

CONTINUING  
MEDICAL  
EDUCATION

7th Annual

OHSU

# Knight Cancer Network Symposium

Friday, March 3, 2023

7:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Knight Cancer Research Building, 1st Floor Auditorium | Webex

## 8:00 am Welcome & Knight Cancer Institute Highlights and Vision for the Future



### **Flavio Rocha, MD, FACS, FSSO**

*Physician-in-Chief of Knight Cancer Institute*

*Hedinger Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology*

*School of Medicine*

Dr. Rocha is a surgical oncologist who specializes in the treatment of liver, pancreas and biliary tumors and disease. In addition, he has expertise in managing upper gastrointestinal cancers and retroperitoneal sarcomas. As a cancer surgeon, he takes particular pride in providing timely, compassionate care for his patients. In addition, he strongly believes in the multidisciplinary management of tumors with colleagues in other oncologic specialties. His research interests are in pancreas cancer and cholangiocarcinoma where he strives to improve outcomes across disease stages. In his free time, Dr. Rocha enjoys traveling and hiking with his wife, children and golden retriever around the Pacific Northwest. As an avid sports fan, he follows football, basketball and soccer at all levels. Active hobbies include photography, history of science and medicine as well as sampling international culinary arts.



### **Jackilen Shannon, PhD**

*Professor*

*Division of Oncological Sciences, School of Medicine*

*Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Knight Cancer Institute*

*Associate Director, Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute*

Dr. Shannon is a population scientist. Her work begins with consideration of the distribution and determinants of disease, with a focus on cancer at the population level. During her first 10 years with OHSU her work focused primarily on translation from the bench to the clinic. More recently she has shifted her focus toward roles that allow her to expand translational research to the population through community engagement. Dr. Shannon focuses specifically on addressing barriers to cancer prevention and early detection in communities impacted by geographic and racial/ethnic disparities. Dr. Shannon enjoys spending time outdoors in the mountains of Central Oregon hiking and skiing with her 2 dogs and husband.

## 8:15 am Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC) Program



### **Divya Sood, MD**

*Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Division of Surgical Oncology  
School of Medicine*

Dr. Divya Sood is a surgical oncologist who specializes in the care of patients with abdominal cancers. She has a particular focus on cancers that are metastatic or have spread. She is an expert in the treatment of peritoneal surface malignancies, or cancers that have originated in or spread to the lining of the abdomen, including the use of advanced therapies such as cytoreduction and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC). This treatment involves delivering high-dose heated chemotherapy into the abdomen in the operating room, after removal of visible tumors, to treat any remaining microscopic tumor cells. It is effective in treating several different types of cancers. Prior to joining OHSU, Dr. Sood trained with world-renowned experts in this field in both San Diego and Chicago. Dr. Sood provides patient-centered management of complex malignancies. She aims to foster a comprehensive and multidisciplinary team to support all aspects of her patients' care, paying attention to each patient's individual goals. Dr. Sood sees it as a unique privilege to work with cancer patients every day. This is both why she chose to become a cancer surgeon and what drives her to provide the highest-quality care. Her research focuses on using molecular and cellular biomarkers to improve our understanding of who will benefit most from which kinds of treatments. She has an interest in designing more inclusive clinical trials, to ensure that all patients have better access to advanced technologies and therapies. Dr. Sood grew up in Minnesota but has lived all over the country. She moved to Portland with her partner, who is also an OHSU physician. Together they enjoy hiking throughout the Pacific Northwest. She is an avid sports fan and expert yogi, and she loves to bake and travel.

## 9:00 am Enhancing Multi-disciplinary Care of Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer



### **Jen-Jane Liu, MD**

*Director of Urologic Oncology  
Associate Professor of Urology  
School of Medicine*

Dr. Jen-Jane Liu is a urologic oncologist who specializes in caring for patients with cancers of the genitourinary system. She is an expert in the treatment of prostate, kidney, bladder, adrenal, penile, testis and urethral cancers using open and minimally invasive (laparoscopic and robotic) techniques. Dr. Liu is passionate about providing high quality patient-centered care for complex genitourinary malignancies, and cherishes the opportunity to develop longstanding relationships as she helps her patients navigate their cancer treatment. Her academic interests include implementing clinical trials in novel therapy for bladder cancer patients, advanced imaging for urologic malignancies, and improving the delivery of multi-disciplinary cancer care. She serves as the Cancer Liaison Physician of the OHSU Commission on Cancer Committee and is also on the American Urologic Association Science and Technology Committee. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her two children, cooking and baking with them, running through the forests and parks around Portland, and classical music.

