his role as Co-Chair for the Rutgers Global Health Institute's Workgroup for oncology and pathology outreach programs, Foran is working with colleagues throughout Rutgers and other university and corporate partners to improve health care training and care efficacy in Botswana. This includes the development of pilot projects to give access to digital training assets for pathology students in Botswana and improving clinical decision support at point of care.

    Dr. Foran has been a session chair and an invited speaker for many national and international conferences. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal on

Cancer Informatics; as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Pathology Informatics; and as a reviewer for the American Medical Informatics Association; BMC Cancer; Archives in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; the IEEE Transactions on Information Technology in Biomedicine; and the IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging.

12. Lauri Goodell: https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/people/lauri-goodell
    Dr. Goodell is an associate professor at the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Co-Director of Biospecimen Repository Services at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry from Rutgers University, and her MD from UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She completed a pathology residency at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, and three separate postgraduate trainings at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School — a pathology residency, and surgical/cytopathology and a hematopathology fellowships. Her areas of interest include anatomic and clinical pathology.

13. Roman Groisberg: https://cinj.org/roman-groisberg-md
    Dr. Groisberg is the Director of the Sarcoma Program for the Division of Medical Oncology and is a Medical Oncologist at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, following an internal medicine residency at Yale-New Haven hospital and a hematology/oncology fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He sees patients as part of the Melanoma and Sarcoma Program and the Phase I/Investigational Therapeutics Program at Rutgers Cancer Institute.

    Dr. Groisberg is the author or co-author of numerous publications, reviews, book chapters, abstracts, and presentations related to targeted therapy in cancer, especially related to

sarcomas. He received the prestigious Connie and Jim Walter endowed fellowship for sarcoma research as well as the Daniel Benedict Gazan endowed sarcoma fellowship. He also received the American Society of Clinical Oncology merit award for outstanding research in targeted sarcoma therapy as well as a top prize by the Texas state oncology society research competition. Dr. Groisberg is a member of several national and international cancer societies including ASCO, EACR, AACR, and CTOS, where he present his research.

14. Bruce Haffty: https://www.cinj.org/bruce-haffty-md-ms
    Dr. Haffty is the Chair of Radiation Oncology; Associate Vice Chancellor for Cancer Programs at Rutgers Cancer Institute; and System Director of Radiation Oncology at RWJBarnabas Health. He spent the majority of his professional career at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, where I did my medical school, internship and residency training in radiation oncology, followed by nearly 18 years where he developed my career specializing in breast cancer and head and neck cancers.

    Since coming to the Cancer Institute in 2005, he has overseen the growth of our Radiation Oncology Program to offer numerous sub-specialties not generally offered in a community setting. Our department has grown to a total of 14 physician faculty serving practices here at the Institute and RWJUH in New Brunswick, RWJUH Somerset the Cancer Institute in Hamilton and University Hospital in Newark. We have developed Divisions of Physics and Radiation Biology and have New Jersey's only residency programs in radiation oncology and medical physics. With a personal expertise in breast cancer, he works closely with colleagues across all disciplines in the Breast Oncology Program and other specialty centers at Rutgers Cancer Institute to educate patients about the treatment options available to them.

    Dr. Haffty has a special research interest in radiation therapies targeting breast cancer and have been awarded numerous research grants and conduct clinical and translational investigation allowing our team to translate these findings to apply directly to patient

therapies. Currently, our team of radiation oncologists, working closely with our surgeons and medical oncologists, are exploring more rapid ways of delivering radiation and investigating novel drugs which may enhance the effects of radiation in breast cancer and other cancers.

He has served in many leadership roles related to research and education in radiation oncology and served as president of the American Board of Radiology, the major certifying organization for the practice of diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology, and medical physics. He also served as president and Chairman of the Board of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), which is the world's largest radiation oncology society, and has served as a past president of the American Radium Society, past chairman of the Residency Review Committee in Radiation Oncology, and currently serves on the RSNA Board of Directors, serving as Chairman of the Board from November 2019-November 2020.

Dr. Haffty is the author or co-author of more than 400 peer-reviewed publications, multiple book chapters and editorials. Additionally, he served as editor of the comprehensive book entitled Handbook of Radiation Oncology. Having served on numerous editorial boards, he is presently the deputy editor of the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

15. Carolyn Heckman: https://www.cinj.org/research/carolyn-j-heckman-phd
    Carolyn J. Heckman, PhD is Chief of the Behavioral Sciences Section in the Department of Medicine and Professor of Medicine with tenure at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and is Co-Leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Rutgers Cancer Institute. She received her BA in psychology from Brown University and PhD in Counseling Psychology from The University of Iowa. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in health psychology and addictions at Virginia Commonwealth University and is a licensed psychologist. She is a Fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, has published over 125 peer-reviewed papers, and has been funded by the National Cancer Institute including five R01s, an R21, R03, and a K07, as well as having received funding from the American Cancer Society and Pfizer.

16. Christian Hinrichs: https://cinj.org/research/christian-s-hinrichs-md
    Christian S. Hinrichs, M.D., serves as Co-Director of the Duncan and Nancy MacMillan Cancer Immunology and Metabolism Center of Excellence (CIMCoE) and Chief of the Section of Cancer Immunotherapy. He also is Co-Leader of the Cancer Metabolism and Immunology Program. Dr. Hinrichs came to Rutgers Cancer Institute from the NCI where he held the position of tenured Senior Investigator and Lasker Clinical Research Scholar.

    Dr. Hinrichs is a physician-scientist who has pioneered cell therapy for HPV-associated cancers and other epithelial cancers. He is known for the discovery of tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte therapy for the treatment of HPV-associated cancers, which was the first cell therapy to cause durable, complete responses in epithelial cancers. He also has discovered gene-engineered TCR-T cell therapies targeting HPV antigens and has demonstrated the safety and clinical activity of these treatments. His current laboratory research is focused on T cell receptor discovery, next-generation therapeutic approaches, and mechanisms of response to immunotherapy.

    Dr. Hinrichs leads the cell therapy program at Rutgers Cancer Institute in conducting "bench-to-bedside and back again" research that leverages the specialized facilities of the cancer center to bring cutting-edge treatments to New Jersey patients. The specialized facilities of the program include the Cell Therapy Research Laboratory, Process Development Laboratory, and GMP Facility. Clinical trials with on-site GMP manufacturing include treatments for gastric cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, triple-negative breast cancer, cervical cancer, oropharyngeal cancer, anal cancer, and genital cancers.

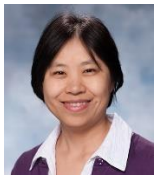
17. Howard Hochester: https://cinj.org/howard-s-hochster-md-facp
    As the Associate Director for Clinical Research and Director, Gastrointestinal (GI) Oncology, Dr. Hochester shares the vision of the Rutgers Cancer Institute leadership of a

unified, robust and broad-based clinical trials program. In these roles, and as Director of Oncology Research for RWJBarnabas it is his goal to bring the very best clinical trials to our patients here in the Garden State, at both Rutgers Cancer Institute and across the many hospitals of RWJBarnabas Health.

After graduating from the Yale School of Medicine, he completed an internship, residency and fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at Bellevue Hospital and NYU Medical Center. He is certified in Internal Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine, and by the Hematology and Oncology Boards. Since 1986, he was on the NYU faculty in medical oncology, rising to full professor before moving to the Yale Cancer Center in 2010, where he was the Associate Director for Clinical Research and head of GI Oncology until joining Rutgers Cancer Institute.

Dr. Hochester's clinical expertise and research interests are dedicated to early drug development and clinical pharmacology, focused on tumors of the gastrointestinal tract. He has led numerous clinical trials and have been at the forefront of clinical research in GI Oncology and have been instrumental in the approval of eight new drugs for the treatment of colon cancer. He has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed articles on cancer therapy, new drug development and clinical trials and have presented many of these study results at national meetings. He had two R01 funded research projects on cancer pharmacodynamics and was recently awarded a Lead Academic Participating Site Grant to support NCI sponsored clinical trials. He also has been very involved with the NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) and have chaired ten phase 2 and phase 3 studies in the NCI cooperative groups. Since 2013, he has chaired the GI Cancer Committee for SWOG (formerly, Southwestern Oncology Group), one of the four NCTN cooperative groups. Together with his SWOG and NCTN colleagues, they strive to design and conduct the studies that set standards of care for pioneering new treatments in cancer care.

Other professional activities include reviewing scientific publications and grant applications in his capacity as Associate Editor for the Journal of the National Cancer Institute and Journal of GI Oncology. He also regularly reviews manuscripts for Journal of Clinical Oncology, Cancer, British Medical Journal and Lancet. He reviews grants for the NCI and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. Dr. Hochester is also a Medical Director of the Chemotherapy Foundation.



18. Wenwei Hu: https://www.cinj.org/research/wenwei-hu-phd
    Wenwei Hu, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology of Rutgers Cancer Institute at Rutgers University. Dr. Hu received her PhD from Zhejiang University School of Medicine for research on mutagenesis induced by chemical carcinogen. Dr. Hu completed postdoctoral training in NYU Medical School focusing on DNA damage and repair before she moved to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey continuing her postdoctoral training with Dr. Arnold Levine studying p53 and its signaling pathway. During this period, she discovered a novel physiological function of p53 in regulation of maternal implantation.

    Since 2009, Dr. Hu has been a faculty member at Rutgers Cancer Institute in New Brunswick, NJ. A major research interest of Dr. Hu's group is to study 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. The research conducted in Dr. Hu's laboratory has been supported by NIH, DOD CDMRP, Ellison Medical Foundation, the American Cancer Society, the NCI network on biobehavioral pathways in cancer (NCI-NPBC), and the NJ Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR).

19. Shawna Hudson: https://ifh.rutgers.edu/faculty_staff/shawna-hudson/
    Dr. Shawna Hudson is Vice Chancellor for Dissemination and Implementation Science for Rutgers Health and Senior Associate Dean for Population Health Research at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She is also founding director of the school's Center Advancing Research and Evaluation for Patient-Centered Care (CARE-PC). Dr. Hudson is a full research member of the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in the Cancer Prevention and Control Program where she previously served as the Director of Community Research and Acting Director of Community Outreach. She has a secondary faculty appointment in the Rutgers School of Public Health in the Department of Health Behavior, Society and Policy. Dr. Hudson currently serves as Director for the Community Engagement Core of the NJ Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science (NJ ACTS) – a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) consortium of Rutgers University, Princeton University

and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She led its $5 million NIH-funded Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations initiative to improve outreach and access to COVID-19 testing within New Jersey vulnerable and underserved communities.

A medical sociologist, Dr. Hudson is a community-engaged, primary care researcher working with vulnerable populations at the intersections of community health, primary care and specialty care. She has published extensively on the role of primary care in long-term follow-up care for cancer survivors. Input from patients, clinicians and the community is at the heart of her work. She is a mixed methods researcher and serves as Principal Investigator and co-Investigator on multiple NIH funded studies. Dr. Hudson's research has been featured in a number of journals including JAMA Open Network, JAMA General Internal Medicine, Annals of Family Medicine and Lancet Oncology. She has led and participated in a number of large research studies funded by the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She has participated on numerous editorial boards, review panels and advisory committees. She serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Cancer Survivorship. She currently reviews grants for the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and previously served as a standing member of the NIH Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (DIRH) Study Section. Dr. Hudson is a gubernatorial appointed member of the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research. She serves as a Health Equity advisor for Bristol Myers Squibb and Stand Up to Cancer. Most recently, she served as a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) Committee on Implementing High-Quality Primary Care and Committee on Transforming Health Care to Create Whole Health: Strategies to Assess, Scale, and Spread the Whole Person Approach to Health.

