

## Diversity Clinical Research Workshop Invited Faculty

### Alex A. Adjei, MD, PhD, FACP



Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine  
Senior Vice President of Clinical Research  
The Katherine Anne Gioia Chair in Cancer Medicine  
**Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY**

[Alex A. Adjei, MD, PhD, FACP](#) [1], is Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine, and Senior Vice President of Clinical Research at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He is a world-renowned clinical scientist with expertise in drug development, cancer pharmacology, early phase clinical trials and lung cancer. Dr Adjei has a passion for teaching, mentoring and the training of the next generation of clinical investigators, particular minority investigators and investigators from developing countries. In recognition of his expertise and long track record in mentorship and oncology drug development, Dr. Adjei was recognized in 2012 as the first recipient of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Drug Development Research Professorship. This award has allowed him to focus a significant portion of his time in mentoring junior faculty, both from the U.S. and internationally, in the areas of drug development, clinical trial design and regulatory science.

Dr. Adjei is an active member of numerous professional organizations. As a member of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), he has served on numerous committees. He was Chair of the Minorities in Cancer Research Council and co-Chair of the AACR's 2005, 2007 and 2012 Annual Meetings. He has served on ASCO's annual meeting program committee twice and has been a member of the Translational Research Task Force, Cancer Research Committee and Grants Selection Committee. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC).

Dr. Adjei has also served on many committees for the National Cancer Institute (NCI). He served as Group Vice Chair of the NCI's North Central Cancer Treatment Group (NCCTG), from 2005 to 2007, and as Lung Committee Chair of that group from 2005 to 2012. He continues in his senior leadership role in lung cancer nationally as a legacy Respiratory Program Chair of the newly

constituted cooperative group Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology (ACTION). He is also a member of the NCI's Thoracic Malignancies Steering Committee and Vice Chair of its Lung Intergroup Correlative Science Committee. He has served on several National Institutes of Health (NIH) committees as well, having chaired a Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Study Section from 2007-2012, and is a member of the NCI Clinical Oncology (CONC) and Initial Review Group (IRG) Subcommittee A - Cancer Centers study sections. He is Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Thoracic Oncology.

## **David Ross Camidge, MD, PhD**



Associate Professor, Medical Oncology  
Director, Thoracic Oncology Clinical Program  
**University of Colorado Cancer Center, Aurora, CO**

Dr. Camidge is dual-trained in both medical oncology and clinical pharmacology. He was recruited to the University of Colorado in November of 2005 and is the Director of the Thoracic Oncology Clinical Program and the Program Director for the Thoracic Oncology Clinical and Translational Research Fellowship - a unique training program that provides extended research exposure for U.S. or International Senior Fellows interested in Thoracic Oncology. His focus is in Thoracic Malignancies and Developmental Therapeutics (Phase I studies) and he is the Principal Investigator on numerous national and international clinical trials. From 2009, the University of Colorado's Thoracic Oncology Program has been recruiting 30-40% of its patients onto clinical trials, approximately 10 times the national average. Since 2008, routine molecular profiling of lung cancer patients has also allowed patients to be directed to more promising treatments based on their cancer's individual molecular biology. In 2012 Dr. Camidge was announced as the recipient of the 5th Bonnie J. Addario Lectureship as a 'Luminary in the quest to eradicate lung cancer.' In 2013 he became the first physician to receive the Hank Baskett Sr. Spirit Award being credited as 'One of the leading minds in lung cancer today.'

## **Judith S. Kaur, MD**



Professor of Oncology

Director, Native American Programs

**Mayo College of Medicine, Rochester, MN**

Dr. Judith Salmon Kaur is the medical director for the Native American Programs of the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center.

- Native C.I.R.C.L.E. provides and develops culturally appropriate cancer education materials for lay persons, allied health and clinicians working in Native communities
- "Spirit of Eagles" is a Community Networks Program with outreach nationally to American Indians and Alaska Natives. (we are the only national program working with AIAN populations)

Dr. Kaur's research also includes a special interest in women's cancers, particularly breast and cervical cancer. Dr. Kaur is a Professor of Oncology at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. She is also the Director of the Mayo Clinic Hospice Program and Palliative Care Task Force. Dr. Kaur is Choctaw/Cherokee and one of only two American Indian medical oncologists in the country.