10:00 am **Ovarian Cancer in the Era of Precision Medicine: Update 2023**



**Tanja Pejovic, MD, PhD**  
*Professor  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
School of Medicine*

Dr. Tanja Pejovic is a gynecologic oncologist who specialized in the care of women with malignant diseases of gynecological tract. She is a clinician-scientist with a particular focus on ovarian cancer and a background in cytogenetic and molecular genetics of ovarian cancer. Dr. Pejovic maintains a prospective ovarian tissue and blood bank (Oregon Ovarian Cancer Registry), a research bank of ovarian tissue specimens accompanied by clinical and outcome data to help further elucidate the mechanisms by which ovarian cancers progress. OOCR is a major contributor to the international consortiums investigating genetic events leading to ovarian cancer initiation and progression. Together with OHSU research teams from Precision Medicine and the Center for Experimental therapeutics she strives to translate research findings into novel therapies available to patients with ovarian cancer.

10:45 am **HCT & CAR T Cell Therapy The rise of Interventional Cellular Immunology**



**Richard Maziarz, MD**  
*Professor of Medicine  
School of Medicine*

Dr. Maziarz is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Adult Blood & Marrow & Immune Effector Cell Programs. He has focused his research efforts on transplant and tumor immunology and has worked in the stem cell transplant field for over 40 years, specializing in treating hematologic malignancies using transplantation technology and now expanding the OHSU efforts in immune effector cell therapies. His research interests cover how the immune system recovers after a bone marrow transplant and how the immune system works to fight cancer. Dr. Maziarz sees patients with leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma and now expanding his research efforts to patients with solid organ malignancies who are being treated with cellular immune system therapies. Additionally, he has a long interest in health policy and access to care for these advanced technologies, most recently serving as Chair of the American Society of Transplantation & Cell Therapy's Interest group in Value & Health Economics.

## 12:30 pm Breakout A: Clinical Trials in the Community: The Power of Partnerships



### **Tiffani Howard, PhD**

*Research Asst. Dir. Community Outreach & Engagement  
OHSU Knight Cancer Institute  
School of Medicine*

Through decades of study and relationships with basic science investigators at OHSU (since 1992), Dr. Howard, now Research Asst. Director of Community Outreach and Engagement at OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, provides a unique bridge to connect research to the community, where the invaluable experience of both parties will bring relevance and energy to the vital work they each do. As a native Oregonian deeply involved in her community Dr. Howard relishes the opportunity to forge relationship. As liaison between the scientists and design team for the Knight Cancer Research Building (opened in 2018) she leveraged 15 years of research lab experience to engage and include the 450 future occupants. Subsequently, while managing the creation of a five-year Knight Strategic Plan to ensure the highest scientific impact towards a reduction in suffering from cancer, Dr. Howard gained unique insight into how important it is for community engagement to thread through all of the scientific programs at the Knight. Starting in 2019 she established a new Early Cancer Detection Clinical Trials program including recruiting a diverse team testing cutting edge multi-cancer screening methods. Dr. Howard continues to cultivate relationships with high-profile external business partners, academic medical institutions, and small clinics forging collaborations across the cancer community with a goal of recruiting from all corners of Oregon.