20. Salma Jabbour: https://www.cinj.org/salma-jabbour-md

Dr. Jabbour is the Associate Director for Faculty Affairs and Development, Vice Chair of Clinical Research & Faculty Development,

Clinical Chief of Radiation Oncology, and is a Radiation Oncologist at RWJUH/Rutgers Cancer Institute. With a subspecialty in lung and gastrointestinal cancers (colon/rectum, pancreas, stomach, liver, esophagus, small intestines), she works closely with a multi-disciplinary team from our Thoracic Oncology and Gastrointestinal Oncology Programs in order to educate patients and help them make an informed decision about what treatment options are right for them. She has been at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey since 2006 following residency training at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

As a member of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), the American College of Radiology (ACR), and the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), she serves on several national committees that help to decide which radiation treatments are best for patients. Specifically, she helps to design the guidelines for gastrointestinal radiation therapy as part of the ACR. Also, as a member of the RTOG Gastrointestinal Steering Committee, she is aware of the latest radiation treatments and can help you to decide the best course of radiation.

21. Leslie Kantor: https://sph.rutgers.edu/directory/leslie-m-kantor
    Leslie M. Kantor, Ph.D., M.P.H., serves as the inaugural chair of the Department of Urban-Global Public Health at the Rutgers School of Public Health. Her current projects include efforts to reduce severe maternal morbidity and mortality in New Jersey, create health literate messaging related to COVID 19 and MPX (Monkeypox), and increase health equity. Dr. Kantor was formerly the Vice President of Education at Planned Parenthood Federation of America and a member of the faculty at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Dr. Kantor is the current Board chair of ETR Associates, a member of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Jegna Council advising their New Jersey team on health equity, a member of the Believe in a Healthy Newark steering committee, and a Trustee of the Orange Orphan Society (OOS). She previously served on the boards of several national organizations including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), Power to Decide and Answer.

Dr. Kantor is the 2020 recipient of the Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence from the Mailman School of Public Health, the 2019 recipient of the Lloyd M. Felmly award from the New Jersey Public Health Association for advancing public health through media, the 2018 recipient of the Carl S. Shultz Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sexual and Reproductive Health section of APHA, a 2018 recipient of the Millicent Carey McIntosh Award for Feminism from Barnard and the recipient of APHA's Jay S. Drotman award for challenging public health practice in a creative and positive manner.

22. Sung Kim: https://cinj.org/sung-kim-md

    Dr. Kim is a Radiation Oncologist, Professor & Vice Chair of Radiation Oncology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and Medical Director of Radiation Oncology at Rutgers Cancer Institute of NJ at University Hospital. He has been at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey since 2006, after completing medical school and radiation oncology residency at Yale. Prior to that he attended the U.S. Naval Academy and served as a submarine officer aboard the USS Asheville (SSN 758).

    My passion is treating head and neck cancer and improving the care of these patients is his career goal. Education is another passion of his, and he has enjoyed teaching head and neck radiation courses to radiation oncologists and radiologists at RSNA (Radiological society of North America) since 2011. He served as the program director from 2008-2019, helping to educate the next generation of radiation oncologists.

    In another capacity, Dr. Kim works with the head and neck section of the ABR (American Board of Radiology) to board certify radiation oncologists. They examine radiation oncologists with written exams and in person to ensure that they are proficient in treating head and neck cancer before they earn board certification.

    His final role is as medical director of the Newark branch of the Rutgers radiation oncology department at University Hospital in Newark, NJ.

23. Anita Kinney: https://www.cinj.org/research/about-dr-kinney

    Dr. Anita Kinney has been an actively funded investigator in cancer prevention and control for over 25 years. Her research brings a combination of behavioral science, clinical, and epidemiologic perspectives to address unsolved cancer problems and health disparities in diverse populations and settings. Her overarching research goal is to understand variation in cancer risk, determinants of risk and outcomes, and to use this information to develop effective interventions that facilitate informed decision-making, positive changes in health behaviors, and guideline-concordant genomic care delivery that leads to better outcomes. Much of Dr. Kinney's 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 also had considerable 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, risk reduction, screening and care delivery in average-risk and high-risk populations, and appropriate translation of genetic discoveries into clinical practice. Further, Dr. Kinney has pioneered effective culturally targeted and telehealth genetic risk communications, behavior change, and genomic testing interventions in cancer survivors and their relatives. This research has helped shape health policy and clinical guidelines. In addition, she has developed and tested effective health promotion interventions in cancer survivors incorporating genomic and other biomarkers to better understand biobehavioral mechanisms underlying intervention effects and improve cancer care delivery.

24. Russell Langan: https://www.cinj.org/russell-c-langan-md-facs-fsso

    Dr. Langan is the Associate Chief Surgical Officer, System Integration and Quality;

Director of Surgical Oncology, Northern Region, RWJBarnabas Health | Rutgers Cancer Institute; Chief of Surgical Oncology & Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center; and a Surgical Oncologist. He joined the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in a dual appointment with RWJBarnabas Health and is also an Assistant Professor of Surgery within the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. His practice primarily focuses on the management for tumors of the pancreas, liver, bile ducts, gallbladder and intestinal tract.

Prior to joining Rutgers Cancer Institute, he completed his general surgery residency training at Georgetown University Hospital followed by fellowships in tumor immunotherapy and surgical oncology within the Surgery Branch under Dr. Steven Rosenberg at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health. Most recently, he completed a fellowship in complex general surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where he received specialized training in the surgical management of hepatobiliary, pancreas and intestinal cancers.

As a member of the Gastrointestinal/Hepatobiliary Oncology Program at Rutgers Cancer Institute, Dr. Langan works in close collaboration with members of the multidisciplinary disease management teams including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, gastroenterologists, radiologists, pathologists, genetic counselors and dietitians to ensure his patients receive the highest level of evidence-based care including clinical trials.

He sees patients at Rutgers Cancer Institute in New Brunswick, Jersey City Medical Center, and Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston where he plans on expanding access for patients to clinical trials. As such, he is an appointed member of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center and is the co-chair for research at that institution. He also serves as the Chief of Surgical Oncology & Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery. Dr. Langan is passionate about advancing the field of surgical oncology by improving patient clinical outcomes and survival rates through the use of novel peri-operative multi-disciplinary treatment strategies.

Dr. Langan has authored more than 30 peer-reviewed articles and seven book chapters dedicated to surgical oncology. Within this field, he has lectured and presented nationally and while at the NCII was an associate investigator on numerous clinical trials. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncology, American Hepatopancreatobiliary Association, the Association for Academic Surgery and Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. He has received awards from the National Institutes of Health, Health and Human Services, Georgetown University Hospital, the District of

Columbia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, the Marquis Who's Who award in 2015 and the Top Doctor Award for surgical oncology in New York, New York for 2016.

Dr. Langan sees patients at Rutgers Cancer Institute, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center, and Jersey City Medical Center.

25. John Langenfeld: https://cinj.org/john-langenfeld-md
    Dr. Langenfeld is the Director of the Thoracic Oncology Program. Since coming to Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 1999, he has devoted his career to improving the survival of patients with lung and esophagus cancers. Building on his clinical experience from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, he has established a center of excellence to treat patients with thoracic malignancies. Its success has been from a collaborative effort with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital to provide an outstanding thoracic surgery program, which includes superior nursing and a broad range of medical experts to assist in the care of patients.

    He has also been devoted to improving patient outcomes with ongoing research endeavors. His center was part of a national trial, which demonstrated that CT screening for lung cancer improves survival in smokers. He recently reported that low-dose steroids improve survival in patients who develop respiratory compromise after a pulmonary resection.

    His laboratory identified that the bone morphogenetic protein 2 (BMP2), a protein expressed in embryos, is aberrantly expressed in the majority of lung cancers. The BMP2 protein enhances the growth, survival, and spread of lung cancers. His recent work suggests that novel inhibitors of this pathway represent potential new drugs to treat patients with lung cancers.

26. Edmund Lattime: https://www.cinj.org/research/research-spotlight-edmund-c-lattime-phd

Edmund C. Lattime, PhD, is the deputy director at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, as well as the associate director for education and training. He also is a professor of surgery, director of surgical oncology research and professor of molecular genetics, microbiology and immunology at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Dr. Lattime is well known for his work in tumor immunology. His laboratory studies the interaction between the tumor and immune response with the ultimate goal of developing effective immunotherapeutic approaches.

During his postdoctoral fellowship and subsequent ten years as a faculty member at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Lattime carried out the defining studies into the identification and regulation of natural cytotoxic cells shown to have significant antitumor activity. Also at Sloan-Kettering, his laboratory began studying the interaction between tumor and the immune response in patients with bladder cancer. These studies identified the tumor microenvironment as a target for therapy. In the late 1980s when he was recruited to Thomas Jefferson University, Dr. Lattime used data from these clinical and pre-clinical studies to further explore the modulation of antitumor immunity via drug/gene delivery to the tumor microenvironment.

Building from this work, his group ultimately developed a genetically engineered version of the smallpox vaccine virus (vaccinia) containing the gene for GMCSF – a substance naturally produced by the body's immune system that stimulates immune recognition. They took the virus from preclinical validation to the generation and regulatory approval of a human grade virus used in their first-in-man study in melanoma. The virus was patented and ultimately licensed to the Jennerex Biotherapeutics Company. It is currently in Phase II/III study in patients with liver cancer. Most recently, results from a Jennerex clinical trial of the virus was the focus of a publication in the journal Nature demonstrating for the first time a gene therapy given intravenously that localized and preferentially targeted tumor metastases.

When recruited to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey in 1998, Dr. Lattime and colleagues continued building on these previous findings. They completed a first-in-human Phase I clinical trial sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, which focused on the treatment of advanced bladder cancer tumors with a human-engineered fowlpox virus. Most recently, Dr. Lattime's laboratory has identified the effectiveness of intratumoral immunization with a related vaccinia-based tumor vaccine. Teaming with the Cancer Institute's Gastrointestinal Tumor Study Group, they have translated these latest findings to an innovative Phase I study, also sponsored by the NCI, where patients are immunized directly into the pancreas using an engineered poxvirus containing tumor markers (antigens) expressed on pancreatic cancer. Early results of this study, presented this past November at a national scientific meeting showed that in four out of six participants, the direct-injection vaccine treatment was shown to be associated with clinically stable disease.

While research is a main component of his work, in his role as Deputy Director at the Cancer Institute, Lattime also is responsible for the Education and Training Programs at the center. This includes The Governor's Conference on Effective Partnering in Cancer Research, which was started in 2003, with the goal of raising the visibility of cancer research in New Jersey, and the Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey, which brings together cancer researchers from across the state to present their findings and build statewide collaborations. He is also responsible for overseeing Faculty Affairs at the Cancer Institute.

