



8th Annual

# OHSU Knight Cancer Community Symposium

Friday, April, 26, 2024

7:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Knight Research Building, 1st Floor Auditorium | WebEx

[2720 S Moody Ave, Portland, OR 97201](#)

## 8:00 a.m. Welcome and Knight Cancer Institute Highlights and Vision for the Future



### [Jackilen Shannon, Ph. D.](#)

*Professor, Division of Oncological Sciences, OHSU School of Medicine  
Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, OHSU 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 and is associate director of community outreach and engagement with the Knight Cancer Institute. Dr. Shannon focuses specifically on addressing barriers to cancer prevention and early detection in communities impacted by geographic and racial/ethnic disparities.

## 8:15 a.m. Early Developments, Future Directions: Multi-Cancer Early Detection Using Blood-Based Genomic Tests



### [Nima Nabavizadeh, M.D.](#)

*Associate Professor of Radiation Medicine, OHSU School of Medicine*

Dr. Nima Nabavizadeh is a radiation oncologist and associate professor in the Department of Radiation Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), where he holds multiple roles in patient care, cutting-edge research and medical education. He has a clinical specialization in gastrointestinal cancers and lymphoma/leukemia and also serves as the residency program director. Dr. Nabavizadeh also is the chief medical officer within the Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research (CEDAR) Center at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, where he is at the forefront of innovative cancer early detection research initiatives. He serves as the principal investigator for a multitude of early detection clinical trials, exploring novel strategies and technologies for identifying cancer at its earliest stages.

## 9:00 a.m. OHSU School of Dentistry's Vision in Oral Cancer Research and Dental Collaboration with Head and Neck Cancer Surgeons



### [Dan Petrisor, D.M.D., M.D., FACS, FICD](#)

*Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, OHSU School of Dentistry*

Dr. Daniel Petrisor is a board-certified surgeon with training in microvascular reconstructive surgery, head and neck surgery, and oral and maxillofacial surgery. Dr. Petrisor has a special interest in treating patients with benign (not cancerous) and malignant (cancerous) tumors of the head and neck. He is part of a team of doctors, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, therapists and social workers who provide the latest in complete treatments for head and neck cancers. His training included a dental degree from Oregon Health & Science University, a medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, a residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas, a fellowship in head and neck surgery and microvascular reconstructive surgery at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, a fellowship in microvascular reconstructive surgery at the University of Florida-Jacksonville, and training in reconstructing complex deformities of hard and soft tissues.



**Hui Wu, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Integrative Biosciences, OHSU School of Dentistry  
Associate Dean for Research, Dean's Office, OHSU School of Dentistry  
Weight Professor in Dentistry Research*

Dr. Hui Wu, is the associate dean for research at the OHSU School of Dentistry (SOD). He coordinates research and research training at the school and helps to set the agenda for increasing research outcomes and advancing research excellence. Dr. Wu is also a professor of oral rehabilitation and biosciences in the OHSU SOD. Dr. Wu directs an NIH funded Portland Oral Health Research Training Program. He joined OHSU in March 2020 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) where he was a professor of dentistry and microbiology. At UAB, Dr. Wu led the university-wide Microbiome Research Center as the founding director and directed NIDCR/NIH supported training program. He has trained numerous graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and dentist scientists, and was selected as a recipient for 2014 UAB Graduate School Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentorship. Dr. Wu has published more than 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts, and his research in microbial sciences has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2003.

**10:00 a.m. Updates in Adrenal Cancer and Survivorship**

**Updates in Adrenal Cancer**



**James Lim, M.D., FACS**

*Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, OHSU School of Medicine*

Dr. Lim is a fellowship-trained endocrine surgeon specializing in thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and neuroendocrine diseases. He joined OHSU and the Division of Surgical Oncology in 2016 and he also is a part of the OHSU Thyroid and Parathyroid Center team. Dr. Lim has advanced training in minimally invasive surgical techniques to remove the thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands (including both transabdominal and retroperitoneal adrenal approaches). He is also proficient in neck ultrasound and fine needle aspiration thyroid biopsies. Dr. Lim is adept at working with patients and their families to provide a multidisciplinary approach to their disease and treatment plan. His research interests are in the diagnosis and management of endocrine diseases and clinical outcomes. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and exploring the great Oregon outdoors.