## 12:30 pm Breakout B: Community Partnership Program Funded Projects



### **“Building A Community System of Care for Breast Cancer Patients Across Oregon”**

**Susan Stearns, MBA, MA**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



Susan Stearns is the CEO of Pink Lemonade Project, a 13-year-old Vancouver-based nonprofit that support all communities affected by breast cancer. She joined the organization in March of 2020 and is the first breast cancer survivor on the staff. She brings a multi-decade background in healthcare policy and community-level systems reform to the role. As the pandemic unfolded, she reformatted PLP's program and has been able to help more patients than before in PLP's history, all while proving to be a responsive community partner for the healthcare system and its breast cancer patients. Since 2020, Pink Lemonade Project has more than tripled in revenue and has served 137% more individuals. Susan has been instrumental in transitioning two programs of the former Susan G. Komen affiliate to Pink Lemonade Project so today, PLP serves individuals affected by breast cancer across all of Oregon and SW Washington. In her spare time, she fosters guide dogs for Guide Dogs for the Blind, enjoys rowing, plays the viola in a local community orchestra, and is an avid dahlia grower.



**Asian Diet and Cancer**  
**Holden Leung, MSW**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*Asian Health and Service Center (AHSC)*

Mr. Leung has served as the Chief Executive Officer at the Asian Health and Service Center (AHSC) since 1998. Before taking up the leadership role, Mr. Leung had served as a mental health counselor at AHSC since he immigrated from Hong Kong in 1992. While helping clients to navigate the fragmented healthcare system, Mr. Leung integrated his clinical and cultural knowledge at work and developed an Integrated and Holistic Service Model of Care, including Culturally Sensitive Community Engagement; Public Health intervention and Health Care Services within one location. In 2018, the Center launched the new culturally and linguistically specific Asian Cancer Resource and Support Center. AHSC has been serving as a Bridge between Asian and American Community and helps to build a harmonious community since 1983. The Center has strong capacity to serve Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. Mr. Leung holds a MSW degree from the Hong Kong Chinese University.



**Asian Diet and Cancer**  
**Gemma Kim, MSW, LCSW, RN**  
*Program Manager*  
*Asian Health and Service Center (AHSC)*

Gemma Kim is a licensed clinical social worker and also a registered nurse. Currently she is working as a program manager at Asian Health & Service Center overseeing Asian Cancer Resource & Support Service (ACRSS). She has over 25 years of clinical experience in areas including mental health, public health, clinical supervision, hospital work, and community-based social service. She has many years of experience as a field instructor for the Master of Social Work program at Portland State University and the Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing. She is a compassionate and supportive clinician and educator. She is strongly committed to serving vulnerable Asian immigrants, especially who are fighting with cancer and experiencing language and cultural barriers. She is focused on enhancing the physical and emotional well-being of individuals, families and the community through education, prevention and community collaboration. She has provided multiple presentations on culturally appropriate health care services to healthcare providers.

1:30 pm ctDNA, Ready for Clinical Practice



**Adel Kardosh, MD, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Division of Hematology/Medical Oncology  
School of Medicine*

Dr. Kardosh specializes in caring for adults with gastrointestinal tract cancers. He is dedicated to the care of his patients and strives to offer the latest treatments through clinical trials. Dr. Kardosh has focused his work on the discovery of novel therapies aimed at improving patient care and outcome. Dr. Kardosh completed his medical oncology training at Stanford and moved to the Northwest, where, in his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family exploring the beautiful outdoors. They love hiking, climbing and jogging. He also enjoys the diverse and amazing food that Portland offers.

2:15 pm SBRT for Prostate Cancer



**Casey Williamson, MD, MAS**

*Assistant Professor of Radiation Medicine  
School of Medicine*

Dr. Williamson specializes in caring for patients with gynecologic and genitourinary cancers with expertise in both external beam radiation therapy and brachytherapy. Dr. Williamson chose radiation oncology because it allows him to treat patients with cancer with the highest level of precise technology. Every patient's situation is unique and deserves a personalized approach. Dr. Williamson also strives to ensure clear communication and understanding, even in very complicated situations. It is a tremendous privilege to work with patients experiencing cancer and with an amazing team at OHSU. Dr. Williamson also has an extensive research background with special focus on advanced imaging and radiation treatment planning as well as outcomes following treatment planning. Outside of work, Dr. Williamson loves spending time with his wife and son. He is an avid skier and enjoys running, hiking, camping, and reading.

**Special focus:** cervical cancer, endometrial cancer, vulvar cancer, prostate cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, testis cancer, penile cancer