27. Steven Libutti: https://cinj.org/about-cinj/steven-k-libutti-md-facs
    Steven K. Libutti, MD, FACS, was appointed Director of Rutgers Cancer Institute and Vice Chancellor for Cancer Programs, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences in January 2017. In addition to his leadership roles within Rutgers University, Dr. Libutti serves as Senior Vice President of Oncology Services for RWJBarnabas Health. He is also a Professor of Surgery at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and an Affiliated Distinguished Professor in Genetics, Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences.

After graduating magna cum laude from Harvard College, Dr. Libutti received his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. He remained at Presbyterian Hospital in New York where he completed his residency in surgery, followed by a fellowship at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in surgical oncology. He continued at the NCI where he became a tenured Senior Investigator and Chief of the Tumor Angiogenesis Section in the Surgery Branch. Following his time at the NCI, he served as the Director of the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care and as an Associate Director of the Albert Einstein Cancer Center for eight years prior to joining Rutgers and RWJBarnabas Health.

Dr. Libutti is an internationally known expert in the management of neuroendocrine tumors and Past President of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. His clinical practice focuses on gastrointestinal malignancies including cancers of the liver and pancreas. The recipient of funding from the NCI for the past 25 years, Dr. Libutti is also a researcher whose work focuses on developing novel cancer therapies through an understanding of the tumor microenvironment as well as on a better understanding of the tumor suppressor genes MEN1 and FILIP1L. He has published over 300 peer reviewed journal articles, is Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of the Springer-Nature Journal Cancer Gene Therapy and holds eleven U.S. patents.

28. Hao Liu: https://sph.rutgers.edu/directory/hao-liu-phd
    Hao Liu, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Rutgers School of Public Health. Dr. Liu obtained his doctorate degree in biostatistics from the University of Washington.

    Dr. Liu has more than fifteen years of experience in applying biostatistics in cancer research and has been continuously funded by external National Institutes of Health grants. Dr. Liu is on the editorial board of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, and previously, was on numerous editorial boards including the Journal of Clinical Oncology and has participated in many National Institutes of Health study sections. He has published widely in collaborative research and statistical methodology research with more than 120 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Liu was fortunate to be part of many successful

cancer center support grant applications, including building the biostatistics programs in two NCI cancer centers, where during his tenure, both achieved the prestigious NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center status. Perceiving statistical ideas and techniques as means for speeding up medical research, he has published many important statistical methodology papers in the areas of survival analysis, clinical trial designs, and the design and analysis of population-based studies.

29. Dr. Sharon Manne

Sharon Manne, PhD, is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Joint Office for Faculty Mentorship at Rutgers Cancer Institute and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She is also a founding co-director of the Cancer Survivorship and Outcomes Center at Rutgers Cancer Institute. A clinical psychologist, Dr. Manne completed her doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Arizona State University, her post-doctoral fellowship under Dr. Jimmie Holland at Memorial Sloan Kettering in 1990, and she was an Assistant Attending Psychologist in the MSKCC Psychiatry Service (now Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences) until 1997. She worked at Fox Chase Cancer Center from 1997-2010.

Dr. Manne is an international expert in the field of psycho-oncology and considered a thought leader in the area of psychological interventions for cancer patients and their families. Dr. Manne has been the recipient of 13 R01 grants, a K04, a K07, and other R-series grants from the National Institutes of Health. Her work aims to further understand the impact of cancer on survivors and their families and their psychosocial needs. One primary research focus for her work been the development of psychological interventions to reduce psychological distress among couples coping with cancer, and she has developed and evaluated four couple-focused interventions for cancer survivors and their partners. She has published 241 articles and two books.

30. Richard Marlink: https://globalhealth.rutgers.edu/directory/richard-marlink/
    Richard Marlink, MD, arrived at Rutgers in 2016 as the founding director of Rutgers Global Health Institute and the inaugural Henry Rutgers Professor of Global Health.

    In 2018, building on his years of involvement in Botswana's HIV/AIDS response, he worked with the Government of Botswana and the University of Botswana to establish the Botswana-Rutgers Partnership for Health. A medical oncologist, he is leading Rutgers' efforts to help Botswana build a comprehensive cancer care and prevention program, open its new teaching hospital, and build capacity throughout the health care workforce. The work of the partnership also expanded to include support for Botswana's COVID-19 response.

    In New Jersey, Marlink is focused on ensuring equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. He was a member of the Newark Reopening and Recovery Strikeforce established by Mayor Ras J. Baraka, where he helped develop the city's initial COVID-19 testing plan. Along with the city's partners, he actively participated in Newark's COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and supportive isolation working groups. Marlink also spearheaded an initiative called the Equitable Recovery program aimed to support small businesses in New Jersey's low-income and minority communities. The program began with a focus on education and training on safe, ongoing operations, and evolved to meet the changing needs of the businesses and the communities over time, related both to COVID-19 and broader health disparities.

    Background in HIV/AIDS

    Marlink has extensive experience in epidemic response and capacity building, having worked to establish large-scale HIV/AIDS research, training, and clinical care programs in the United States and abroad. He was instrumental in setting up the first HIV/AIDS clinic in Boston, and in the mid-1980s in Senegal, he was part of the team of Senegalese, French, and American researchers who discovered evidence for and then studied the disease outcomes of the second type of human AIDS virus, HIV-2, in West Africa.

Previously, Marlink was a professor of public health at Harvard University. While there, he helped create two partnerships with the government of Botswana: the 1996 Botswana-Harvard Partnership with the Harvard AIDS Initiative, where he was executive director, and the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships, a public-private partnership with the government of Botswana that was launched in 2000 with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates and Merck foundations. Also in 2000, Marlink founded the Kitso AIDS Training Program, which would become Botswana's national AIDS training program. Kitso means "knowledge" in Setswana, Botswana's local language.

Global Impact on HIV/AIDS

Marlink was the principal investigator for "The Tshepo Study," the first large-scale antiretroviral treatment study in southern Africa, funded by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation's Secure the Future initiative. His research in the region also includes clinical and epidemiological evaluations to help determine how antiretroviral treatment and national treatment programs can best be accomplished in Africa. Since 2000, programs he has created and/or led have trained tens of thousands of health care workers and helped establish national programs on the care, treatment, and prevention of HIV/AIDS in several African countries.

Following the 2003 launch of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to combat global HIV/AIDS, the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history, Marlink was Botswana's country director for the Botswana-Harvard PEPFAR effort. Concurrently, while serving as scientific director and vice president for implementation at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, he was principal investigator of Project HEART, another PEPFAR Track 1.0 effort in five African countries. Project HEART began in 2004 and by 2011 had placed more than one million people living with HIV into clinical care in Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. More than 565,000 were placed on life-saving antiretroviral treatment.

Publications

Marlink has authored or co-authored more than 150 peer-reviewed articles, in addition to numerous scientific articles and chapters. He has written a textbook, Global AIDS Crisis: A Reference Handbook; and co-edited the book, AIDS in Africa, 2nd Edition. Additionally, he served as chief editor for two special supplements to the journal AIDS and as executive editor of the seminal 320-author, three-volume textbook, From the Ground Up: Building

Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Care Programs in Resource Limited Settings, which is available online as a downloadable PDF.

Education and Training

Marlink completed his hematology/oncology fellowship at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School. He received his medical degree from the University of New Mexico and his bachelor's degree from Brown University.

31. Matthew Matasar: https://www.cinj.org/matthew-matasar-md
    Dr. Matasar is the Chief, Division of Blood Disorders, Rutgers Cancer Institute Hematologist/Oncologist and Professor of Medicine, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

    He graduated from Harvard College and then Harvard Medical School and moved to New York to train in medicine at what was then Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. After completing his training in internal medicine, and staying on as a Chief Resident while completing a Master's degree at the Mailman School of Public Health, he joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to pursue advanced training in cancer medicine, and have been dedicated to caring for patients with lymphoma ever since.

    Throughout his career, Dr. Matasar has held a number of responsibilities in addition to caring for patients, including conducting clinical research to develop more effective and less toxic treatments as well as studying how best to care for survivors of lymphoma and its treatments. He has also contributed as a member of the board of the New Jersey chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and as a member of the American Society of Hematology's national Committee on Quality.

32. Tina Mayer: https://www.cinj.org/tina-mayer-md
    Dr. Mayer is a Medical Oncologist and an Associate Professor at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She came to Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in 2009, having completed an oncology fellowship at Yale School of Medicine, which was preceded by a residency at Tufts Medical Center and a medical school education at Cornell University.

    Her practice focuses on cancers of the genitourinary system (prostate, bladder, testis and kidney). Within these areas of specialty, she provide patients with a comprehensive evaluation and helps educate them about their disease so that they can make informed decisions about their treatment options. This is done collaboratively at the Cancer Institute with experts across multi-disciplines in the Urologic Oncology Program including radiation and surgical oncologists, nurses, social workers, nutritionists and other experts who are all part of the team.

    She is involved in conducting clinical trials within my areas of specialty and excited to be a part of a team that offers some of the newest available therapies to battle cancer.

    In addition to the above, Dr. Mayer serves as associate program director for the Hematology-Oncology Fellowship program, which enables her to help train and educate the next generation of medical students, residents and medical oncologists.

33. Coral Omene: https://cinj.org/coral-o-omene-md-phd
    Dr. Omene is the Program Director, Breast Cancer Disparities Research; a Medical Oncologist; and the Associate Professor of Medicine, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She is a medical oncologist with a passion for women's health

who is dedicated to the care of treating and managing a diverse pool of breast cancer patients.

She began her career upon completion of a combined MD/PhD degree at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Interestingly, although she started out in an immunology laboratory, she subsequently obtained a PhD studying the functional characterization of the interaction between the breast cancer gene product, BRCA1, and the protein BARD1, which was discovered in our laboratory, in an effort to understand the mechanisms of tumor suppression by BRCA1. This turn in my career set the path for my lifelong interest in breast cancer.

Since then, Dr. Omene has dedicated herself to studying the translation of novel laboratory observations and discoveries to the care of patients. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center. During residency, she became fascinated by the challenging breast cancer subtype, triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) and the lack of effective therapies, especially given its aggressive nature, poor prognosis, its complex biology, and its cruel predilection for young African American women. After residency, she pursued a fellowship at NYU School of Medicine, in the field of Hematology/Oncology, with a special interest in the area of breast cancer. At NYU, she continued my pursuit in combining clinical and research training and was awarded the Dean's Scholar-NYU Physician Scientist Training Program grant, and later subsequently was the first recipient to receive the Breast Cancer Research Fellowship at NYU Langone Medical Center.

Her research in recent years included her NIH K08 research project aimed at modifying the risk for developing TNBC using a natural compound derivative. This research has the potential to be readily translatable as chemoprevention in the clinical setting for triple negative breast cancer patients and populations at high risk. Currently, she is studying changes in response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in African American women with Triple Negative Breast Cancer and the interplay with host factors such as obesity that impact on cancer disparities. The ultimate goal is the development of interventional strategies and clinical trials in these populations. She is a site Principal Investigator for multiple industry and cooperative group clinical trials including the innovative I-SPY2 Trial of neoadjuvant treatment for locally advanced breast cancer. She is Co-Chair of the BIG TEN Cancer Research Consortium Breast Cancer Clinical Trial Working Group.