**Updates in Cancer Survivorship**



**Lissi Hansen, Ph.D., RN**

*May E. Rawlinson Distinguished Professor, Professor, OHSU School of Nursing*

Dr. Hansen joined OHSU School of Nursing as a faculty member in October 2003. She received her first nursing degree in Denmark from Sankt Lukas Stiftelsen's School of Nursing. Her academic roles include clinical research and teaching in palliative/end of life care, ethics, and mixed methods. Her research is focused on symptoms and symptom management, quality of life, treatment decision making, and caregiver burden. Dr. Hansen is a Faculty Scholar from the Palliative Care Education & Practice Program at the Harvard Medical School and an advocate for palliative care. She enjoys spending time with her mental health support Levi, the horse.

**10:45 a.m. Updates on Oncolytic Virus Therapies**



**Richard Maziarz, M.D.**

*Professor of Medicine, OHSU School of Medicine*

Dr. Maziarz is a professor of medicine and founding director of the Adult Blood and Marrow and 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 and Cell Therapy's interest group in value and health economics. Currently, Dr. Maziarz is chair of a cancer drug shortage committee for HRSA, as a member of the transplant advisory board to DHHS.

**12:00 p.m. Breakout A: Community Partnership Program Funded Projects**

**12:00 p.m. Education and Health Give Life: Spanish Language Cancer Awareness Campaign**

**Verónica Vázquez**

*CEO, ICG Innovare Communication Group  
Host, Elemento Latino*



Verónica is a community leader with over 20 years of experience in the non-profit and marketing industries. She is known for being the executive producer and host of Elemento Latino. This vibrant news program features interviews and information reflective of the values and philosophy that characterize the beautiful Latino community in Oregon. Verónica is the CEO and the public relations lead for ICG Innovare Communication Group LLC, committed to meeting the needs of their clients and developing the creative ideas businesses need to succeed. ICG Innovare Communication Group advertises through Latino campaigns throughout Oregon. It has provided clear and effective strategies for advertising to Latinos and other ethnicities in the community. Most recently, Verónica became the marketing manager of Telemundo Portland, an American Spanish-language television that provides content locally to over 150,000 Latino households.

**Camerina Galván**

*Independent Consultant, Galván Consulting*



Camerina is a second-generation Mexicana born in Portland and raised in México and Oregon. She believes her soul's purpose is to actuate conditions for social change and collective liberation. For her, this means amplifying the work of BIPOC-led organizations and BIPOC entrepreneurs locally and nationally. Camerina is a first-generation college student. She graduated from Lewis & Clark College with a major in Hispanic studies and from the University of Missouri with a master's in human development and family studies. She is a member of Latina Associates for Collaborative Engagement (LACE), board chair of El Programa Hispano Católico, and a grantmaker with Seeding Justice.

**12:30 p.m. Advancing HPV Information and Education in the African American Community in Portland and Multnomah County**

**Tamra Hickok**

*Director of Program Innovation, Self Enhancement, Inc.*



Tamra Hickok is the director of program innovation at Self Enhancement, Inc. She proudly leads with her heart and wants every young person to believe in themselves and to dare to dream of the life they want, not the one their circumstances have written for them. Tamra holds a bachelor's in psychology and a certificate of social services from Lewis & Clark College and an associate degree in social services from Lower Columbia Community College of Longview, Washington. Born and raised in Northeast Portland, Tamra is a product of the community she loves. Having been a high school and collegiate athlete, she has worked at and run the Self Enhancement Girls basketball camps since 1988, using basketball to teach many life lessons. There she works to empower and encourage young ladies to reach their full potential, live boldly, and to not wait their turn, GO GET IT! She earned the Employee of the Year recognition in 2007, the first year of its making. After spending her first 18 years at Self Enhancement on the front lines of servicing students and families, she moved into management and eventually became a director. She now works to spread the mission, purpose, and services of Self Enhancement to communities and school districts where students of color are impacted, underserved and underrepresented.