In 2007, Dr. Kaur was awarded "Physician of the Year" by the Association of American Indian Physicians. In the following year, 2008, she was appointed to the National Cancer Advisory Board by President George W. Bush (four-year appointment) and was also became a Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Care. Dr. Kaur is one of the Medical Directors for Mayo Clinic's Hospice program and the Research Director for the Palliative Care Program and Course Director for an "Intensive Case-based Training in Palliative Care" for the Indian Health Service

## **Yu Shyr, PhD**



Professor of Biostatistics

Biomedical Informatics and Cancer Biology Director  
Vanderbilt Center for Quantitative Science  
**Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Nashville, TN**

Yu Shyr received his PhD in biostatistics from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1994 and subsequently joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. At Vanderbilt, he has collaborated on numerous research projects; assisted investigators in developing clinical research protocols; collaborated on multiple grants funded through external peer-reviewed mechanisms; and developed biostatistical methodologies for clinical trial design, high-dimensional data preprocessing, and other statistical approaches, published in journals such as *Statistics in Medicine*, *Bioinformatics*, and *Clinical Trials* in the last three years.

Dr. Shyr is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and an FDA advisory committee voting member. He has delivered more than 190 abstracts at professional meetings and has published more than 300 peer-reviewed papers. Dr. Shyr has served on numerous NIH/NCI SPORE, P01, and CCSG review panels/committees and has been a member of the invited faculty at the AACR/ASCO Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Vail Workshop since 2004. He currently serves on the external advisory board for eight national cancer centers, and directs the biostatistics and bioinformatics cores for the NCI-funded Vanderbilt University Breast Cancer SPORE, GI Cancer SPORE, and other program projects. In addition, Dr. Shyr is the Principle Investigator of a UO1 grant for the Barrett's esophagus translational research network coordinating center (BETRNetCC). Dr. Shyr's current research interests lie in developing and analyzing predictive models of the statistical relationships between multiple-variable protein and next-generation sequencing data and clinical endpoints using both supervised and unsupervised classification and pattern recognition approaches.

## **Charles R. Thomas, Jr., MD**



Professor and Chairman  
Department of Radiation Oncology  
**Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR**

Dr. Thomas trained in both medical oncology and radiation oncology. Dr. Thomas is a full-time academic clinician and serves as the department chair of the radiation oncology program at a NCI Designated Cancer Center, the Knight Cancer Institute of the Oregon Health & Science University. He joined the OHSU faculty in November 2005 as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiation Medicine. Dr. Thomas is an active member of several professional associations, including the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the American Association for Cancer Research. He serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Clinical Oncology, Gastrointestinal Cancer Research, Diseases of the Esophagus, and CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians.

Dr. Thomas is the national chairman or co-chairman for the following clinical trials: SWOG-0220, SWOG-0533, SWOG-0414, SWOG-0356, ACOSOG-Z06041, and NSABP FR1. His primary areas of interest are gastrointestinal and thoracic cancers, translational research (research translating scientific findings into treatments) and outcomes research (research into how well cancer treatments work for patients). His translational research involves studying the interactions between novel systemic therapeutics and ionizing radiation with interest in the evaluation of mechanisms of radiation treatment-related fatigue. Clinical research interests include the design and execution of protocols for translational research-based national cooperative group combined modality therapeutic clinical trials involving GI and thoracic solid tumors.

Currently, he is working to develop strategies to address barriers to participation in cancer clinical trials amongst minority and ethnic populations in the U.S. His interests involve the development of pipeline strategies to increase the pipeline of highly-qualified investigators from under-represented minority groups into radiologic sciences and cancer medicine.



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**Links:**

[1] <http://www.roswellpark.org/alex-adjei>