Dr. Omene actively participates in local, regional and national scientific conferences including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Association for Cancer Research and the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

34. Reynold Panettieri: Reynold Panettieri | Rutgers Global Health Institute
    Dr. Panettieri is the Vice Chancellor for Translational Medicine and Science, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences; Professor, Department of Medicine, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; and Director, Rutgers Institute for Translational Medicine and Science. As a physician scientist and pulmonologist, he provides expertise in translational medicine and clinical research. His focus on novel discovery and development of therapies to manage asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other airway diseases is highly relevant to global health. Asthma and COPD are epidemics that induce profound morbidity and mortality worldwide. Additionally, Dr. Panettieri has expertise in environmental lung health with a particular focus on the molecular and cellular mechanism by which air pollution evokes asthma disease and exacerbations. Air pollution and environmental smoke exposure represent increasing health threats globally.

35. Renata Pasqualini : https://sites.rutgers.edu/cinj-radiation-oncology/pi-profiles/
    Renata Pasqualini, PhD, is a professor of medicine and Chief of the Division of Cancer Biology at CINJ/Rutgers University. Dr. Pasqualini received her PhD degree from the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and did postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School and at the Burnham Institute in La Jolla, CA. Together with Dr. Wadih Arap, with whom she leads a joint laboratory, she made groundbreaking discoveries about the diversity of blood vessels in normal and diseased organs, developing a system to identify different molecular signatures based on where they are located in the body. These so-called “vascular ZIP codes” may be used to selectively deliver therapeutic and diagnostic agents in diseases such as cancer, obesity, and blinding eye disorders. In addition to her activities as the principal investigator and head of a large research laboratory, first at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and now at Rutgers University, she serves as a board

member, reviewer, and chair in multiple review panels for the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, along with several other American, Asian, and European Foundations that support basic and clinical research. She is a Referee for several top journals featuring cutting edge research and technology, has published more than 200 papers, and holds multiple patents.

36. Henry Pitt : [Henry A. Pitt, MD | Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (cinj.org)]

Henry A. Pitt, MD joined Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, as Chief of Oncologic Quality in August 2020. Dr. Pitt provides leadership and oversight for the planning and execution of initiatives in the areas of quality improvement, performance excellence, patient safety, patient satisfaction, infection control, and outcomes reporting for the Oncology Service Line. He is also responsible for the implementation of quality improvement in operational and clinical performance improvement initiatives enhancing cancer efficiencies and lowering costs. Dr. Pitt oversees the appropriate utilization of clinical resources (clinical effectiveness) and coordinate efforts to improve clinical core measures, as well as develop and maintain a data repository and implementation of patient safety initiatives for the Oncology Service Line.

Dr. Pitt was most recently the Chief Quality Officer for Temple University Health System and Associate Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professor of Surgery at Temple University School of Medicine. Prior to joining Temple, Dr. Pitt served as Chief Quality Officer at Indiana University Hospital in Indianapolis.

Dr. Pitt earned his medical degree from Cornell University Medical College and subsequently completed his residency training in general surgery at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore, MD, also serving as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy. His clinical background is in hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) surgery. Dr. Pitt previously held appointments at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and The Johns Hopkins University and Hospital and was Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery at Johns Hopkins and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has held many leadership positions in several national and international professional societies

and is on the editorial boards of numerous professional journals. His research has been published extensively in major peer-review journals.

37. Meral Reyhan: Meral Reyhan, PhD – Department of Radiation Oncology (rutgers.edu)
    Dr. Reyhan earned a Masters degree from Rutgers University in Physics with a concentration in Nuclear Physics and Surface Science. She earned Masters and Doctoral degrees from the University of California Los Angeles in Biomedical Physics, receiving the Dissertation Year Prize for her research in magnetic resonance imaging. She completed a residency in therapeutic medical physics at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. During her time in New Brunswick, Dr. Reyhan also competed in the AAPM Spring Clinical Young Investigator Symposium, winning second prize for her research with Gafchromic film and magnetic fields. After completing residency, she worked for a year at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, where she gained experience with Hyperthermia and Intravascular Brachytherapy. Dr. Reyhan's research focuses on applications of magnetic resonance imaging to radiation therapy, adaptive radiation therapy for lung cancer patients, and applications of big data and convolution neural network to radiation therapy. She has published both peer-reviewed articles and textbook chapters on these topics. A New Jersey native, she enjoys hiking the Delaware Water Gap, skiing, scuba diving, and traveling with her family.

38. Gregory Riedlinger: https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/people/gregory-riedlinger
    Dr. Gregory Riedlinger is an associate professor at the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of Maryland at College Park and completed his MD and PhD at Wake Forest School of Medicine in the field of Cancer Biology.

He completed fellowships at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, and at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He also completed a residency at the National Cancer Institute.

His areas of interest include molecular pathology and pathology informatics. Currently, he is researching clonal hematopoiesis, pathology image analysis, and molecular profiling of cancer.

39. Jason Roy: Jason Roy, PhD | Rutgers School of Public Health

    Jason Roy, Ph.D., is chair and professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. He also serves as the director of Rutgers University Biostatistics and Epidemiology Services and co-director of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design core, NJ ACTS. Prior to joining Rutgers, Dr. Roy was a professor at the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Informatics at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his bachelor's degree in actuarial science and economics from Eastern Michigan University, and his master's and doctoral degrees in biostatistics from the University of Michigan.

    Dr. Roy is interested in methodological research in developing flexible Bayesian methods for large, observational studies, especially data from EHR and mobile health. He is particularly interested in causal inference problems, where Bayesian nonparametric methods can be used in conjunction with g-computation. He is also interested in functional clustering methods, which can be very useful for extracting features from intensively collected data (such as from mobile devices). Much of his collaborative research is in pharmacoepidemiology.

40. Derek Sant'Angelo: Derek B. Sant'Angelo, PhD | CHINJ (rutgers.edu)

Dr. Derek Sant'Angelo is the Associate Director of Basic Science, CINJ; Professor of Pediatrics and Chief, Division of Immunobiology, RWJMS; and Harold L. Paz, MD Endowed Professor of Developmental Biology. He received his BS from the University of Michigan, and his PhD from Rutgers University. Derek was an HHMI Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale under the mentorship of Dr. Charles A. Janeway, Jr. As a faculty member at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, Derek initiated studies that led to the discovery that the BTB-ZF transcription factor, PLZF, is essential for NKT cell effector functions. In 2011, Derek moved to Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In 2015 he was appointed Associate Director for Basic Science of the Child Health Institute.

Dr. Sant'Angelo has continued to work on identifying key transcription factors that define and maintain the functional identity of lymphocytes. Current interests include TCR mediated control of adipose resident iNKT cells and how alteration of PLZF expression impacts the onset of obesity and related metabolic disorders.

41. Biren Saraiya: https://www.cinj.org/biren-saraiya-md
    Dr. Saraiya is a Medical Oncologist and an Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology, and Section of Solid Tumor, at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

    He joined The Cancer Institute of New Jersey originally in 2008 as an assistant professor of medicine with a focus on thoracic oncology and hematologic malignancies following a fellowship in hematology/oncology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He trained in internal medicine with a focus on research and skill development in palliative care.

    In 2011, Dr. Saraiya became the medical director at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey's program at RWJ Hamilton, where he was responsible for developing and maintaining a patient-centered cancer treatment, prevention and screening program tailored toward both patient and family. He left Rutgers Cancer Institute in 2015 to join Summit Medical Group as the Division Chief of Medical Oncology and Hematology where he guided the expansion of the cancer program as well as cancer research program. After being away from

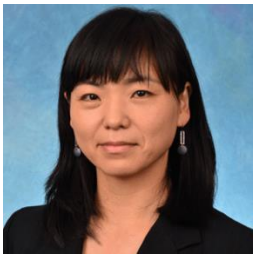
academic medicine for a few years and missing that culture, he rejoined Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey's Genitourinary Oncology Program in 2018.

Looking to continually improve his physician-patient relationship skills, he has completed training through Oncotalk, now VitalTalk, an NCI sponsored research study and also completed Oncotalk Teach, a faculty development program. Knowing that today's physician training is key to how patient care is delivered and communicated in the future, he has contributed to the Oncotalk Teach program.

Dr. Saraiya is board certified in palliative care and continues to teach the principles of palliative care to medical students, residents, fellows and practicing physicians. He started palliative care rotations for medical students at RWJMS, an annual Palliative Care Symposium for the Department of Medicine and a teaching program for residents.

42. Jaya Satagopan : Jaya Satagopan, PhD (she/her/hers) | Rutgers School of Public Health
    Jaya Satagopan, Ph.D., is the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and a professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Rutgers School of Public Health. Dr. Satagopan directs the Rutgers Center for South Asian Quantitative Health and Education. She holds a master's degree in science communication and public engagement from the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Satahopan received her doctorate degree in statistics from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Dr. Satagopan's research focuses on statistical genetics/genomics with applications in cancer epidemiology and tumor biology studies including cost-effective study designs for genome-wide studies, estimating the lifetime risk of cancer in mutation carriers, dimension reduction and Bayesian shrinkage analysis methods for evaluating multiple disease risk factors and methods for evaluating gene-exposure interactions. She has investigated parsimonious risk models for evaluating cancer risk factors. She showed that sometimes multiplicative statistical interactions between risk factors may be required in risk models to obtain a good fit to the data, and certain types of interactions can be removed by modeling the outcome on a suitable scale, thus resulting in parsimonious additive models for risk. She has developed methods for evaluating additive statistical interactions between biomarkers and treatments in relation

to time-to-event endpoints and applied these to digitally extracted data from phase III clinical trials of metastatic melanoma and metastatic colorectal cancer.



43. Soko Setoguchi: Soko Setoguchi | Rutgers Global Health Institute
    Soko Setoguchi, MD, DrPH, is a practicing general internist and epidemiologist and a professor of medicine at RWJMS and epidemiology at the Rutgers School of Public Health, as well as the Co-director of the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Science Program at the School of Graduate Studies. Dr. Setoguchi is an international expert in health services/outcomes research, comparative effectiveness research, and pharmacoepidemiology using large, longitudinal, population-based, health care databases and data linkage. Her most recent work focuses on an application of a large database approach to understand the impact of climate change on health outcomes in vulnerable populations. She has authored approximately 150 peer-reviewed papers and has obtained federal and non-federal funding for her research program.

    Having studied and practiced medicine and pharmacoepidemiology in both Japan and the U.S., she is passionate about globalizing pharmacoepidemiology and health services/outcomes research. She advances this passion by actively teaching in and outside of the U.S., training global scholars of diverse backgrounds, and collaborating with non-U.S. institutions, especially in Asia, on funded and unfunded studies. Her recent efforts have focused on pharmacoepidemiology and health services/outcomes research to understand and address health issues impacted by climate change, which, she says, is the single biggest health threat facing humanity, according to the World Health Organization.

44. Zhiyuan Shen: https://www.cinj.org/research/zhiyuan-shen-md-phd
    Dr. Zhiyuan Shen is a Professor and the Division Chief of Radiation Cancer Biology in the Department of Radiation Oncology, and a Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He serves as the Associate Director for

Basic Research at the Rutgers Cancer Institute (CINJ). Dr. Shen received a medical degree from the Norman Bethune University of Medical Sciences (now merged with Jilin University, China) in 1985, and a PhD degree in Molecular Biology and Radiation Biology from Colorado State University in 1993. After completing a Director's Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, he became a tenure tracked Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (1997), and at University of New Mexico (2000) where he was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2003. In 2006, Dr. Shen was recruited to CINJ and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School as the inaugural chief of the newly formed Division of Radiation Cancer Biology within the Department of Radiation Oncology, and he was promoted to tenured Professor in 2008. Dr. Shen served as a co-leader of the Genomic Instability and Cancer Genetics research program of CINJ between 2008 and 2022, and he became the Associate Director for Basic Research in 2022.

Dr. Zhiyuan Shen has a longstanding interest in the mechanisms by which genomic instability is provoked and how it drives tumorigenesis. His PhD research identified and cloned the mouse cytochromes p450-1b1 gene. His postdoctoral works had led to the identifications of mammalian RAD52, RAD52-RAD51 interaction, UBL1/SUMO1, and UBE2I/UBC9. Since becoming an independent investigator in 1997, his research has focused on the etiological role of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 network in various forms of human cancers, particularly on a previously uncharacterized protein, BCCIP, which was initially identified as a BRCA2 and CDKN1A (p21) Interacting Protein. Works from his laboratory suggest that BCCIP plays critical roles in maintaining genomic integrity and regulation of ribosome biogenesis and cell proliferation. Recently, Dr. Shen has devoted a significant effort to establish unique mouse models and genomic approaches to reveal new mechanisms by which caretaker genes maintain genomic integrity and suppress tumorigenesis.

45. Deborah Toppmeyer: https://www.cinj.org/deborah-toppmeyer-md
    Dr. Toppmeyer is the Chief Medical Officer; Director, Breast Oncology Program; Director, LIFE Center; and Chief, Medical Oncology. Since coming to Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in 1995, she has helped countless patients navigate their cancer journeys through a comprehensive approach within our Breast Oncology Program -- because it truly does take a team approach to tackle this disease. Following a fellowship at the Dana

Farber Cancer Center at Harvard Medical School, preceded by a residency at the University of Pittsburgh, her expertise has long been breast cancer and breast cancer genetics – including helping people understand their risk of developing breast cancer.

Through the years, she has also been involved in the design and implementation of clinical trials that offer promising new therapies targeted to specific types of breast cancer. With consultation from experts across multiple disciplines, she helps educate patients about clinical trial options. With the unique relationship offered through a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, she has the opportunity to work collaboratively with scientific investigators -- helping to translate information from the patient bedside back to the laboratory. As a professor of medicine at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, she also enjoys teaching the next generation of oncologists and provides opportunities for students to learn cancer biology, cancer pharmacology, genetics and clinical care.

Dr. Toppmeyer is the author or co-author of more than 50 publications and serves on the editorial board of the journal Clinical Cancer Research, one of the nation's premier cancer publications. As a core member for the Breast Committee of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, which is one of the nation's largest clinical cancer research organizations that conducts clinical trials in all types of adult cancers, she helps to develop and identify the next generation of treatment options for women and men with breast cancer.

46. Irina Vergalasova: https://sites.rutgers.edu/cinj-radiation-oncology/people/irina-vergalasova-phd/
    Dr. Vergalasova completed her undergraduate degree in Physics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey followed by her doctoral degree in Medical Physics at Duke University, after which she also completed her therapeutic physics residency at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Vergalasova serves as the Director of Brachytherapy Physics, the Director of the Medical Physics Certificate Program and the Associate Director of the Medical Physics Residency Program. She also serves on a number of national AAPM and SDAMPP committees and is committed to giving back to the medical physics community

as well as leaving a lasting impact on the education of future medical physicists. Dr. Vergalasova's research interests include HDR brachytherapy, quantitative imaging, and stereotactic radiosurgery. Her educational research interests are focused on developing formalized professionalism training for medical physics residency programs. In her free time, Dr. Vergalasova enjoys traveling with family and friends, reading, and staying active.

47. Michael Verzi: Michael Verzi - Office of Organizational Leadership (rutgers.edu)
    Michael Verzi is a Professor in the Department of Genetics, a member of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the Institute of Food, Nutrition, and Health, and Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute. He is the director of the Microbial and Molecular Genetics Graduate Program. Dr. Verzi's lab is NIH funded to investigate various aspects of intestinal health, including the intersection of diet and intestinal function, colon cancer, and stem cell biology. He leads a team of talented PhD students, PhD postdoctoral fellows, and MD/PhD scientists. He also mentors undergraduate researchers and is an advocate for the importance of scientific research in undergraduate STEM education.

48. Eileen White: Eileen White, PhD | Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (cinj.org)
    Eileen White is a cancer biologist known for her work establishing that a DNA tumor virus oncogene functions by inhibiting programmed cell death by apoptosis and is a homologue of the human BCL-2 oncogene. She is also known for establishing that tumor cells induce intracellular nutrient scavenging by autophagy, which promotes their metabolism, growth, survival, and malignancy. She was born and grew up on Long Island, New York, and received a B. S. degree in biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1977 and a Ph. D. degree in Biology from SUNY Stony Brook in 1983. She was a Damon Runyon Postdoctoral Fellow and Staff Investigator at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, then moved to Rutgers

University where she contributed to the establishment of the Rutgers Cancer Institute. She is currently the Deputy Director, Chief Scientific Officer at Rutgers Cancer Institute, Associate Director of the Ludwig Princeton Branch of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at Princeton University, and Board of Governors Professor of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences. In addition to being elected to the National Academy of Sciences, she is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology.

Eileen White's laboratory focuses on identifying mechanisms required for tumor cells and tumors to survive, proliferate, and evade surveillance by the immune system. The overall goal is to reveal novel approaches for cancer therapy. By studying how an oncogene encoded by the DNA tumor virus adenovirus promotes oncogenesis they established that it encoded a viral homologue of the human BCL-2 oncoprotein that blocked apoptosis by binding and inhibiting pro-apoptotic BCL-2 protein family members. These findings contributed to the intellectual leap that evading apoptosis was one of the hallmarks of cancer. By examining how tumor cells survive nutrient deprivation they discovered that they do so by upregulating intracellular nutrient scavenging by autophagy to recycle macromolecules into metabolic pathways. They went on to establish that autophagy in the host sustains levels of the amino acid arginine in the circulation, which is essential for tumor growth. By examining how autophagy controls the immune response they discovered that autophagy suppresses inflammation, thereby limiting an anti-tumor T-cell response that enables tumor growth. Collectively, these findings delineated novel tumor cell autonomous and host metabolic functions maintained by autophagy critical for tumor growth, and the means by which autophagy prevents tumor elimination by the immune system.

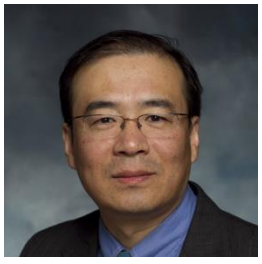
49. Patricia Whitley-Williams: Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD, FAAP | Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (rutgers.edu)

Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD, FAAP, is senior associate dean for Inclusion and Diversity, a professor of pediatrics, and chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases. A thought leader and chief enabler for inclusion and diversity, Dr. Whitley-Williams works with the medical school community to foster an inclusive, diverse, and equitable environment where all faculty, staff, and students from differing backgrounds can excel and achieve their goals.

Dr. Whitley-Williams has been board-certified by the American Board of Pediatrics since November 1980 and the Pediatric Infectious Disease Subspecialty since August 5, 1997, with recertification on November 8, 2004. She earned her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. She completed her internship and residency at Children's Hospital Medical Center, University of Cincinnati School of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH, and a fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Boston City Hospital, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA.

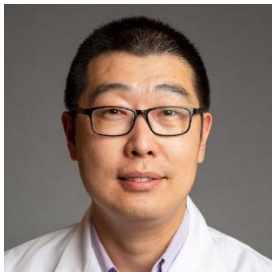
She is a liaison member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Network for Immunization Information of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. In the past she served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Vaccine Advisory Committee of the Department of Health and Senior Services as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Pediatric AIDS. Dr. Whitley-Williams has participated in the development of the national guidelines for the reduction of perinatal HIV transmission as a member of the Department of Health and Senior Services/Public Health Service Perinatal HIV Guidelines Working Group.

Her areas of interest include pediatric HIV, Lyme disease, immunization policy, travel medicine, immunology, infectious diseases, and HIV/AIDS.



50. Ning (Jeff) Yue: https://sites.rutgers.edu/cinj-radiation-oncology/people/ning-j-yue-phd/
    Dr. Yue received his Ph.D. in Physics from University of Pennsylvania and his Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from University of Science and Technology of China. He

completed his medical physics residency and postdoctoral trainings at Thomas Jefferson University, then joined the Department of Therapeutic Radiology of Yale-New Haven Hospital as a radiological physicist and Yale University School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Yue served as the Associate Director of Medical Physics of the Cancer Center of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in his career, then joined the Department of Radiation Oncology of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (then UMDNJ) as a Professor and Chief of Physics. He is now serving as the Chief of Physics and Executive Vice Chair of the Department. Dr. Yue is board certified in therapeutic medical physics by American Board of Radiology, and has extensive clinical experiences in radiation oncology physics, including almost all areas and treatment modalities of radiation oncology. He has conducted extensive research in many areas of radiation oncology, especially in brachytherapy and motion management. He has trained and mentored many students and established the first CAMPEP accredited medical physics residency program in the state of New Jersey. Dr. Yue is actively involved in various professional societies, including American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), and American Board of Radiology.



51. Yin Zhang: https://sites.rutgers.edu/cinj-radiation-oncology/people/yin-zhang-phd/
    Dr. Yin Zhang earned his PhD in Medical Physics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 2013. He completed a residency in Medical Physics at the Johns Hopkins University from 2013 to 2015. His PhD training was focus on preclinical molecular imaging and during his residency, he worked on a few different clinical projects, including ultrasound-guided radiation therapy, motion management in stereotactic radiation therapy, etc. He joined Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey in 2017. He is currently providing clinical physics services to different clinical sites, including Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at New Brunswick, University Hospital at Newark, Jersey City Medical Center at Jersey City, and Clara Maass Medical Center at Belleville. Additionally, he is leading the physics services of radiation oncology in the northern region. Dr. Yin Zhang's research interest is in general radiation oncology. Dr. Yin Zhang enjoys outdoor activities, traveling, and playing tennis.

52. X.F. Steven Zheng: [Steven Zheng, PhD | Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey (cinj.org)]

    Dr. X.F. Steven Zheng received PhD degree from Harvard University (with Joan Ruderman) in 1993 and postdoctoral training at Harvard (with Stuart Schreiber). He became a faculty member at Washington University before moving to Rutgers. His longstanding passion is to understand biochemical mechanisms of nutrient signaling in cancer and metabolic diseases, and to develop new therapies.

    Dr. Zheng has made fundamental contributions to understanding mTOR pathway. Working with Dr. Schreiber, he played a major role in demonstrating mTOR as the direct target of rapamycin and elucidating the mode of rapamycin action. He further showed that rapamycin is only a partial, allosteric mTOR inhibitor, and that the mTOR kinase domain is essential for mTOR overall functions. These findings provided the key rationale for the development of mTOR kinase inhibitors as cancer therapeutics.

    Dr. Zheng discovered that mTOR can act as a transcription factor, and elaborated the mechanisms underpinning nuclear mTOR signaling in controlling transcription, chromatin dynamics and genomic stability. His laboratory has also shed light on the therapeutic response and resistance to rapamycin and mTOR kinase inhibitors in colorectal and liver cancers. Dr. Zheng has been continuously supported by NIH/NCI R01 grants for the past 18 years. He has served on numerous NIH, and other national and international review panels.

53. Wei-zing Zong: [Dr. Wei-Xing Zong, PhD – Cancer Institute of New Jersey CCSG Site Visit (rutgers.edu)]

    - Dr. Zong has been CMI Program Co-Leader since 2015. He received his PhD degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) and showed

that NF-□B blocks apoptosis by upregulating the BCL-2 family member BFL-1/A1. He did his postdoctoral training with Craig Thompson at the University of Pennsylvania, where he showed that Bax/Bak are essential for apoptosis initiated from mitochondria and the endoplasmic reticulum. He demonstrated that DNA alkylating agents induce excessive DNA damage leading to hyperactivation of PARP, bioenergetic catastrophe, and necrotic cell death. Zong established his own laboratory at Stony Brook University in 2005 and moved to Rutgers University in 2015. He showed that chemotherapy-induced necrosis triggers anti-tumor innate immunity, that excessive autophagy facilitates tumor cell necrosis, and that PI3 kinases play differential roles in regulating autophagy. He is currently a John L. Colaizzi Professor in the Department of Chemical Biology, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, and is investigating the molecular regulation of the cancer cell stress response and nitrogen metabolism. He discovered that c-MYC promotes de novo glutamine synthesis to support cancer cell growth and proliferation, and that glutamine metabolism plays a critical role in the development of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) and hepatocellular carcinoma. He found that the ubiquitin E3 ligase TRIM21 plays a crucial role regulating protein and redox homeostasis, and its inhibition limits the development of hepatocellular carcinoma while mitigates cardiac injury in doxorubicin chemotherapy. Zong serves on numerous review panels at NIH study sections.

Available Mentors

1. Subhajyoti De: https://www.cinj.org/research/subhajyoti-de-phd

   Dr. Subhajyoti De completed his BS in engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India before pursuing a PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK in the laboratory of Prof. Sarah Teichmann. There he developed computational biology approaches to study genetic variations and mutational signatures associated with human genome evolution. As a Human Frontier Science Program Fellow in the group of Prof. Franziska Michor at Harvard University, Dr. De investigated cancer as a somatic

evolutionary process. He was able to demonstrate that genetic and epigenetic abnormalities in cancer genomes show non-random, context-dependent patterns.

In his independent laboratory, first at Univ. Colorado and currently at the Rutgers Cancer Institute, Dr. De is investigating cancer as a complex, adaptive system using genomic, computational, and systems-level approaches. He is a recipient of NIH/NCI PSOC Trans-network Young Investigator award, and Webb-Waring Scholar award. His work has been supported by the NIH, United Against Lung Cancer Foundation and Boettcher Foundation.

2. Yanxiang (Jessie) Guo: https://www.cinj.org/research/jessie-yanxiang-guo-phd

Dr. Jessie Yanxiang Guo received her Degree of Medicine from the Beijing Medical University in Beijing, China. She then joined the Institute of Basic Science of Medicine, where she received her Master of Medicine degree, and began her research career in the field of cancer immunology. She received her Ph.D. degree through the Department of Molecular Cancer Biology and Pharmacology at Duke University under the supervision of Dr. Sally Kornbluth, where she obtained extensive training in biochemistry, cell cycle, cell death, and cancer biology. As a Postdoctoral fellow, she joined the laboratory of Dr. Eileen White at Rutgers Cancer Institute and became immersed in the fields of autophagy and cancer metabolism, utilizing genetically engineered mouse models for human cancers and state-of-the-art metabolomics.

Dr. Guo is currently a Tenured Associate Professor in the Division of Medical Oncology, Department of Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and is a Resident Member at Rutgers Cancer Institute. Over the past few years, she has made significant contributions to understanding the role and underlying mechanisms of autophagy in supporting KRAS-driven lung cancer and the potential use of autophagy inhibitors in cancer therapy. Moreover, Dr. Guo's research interests extend beyond autophagy, as she is interested in identifying other novel metabolic vulnerabilities that could be exploited for the treatment of KRAS-driven NSCLC.

Dr. Guo’s research is currently supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) (R01CA237347, R21CA263136), the American Cancer Society (ACS), the American Lung

Association, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at Ludwig Princeton Branch, and the New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR). In addition, she was formerly supported by the NCI Transition Career Development Award (K22CA190521), GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer's Young Innovators Team Awards, Lung Cancer Research Foundation Award, and New Jersey Health Foundation Award.

3. Muhammad Hamza Habib: https://cinj.org/m-hamza-habib-md-jd-mba-facp-faahpm-frcpi-mrcp

   Dr. Habib is the Director, Outpatient Palliative Medicine and Cancer Pain Service and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. He attended medical school at the National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan and residency at Saint Joseph Hospital, affiliated with University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Habib completed one fellowship at the University of Chicago Hospitals and another at the University of Utah Hospital. He held prior academic positions at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pennsylvania and Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Habib received his JD at Rutgers Law School, Newark, NJ and an MBA in Organizational Leadership from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, MA. His clinical expertise includes Complex Cancer Pain management, Palliative Medicine, End of Life Care, Interventional Pain management, Nerve blocks/Ablations, Intrathecal Pump Implants, Vertebroplasty/ Kyphoplasty, Ultrasound guided Nerve blocks/ Joint injections, Spinal Cord Stimulator placement, and Integrative Medicine.

4. Lara Hathout: https://www.cinj.org/lara-hathout-md-frcpc
   Dr. Hathout is a Board Certified radiation oncologist in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She completed her Brachytherapy Fellowship at the Memorial Sloan-

Kettering Cancer Center in June 2014 after completing her medical training and a residency in Radiation Oncology at University of Montreal in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Hathout's primary goal as a radiation oncologist is to deliver treatment with cutting-edge technology while minimizing side effects and tailoring the treatment to the patients' needs.

Prior to joining Rutgers Cancer Institute, Dr. Hathout served as a Clinical Instructor of Radiation Oncology at the Université de Laval at Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Québec in Quebec City, Canada. Her specialization is in Gynecologic, gastro-intestinal and genitourinary cancers. She offers patients state-of-the-art treatment with leading edge technologies through my expertise in Brachytherapy, Intensity Modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), Stereotactic Body radiotherapy (SBRT) and Proton Beam Therapy.

In addition to her clinical practice, she continues to be active in grant submissions with a focus on the integration of modern imaging and treatment techniques in the management of genitourinary and gynecologic cancers. As a peer reviewer for the Brachytherapy Journal, Journal of Contemporary Brachytherapy, American Brachytherapy Society and American Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology Dr. Hathout is committed to publishing and educating both her peers and patients in treatment options while guiding them to make informed decisions on continuing care.

5. Daniel Herranz Benito: https://www.cinj.org/research/daniel-herranz-pharmd-phd
   Daniel Herranz, PharmD, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Pediatrics at Rutgers University. Over the last 15 years, Dr. Herranz has pursued a combined training in metabolism, epigenetics and how both affect human cancer development through the generation and analysis of relevant mouse models. After obtaining his training in Pharmacy from the Complutense University of Madrid, Dr. Herranz completed a PhD in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the Autonomous University of Madrid under the supervision of Dr. Manuel Serrano at the Spanish National Cancer Research Center (CNIO). Under his supervision, Dr. Herranz addressed the role of Sirt1 in metabolism, cancer and aging. Specifically, he demonstrated for the first time the protective role of Sirt1 from high-fat diet-induced metabolic damage (Pfluger*, Herranz* et al., PNAS, 2008) as well as from

spontaneous aging-associated cancers and high-fat diet promoted liver cancers thereby increasing the healthspan of mice (Herranz et al, Nature Communications, 2010).

After completing his PhD, Dr. Herranz joined the laboratory of Adolfo Ferrando at Columbia University in April 2011 as a Postdoctoral Fellow. During his postdoctoral studies, Dr. Herranz uncovered N-Me as the long-sought missing link in the regulation of MYC by NOTCH1 in T-cells. As such, N-Me is a T-cell specific Myc oncogenic enhancer controlled by Notch1 that is critically required for normal T-cell development and for NOTCH1-induced T-ALL generation and maintenance (Herranz et al, Nature Medicine, 2014). Moreover, Dr. Herranz's research revealed that metabolic reprogramming after loss of the PTEN tumor suppressor gene can drive resistance to NOTCH1 inhibition in vivo and revealed a prominent role of glutaminolysis in NOTCH1-driven T-ALL, opening new therapeutic avenues (Herranz et al, Nature Medicine, 2015).

Dr. Herranz is currently an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pharmacology and Pediatrics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and a Resident Member at Rutgers Cancer Institute. Since 2017, he has established a highly successful and productive independent laboratory, as reflected by the publication of: (i) a corresponding author paper in Blood Cancer Discovery, in which he described and dissected a novel enhancer regulatory region of PTEN (Tottone et al, Blood Cancer Discov, 2021); (ii) a corresponding author paper in Leukemia, in which he described the antileukemic effects of a novel Serine hydroxymethyl transferase inhibitor in vivo (García-Cañaveras et al, Leukemia, 2021); (iii) a corresponding author paper in Blood, describing the highly antileukemic effect of a novel mitochondrial uncoupling drug in T-ALL in vivo (da Silva-Diz et al, Blood, 2021); (iv) a corresponding author paper in EMBO reports describing the tumor suppressor role of Sirt1 in lung cancer (Costa-Machado et al, EMBO Rep, 2018); (v) a corresponding author paper in Blood Cancer Discovery describing and dissecting a NOTCH1-SIRT1-KAT7 axis in T-ALL (Lancho et al, Blood Cancer Discov, 2023) and (vi) a corresponding author review paper on the enhancer landscape of MYC (Lancho and Herranz, Trends Cancer, 2018). His successful early career has been recognized by his being selected as a 2022 AACR NextGen Star and an LLS Scholar.

He has served as a reviewer for grants submitted to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and to different foundations including: Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (USA), Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (USA), Rally! Foundation (USA), Bloodwise/CRUK (UK), Barts (UK), CFI (Canada), NFR (Canada), FWO (Research Foundation-Flanders, Belgium), ISF (Israel Science Foundation) and TV3 Marató on Cancer (Spanish Foundation). He has also served as an ad hoc reviewer for scientific journals including: Nature Medicine, Nature Genetics,

Science Translational Medicine, Nature Cancer, Cancer Discovery, Blood Cancer Discovery, Blood, Nature Communications, Science Advances, Journal of Clinical Investigation, Journal of Experimental Medicine, EMBO Molecular Medicine, Leukemia, Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research, Aging Cell and others. His research on leukemia, Notch1 signaling, cancer metabolism and enhancer regions is currently funded by the National Cancer Institute (R01CA236936), the American Cancer Society (ACS), the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, the V Foundation and the New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR). In addition, he formerly held an NCI K99/R00 award, on top of grants from the Leukemia Research Foundation, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the Gabrielle's Angel Foundation for Cancer Research and the Children's Leukemia Research Association.

6. George Raptis: https://www.rwjbh.org/doctors/george-raptis-md-mba/
   Dr. Raptis, a nationally recognized breast cancer specialist, has a distinguished academic and clinical career. In addition to treating patients at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center, he serves as Director of Oncology Services for the Northern Region, RWJBarnabas Health and Rutgers Cancer Institute. In this role, he leads an outstanding team of clinicians who ensure the delivery of personalized, high-quality, and innovative cancer care at the state's only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

   He completed medical school and residency training in internal medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. After fellowship training in medical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Raptis joined the faculty there to explore novel treatment paradigms using sequential high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell transplantation, in addition to other developmental therapeutic studies. He went back to Mount Sinai Medical Center where he became director of the Ruttenberg Cancer Treatment Center and later developed and led the Dubin Breast Center, focusing on improving breast cancer care

delivery and clinical translational breast cancer research, among numerous other leadership roles.

Prior to joining RWJBarnabas Health, he was the leader of the Breast Cancer Disease Management Team and director of Breast Cancer Medicine at the Northwell Health Cancer Institute in New York. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters focusing on topics relating to blood cancers and breast cancer treatment and continues to be actively involved in community-based breast cancer advocacy organizations.

7. Antoinette Stroup: https://www.cinj.org/research/antoinette-stroup-phd

   Dr. Stroup earned her BS and MS degrees from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT. She went on to earn her PhD form the University of California, Berkeley, CA in Epidemiology. As the Director of Cancer Epidemiology Services (CES) and the New Jersey State Cancer Registry (NJSCR), Dr. Stroup oversees all administrative and operational aspects of the State's population-based cancer surveillance system and manages and oversees all research-related activities (e.g., protocol development, institutional review board compliance, patient contact) through the CES Cancer Research Program. She has more than 15 years of experience in cancer surveillance and cancer registry management. Dr. Stroup has received funding for over 40 cancer research studies, covering a wide array of research topics for a variety of cancer types including breast, prostate, cervical, colorectal, ovarian, and liver cancers as well as cancers among adolescents and young adults.

8. Bing Xia: https://www.cinj.org/research/bing-xia-phd

Dr. Bing Xia received his B.S. degree in Biochemistry from Wuhan University, China in 1992. Between 1992 and 1996, he worked at Sino-American Biotechnology Company (SABC) in China, first as a R&D scientist and then as a sales representative. He came to the United States to pursue graduate studies in 1996 and obtained his Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2001 from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences), under the mentorship of Dr. Masayori Inouye. After that he completed his postdoctoral training in Dr. David M. Livingston's laboratory at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School. In 2007, Dr. Xia was recruited to Rutgers Cancer Institute and appointed to the faculty of the Department of Radiation Oncology, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Xia was promoted to Associate Professor in 2013 and professor in 2019. Dr. Xia is internationally recognized for his discovery of the PALB2 tumor suppressor and the establishment of the BRCA1-PALB2-BRCA2 DNA damage response and tumor suppression pathway. The discovery of PALB2 is considered a significant advance in cancer genetics and the gene is now routinely tested for genetic counseling and precision medicine. Additionally, Dr. Xia's research has also shed light on the roles of oxidative stress and autophagy in breast cancer.

9. Thomas Jang: https://www.cinj.org/thomas-jang-md-mph-facs

Dr. Jang is the Chief of Urologic Oncology, Rutgers Cancer Institute; Program Director, Urology Residency Program, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; and Professor, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. As Chief of Urologic Oncology at Rutgers Cancer Institute, he leads and oversees a high-performing division and team recognized for its expert clinical care, innovative research, and education.

He has spent most of my career at Rutgers Cancer Institute. Over the past decade, he has become one of the highest-volume and most experienced urologic cancer surgeons in the state of New Jersey. His main clinical interests include kidney cancer, bladder cancer, and testicular cancer, and his practice is focused particularly on those with high-risk cancers requiring complex treatments. He has extensive experience in robotic surgery and in conventional open surgery and in performing surgery for patients with advanced kidney

cancer and vena caval tumor thrombus involvement, complex partial kidney surgeries that would otherwise result in complete removal of an entire kidney elsewhere, and nerve-sparing retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND) aimed to preserve fertility in men with testicular cancer. He also has extensive experience performing nerve-sparing robotic radical prostatectomy for men with prostate cancer and surgery for men with penile cancer.

He is recognized in the field of testicular germ cell tumors, having published on surgical outcomes after retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND), on the prognostic significance of lymph node counts after surgery, and on pathways to improve outcomes after RPLND. He peer-reviewed the American Urological Association's inaugural Testicular Cancer Practice Guidelines and is one of the highest volume surgeons in the country performing surgery for this disease. This has led to his designation by the Testicular Cancer Resource Center and the Testicular Cancer Awareness Foundation as a nationally recognized expert in testicular cancer. At Rutgers Cancer Institute, he serves and/or have served as the Principal Investigator on several key testicular cancer clinical trials: Surgery in Early Metastatic Seminoma (SEMS) Trial, SWOG S1823 Trial- a prospective observational cohort study to assess miRNA371 for outcome prediction in patients with early-stage germ cell tumors and is a co-investigator for the Children's Oncology Group study AGCT1531, which is a phase 3 study of active surveillance for low risk and randomized trial of carboplatin vs cisplatin for standard risk pediatric and adult patients with germ cell tumors.

In addition to clinical trials, he maintains interest in comparative effectiveness research in areas where clinical trial data is yet unavailable. His work has been funded by the New Jersey Health Foundation, and he has published extensively on the long-term survival and outcomes of patients following various treatments for kidney and prostate cancers of all stages. He has authored or co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications or book chapters and together, along with his multi-disciplinary colleagues from medical and radiation oncology, have served as the Principal Investigator and/or Co-Investigator on over 20 urologic cancer trials. For this work, he has received local, regional, and national awards. He has also received numerous awards for outstanding teaching (American Urological Association Residents & Fellows Committee Teaching Award Nominee) and patient care delivery (NJ Monthly Top Doctor in Urology & Urologic Oncology) and serve as a reviewer for several major urologic and cancer journals.

Dr. Jang received his Medical Degree (MD) from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine as a scholar in the Honors Program in Medical Education, his Master's in Public Health Degree (MPH) from Northwestern University's Graduate School and completed general surgery and urologic surgery residencies at Northwestern University. This was

followed by a clinical fellowship in urologic cancer surgery and a research fellowship in health services and outcomes research, both at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

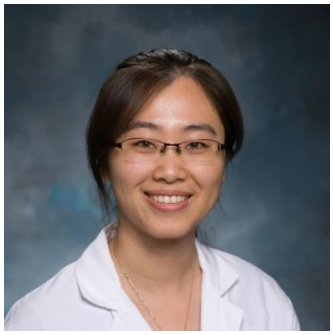
10. Amanda Laird: https://www.cinj.org/amanda-m-laird-md-facs

Dr. Laird is an endocrine surgeon, Chief of the Section of Endocrine Surgery at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey as well as an Associate Professor of Surgery at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She treats endocrine tumors of the thyroid, parathyroid glands, and adrenal glands. These tumors are uniquely different as they may secrete hormones in excess and may occur as a part of a familial genetic syndrome. She also treats neuroendocrine tumors which have similar characteristics and may occur anywhere throughout the body. My expertise is in both traditional open surgical techniques as well as minimally invasive surgery techniques.

Working closely with a multidisciplinary team that includes surgical oncologists, endocrinologists, medical oncologists, nuclear medicine radiologists, radiation oncologists, nurses, and genetic counselors, she provides coordinated care for my patients that results in improved outcomes. She tracks her patients' outcomes as part of her clinical research that helps guide advancements in treatment options.

Prior to joining Rutgers Cancer Institute, Dr. Laird was an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine where she was Director of Endocrine Surgery. She serves on several committees for both the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons and the Association of Academic Surgery. Her clinical research has yielded peer-reviewed publications, reviews, book chapters, and both national and international presentations.

After graduation from Louisiana State University and Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, she completed my residency in general surgery at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She then completed the Norman Thompson Fellowship in Endocrine Surgery at the University of Michigan.



11. Ke Nie: [Ke Nie, PhD – Department of Radiation Oncology (rutgers.edu)]

    Dr. Nie received her PhD in radiological physics from the University of California, Irvine. Following two years as a Research Scientist at Carestream Health Inc., she completed her residency training at University of California, San Francisco. In the same year, she joined the Department of Radiation Oncology at Rutgers and has been working here since then. Dr. Nie actively covers every component of the daily physics work, from patient simulations, treatment setups, treatment plan designs, to patient specific and machine QAs in conventional external beam, Proton therapy, Gamma Knife and brachytherapy procedures. As the Director of Gamma Knife physics service, she is responsible for ensuring the overall quality of the Gamma Knife program and all the machine and patient related safety issues. Additionally, she has participated in several major technical upgrades in the department, such as the commissioning of Linac machines and also established the shielding design for the new oncology facilities. Dr. Nie's research focuses on (1) machine learning and its applications in adaptive radiotherapy, (2) high-throughput radiomics for treatment outcome analysis, and (3) deformable image registration. Her research is supported by several grants in which she has served as Principle Investigator. She is the co-author of more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, 3 book chapters, about 100 proceedings. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, reading, and traveling with her family.

12. Sanjay Goel: https://cinj.org/sanjay-goel-md-ms
    Sanjay Goel, MD, M.S. is an attending physician and a Professor of Medicine at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. He received his medical degree from Christian Medical

College, Vellore, India, and then did a residency in internal medicine and fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology. He also completed a 2-year program obtaining a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Clinical Research from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Goel is the Director of Phase I Therapeutics at Rutgers Cancer Institute. He has an interest in drug development of anti-cancer agents, and development of biomarkers of drug response. He has extensive experience in cancer clinical trials, in phase I, and in phase II and III trials in gastrointestinal and genitourinary malignancies. His clinical interests lie in immunotherapy of cancer in general and colorectal cancer in particular. He runs a research laboratory with a focus on drug and biomarker development for patients with colorectal cancer. His work also includes outcomes of health in minority patients and health disparities.

He has multiple research awards to his credit and has over 100 research publications. He has been the recipient of the Advanced Clinical Research Award (ACRA) in colorectal cancer by the Conquer Cancer Foundation (CCF), of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and has also funded by the National Institutes of Health. He has served on the CCF Grant Review Committee, and as the track leader of the Scientific Program Committee in the "Developmental Therapeutics and Translational Research – Immunotherapy" track, of ASCO.

13. Coral Omene: https://cinj.org/coral-o-omene-md-phd
    Dr. Omene is the Program Director, Breast Cancer Disparities Research; a Medical Oncologist; and the Associate Professor of Medicine, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She is a medical oncologist with a passion for women's health who is dedicated to the care of treating and managing a diverse pool of breast cancer patients.

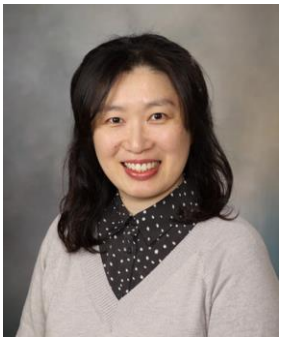
    She began her career upon completion of a combined MD/PhD degree at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Interestingly, although she started out in an immunology laboratory, she subsequently obtained a PhD studying the functional

characterization of the interaction between the breast cancer gene product, BRCA1, and the protein BARD1, which was discovered in our laboratory, in an effort to understand the mechanisms of tumor suppression by BRCA1. This turn in my career set the path for my lifelong interest in breast cancer.

Since then, Dr. Omene has dedicated herself to studying the translation of novel laboratory observations and discoveries to the care of patients. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center. During residency, she became fascinated by the challenging breast cancer subtype, triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) and the lack of effective therapies, especially given its aggressive nature, poor prognosis, its complex biology, and its cruel predilection for young African American women. After residency, she pursued a fellowship at NYU School of Medicine, in the field of Hematology/Oncology, with a special interest in the area of breast cancer. At NYU, she continued my pursuit in combining clinical and research training and was awarded the Dean's Scholar-NYU Physician Scientist Training Program grant, and later subsequently was the first recipient to receive the Breast Cancer Research Fellowship at NYU Langone Medical Center.

Her research in recent years included her NIH K08 research project aimed at modifying the risk for developing TNBC using a natural compound derivative. This research has the potential to be readily translatable as chemoprevention in the clinical setting for triple negative breast cancer patients and populations at high risk. Currently, she is studying changes in response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in African American women with Triple Negative Breast Cancer and the interplay with host factors such as obesity that impact on cancer disparities. The ultimate goal is the development of interventional strategies and clinical trials in these populations. She is a site Principal Investigator for multiple industry and cooperative group clinical trials including the innovative I-SPY2 Trial of neoadjuvant treatment for locally advanced breast cancer. She is Co-Chair of the BIG TEN Cancer Research Consortium Breast Cancer Clinical Trial Working Group.

Dr. Omene actively participates in local, regional and national scientific conferences including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Association for Cancer Research and the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.



15.) Mi- Hyeon Jang

Dr. Jang's laboratory focuses on investigating the disease mechanisms behind chemotherapy-induced cognitive impairment, commonly known as chemobrain. By identifying how chemotherapy damages brain cells essential for learning and memory, her team aims to provide insights that could lead to the development of novel treatments to prevent and improve cognitive dysfunction, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for cancer survivors. Interest: **Research (Regenerative medicine and cancer survivorship)**

16.) Jessica Salvatore

I am an Associate Professor in the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Psychiatry. My background is in developmental psychology and psychiatric and behavior genetics, and my primary area of focus is on how alcohol misuse affects and is affected by close relationships across the lifespan. I take a genetically informed perspective in my work, with a particular interest in understanding the social/environmental mechanisms through which genetic risk for alcohol use disorder and related problems are transmitted in families, as well as gene-environment interplay that may render some individuals more susceptible to social/environmental risks. I currently hold (or have held) NIH-funded R01, K01 and F32 awards as PI, along with a Templeton Foundation grant; am a Project Co-Leader for a multisite U10 award; and trainees under my

supervision have successfully competed for NIH TL1 and F31 awards. I am enthusiastic about serving as a mentor as part of this program and bring to this opportunity my background mentoring 1 junior faculty member, 4 postdoctoral fellows, 6 graduate students, and over 50 undergraduate students. I continue to engage in my own professional development on inclusive mentoring. I am committed to continuing to provide a welcoming and inclusive mentorship environment, share what I've learned from past mentors and through my own experiences navigating an academic career, and be a supportive listener. **Interest: professional development, grant and manuscript preparation, team science and scientific leadership including hiring/supervision, Open Science, work-life balance (I have 2 kids under 5).**

17.) Kiley Trott

A board-certified, fellowship-trained pediatric otolaryngologist with complex pediatric otolaryngology certification, Dr. Kiley Trott is a pediatric otolaryngologist and a skilled surgeon, who treats children with the full range of ear, nose, and throat issues, ranging from simple ear infections to such complex problems as hearing loss, vascular anomalies, and masses in the head and neck. He performs excisions of pediatric congenital masses in the head and neck, sinus surgery, ear tubes, tonsillectomy, parotidectomy, and pediatric airway surgery.

Dr. Trott attended Stanford University and graduated with a degree in biological sciences. He received his MD from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York City. He then completed his residency training in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

He joins our team from Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, where he served as Assistant Professor of Surgery and Director of Patient Safety and Quality in the Division of Otolaryngology. He has served on several national committees for medical simulation, medical informatics, quality improvement, and political legislation. He has also contributed to research and textbooks on cochlear implantation, pediatric head and neck mass management, head and neck infections, and healthcare access.

Interest: I have an interest in patient safety and quality improvement and I can help with projects in that realm. My research interests include: simulation in medical education, patient access, and health equity related topics. I can help mentor students interested in surgical fields and understanding how best to prepare themselves for the rigors of a surgical residency. Additionally I can help with development of technical skills such as suturing and related basics. I have lived in many different parts of the country so I can help with people adjusting to life in New Jersey.

18.) Joann Spinale Carlson

Joann Spinale Carlson, MD joined the Division of Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in July 2014. Dr. Carlson is a graduate of The George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. She completed her pediatric residency and pediatric nephrology fellowship training at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

After her fellowship, she joined the faculty at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick. She is currently Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Division Chief of Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension. Additionally, she is Director of the Pediatric Residency Program at Rutgers Health/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Nationally, she has leadership roles in the American

Society of Pediatric Nephrology and serves as webinar chair of the Pathology/Radiology educational series. She is also a member of the PREP Nephrology Editorial Board and vice chair of the APPD Communications Committee. Dr. Carlson's research interests are in medical education, quality of life and chronic kidney disease. She has published her work in a variety of journals and presented at many national meetings. **Interest:** mentoring faculty in Nephrology, women in medicine and those with an interest in medical/resident education

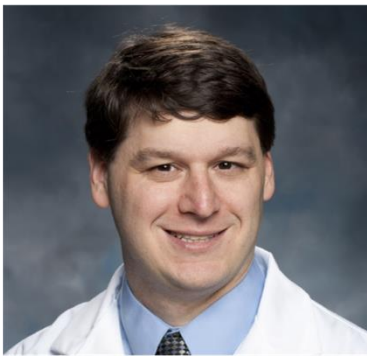
19.) Malcolm Mattes

I am currently an Associate Professor in radiation oncology at the Rutgers Cancer Institute. My primary clinical interests are thoracic and genitourinary cancers, and palliative care. I have published 92 peer-reviewed articles on a variety of topics, and have secured grant funding for my research from a variety of sources over the past few years. I have designed several clinical trials during my career, and am the national study chair for a Phase I CTEP trial currently open at multiple sites in the ETCTN network. I am also very active nationally through ASTRO and ASCO, and have earned national recognition for promoting diversity and inclusion in the radiation oncology workforce, as well as for cultivating innovative approaches to undergraduate medical education, and interdisciplinary education, in clinic oncology.

Areas of Expertise for Mentoring:

- Professional development/Career mentoring for junior faculty
- Clinical trial design

20.) Daniel Morrison



I completed a residency in Emergency Medicine in 2001-2004 in Detroit, Michigan. I then completed a 1 year fellowship in Emergency Medicine Ultrasound at Medical College of Georgia. I have worked in academic Emergency Medicine nearly the entirety of my career. I have been at RWJ since 2010.

My interests are in patient safety. I am on the hospital infection prevention committee as well as the Central Line Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI) group.

Nationally, I have been an oral board examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine for 12 years, and I recently commenced being an item write for the American Board of Emergency Medicine. I also am an instructor for Advanced Trauma Life Support.

My areas of interest are: patient safety, and using ultrasound to enhance patient flow. I am also becoming more active with American Board of Emergency Medicine so my interest is also in ensuring that residents are becoming proficient during their training and are meeting national standards

21.) Ram Mani

Dr. Mani has been providing clinical care for patients with epilepsy since 2004. He had more than 15 years of experience in advanced epilepsy, EEG, clinical neurophysiology and other neurology patient care & clinical research trials and other studies.

He has specialized research training in Epilepsy and Neurophysiology; Clinical Trials & Therapeutics; Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

He takes care of patients in the full spectrum of seizure & epilepsy severity — those dealing with optimal management of their first seizure to those with years of uncontrolled epilepsy or medication side effects. His goal is improvement of the lives of his patients by providing scientific-based and state-of-the-art medications, safe & effective necessary surgeries, neuro-stimulation devices, and non-medication management.

He serves as Division Chief for Rutgers RWJMS Adult Epilepsy; Medical Director of the RWJUH New Brunswick Clinical Neurophysiology Lab; Fellowship Director for the Rutgers RWJMS Epilepsy Fellowship.

- Can only mentor new mentees within the neurology field

22.) Dr. Susannah Wise

Specialties:
General Surgery (American Board Of Surgery)

Interests:
Laparoscopic Surgery: For Achalasia, Gastro-Esophageal Reflux, Hiatal Hernia/Paraesophageal Hernia, Gall Bladder Disease, Ventral Hernia. Single-Port Laparoscopic Gall Bladder Surgery.
Breast Surgery: For Breast Cancer And Non-Malignant Breast Disease.

23.) Dr. Jonathan Sherman

I am a board-certified neurosurgeon specializing in Neurosurgical Oncology. I have established myself as a national and international expert in the treatment of patients with brain and spinal tumors. I am a member of both the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) and have served on the AANS/CNS Joint Tumor Section Executive Committee for the past 9 years. I have served as a reviewer for numerous medical journals and currently serve as Academic Editor for the journal PLoS-One as well as an Associate Editor for Operative Neurosurgery. I serve as a Fellow of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the American College of Surgeons.

I am a true clinician-scientist working from the bench to the bedside as I perform translational research in an effort to provide a direct impact on advancing treatments for my patients.

Interest: in career/professional and practice development mentorship.

Staff

Dr. Sharon Manne

Sharon Manne, PhD, is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Joint Office for Faculty Mentorship at Rutgers Cancer Institute and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She is also a founding co-director of the Cancer Survivorship and Outcomes Center at Rutgers Cancer Institute. A clinical psychologist, Dr. Manne completed her doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Arizona State University, her post-doctoral fellowship under Dr. Jimmie Holland at Memorial Sloan Kettering in 1990, and she was an Assistant Attending Psychologist in the MSKCC Psychiatry Service (now Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences) until 1997. She worked at Fox Chase Cancer Center from 1997-2010.

Dr. Manne is an international expert in the field of psycho-oncology and considered a thought leader in the area of psychological interventions for cancer patients and their families. Dr. Manne has been the recipient of 13 R01 grants, a K04, a K07, and other R-series grants from the National Institutes of Health. Her work aims to further understand the impact of cancer on survivors and their families and their psychosocial needs. One primary research focus for her work been the development of psychological interventions to reduce psychological distress among couples coping with cancer, and she has developed and evaluated four couple-focused interventions for cancer survivors and their partners. She has published 241 articles and two books.

Rachel Pavoni

Rachel Pavoni has worked at Rutgers Cancer Institute since 2019. She manages the Institute's Office of Career and Professional Development, which is a part of Faculty Affairs, Personnel Administration, and Development. In her role, she oversees the facilitation of both faculty and staff development, training initiatives, faculty mentorship, team building, and organizational leadership projects. Rachel holds a Masters degree in Human Resource Management from Rutgers.

Barbara Rodriguez

Barbara K. Rodriguez has been with the Rutgers Cancer Institute since 2020. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Bloomfield College and is a certified pharmacy technician. Barbara currently serves as the Program Coordinator for the Joint Office of Faculty Mentorship at the Institute, where she works alongside Dr. Sharon Manne. In her role, Barbara uses her diverse background to enhance organizational efficiency.