12:00 p.m.

**Breakout B: Precision in Prostate Cancer: PSMA Imaging and Genetic Testing**



**Alexandra Sokolova, M.D.**

*Assistant Professor of Medicine, OHSU School of Medicine  
Division Hematology and Medical Oncology, Prostate Cancer Research Program*

Dr. Alexandra Sokolova has been an assistant professor of medicine for prostate cancer research in the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology at OHSU since 2021. She is developing a prostate cancer genetics program at OHSU. Dr. Sokolova's research interests are in translational prostate cancer genetics with a focus on developing precision oncology strategies for genomically-defined patient subgroups. Dr. Sokolova has completed a retrospective analysis, evaluating response rates to standard therapies and PARPi in prostate cancer patients with BRCA1/2 and ATM mutations. To further understand the role of ATM mutations in prostate cancer, she is working on an additional analysis aimed at defining the clinical characteristics of ATM carriers. Dr. Sokolova is co-leading a therapeutic trial evaluating efficacy of targeted therapies at earlier prostate cancer stages. She is also analyzing patient sequencing data from the VA National Precision Oncology Program and has presented early findings at the 2019 ASCO GU Cancers Symposium. Dr. Sokolova authored several reviews for clinicians on germline and somatic mutations in prostate cancer and will continue developing collaborations with lab-based colleagues in order to bring innovative research to the clinic and improve care for genitourinary cancer patients.

1:15 p.m.

**Commission on Cancer (CoC) Standard Updates and Barriers to Implementation.**

**Working together: Panel Discussion**



**Moderator: V. Liana Tsikitis M.D., M.B.A., M.C.R., FACS, FASCRS**

*Professor and Chief, Department of Surgery, Division of Gastrointestinal and General Surgery, OHSU*

Dr. Vassiliki 'Liana' Tsikitis is a professor at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), where she has been a faculty member since 2011. During her tenure, she completed a Master of Clinic Research at OHSU and a Master of Business Administration in healthcare policy at Brandeis University. She currently serves as head of the Division of Gastrointestinal and General Surgery. Clinically, Dr. Tsikitis specializes in the surgical management of malignant and benign colon and rectal diseases. Her primary focus is on the surgical management of patients with complex inflammatory bowel disease and advanced colon and rectal cancer. Her research focus is on microbial dysbiosis and colorectal neoplasia and delineating the tumor microenvironment of early onset colorectal cancer.



**Panelist: Sara Matar, M.D.**

*Hematology and Oncology*

Dr. Sara Matar is a hematologist and medical oncologist practicing in Southern Oregon with the Hematology Oncology Associates organization. Her team's success in receiving accreditation from the Commission on Cancer was largely due to her leadership. As the chair of the cancer committee at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Centre, Dr. Matar has been instrumental in helping the facility meet and exceed the rigorous requirements necessary to obtain and maintain this esteemed accreditation, which has made it the only facility in Southern Oregon to be accredited by the American College of Surgeons. As an enthusiastic clinical investigator and patient advocate, Dr. Matar is dedicated to bridging the healthcare disparity and providing her patients in Oregon with exceptional, compassionate treatment.



**Panelist: Allan Cheng, M.D., D.D.S., FACS**

*Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Specialist*

Dr. Cheng earned his medical and dental degrees at the University of California, San Francisco. After completing his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery, Dr. Cheng finished fellowship training in both head and neck oncology and microvascular reconstructive surgery. He is a board-certified diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery with a certificate of added qualification in head and neck surgery. Dr.

Cheng's practice is comprised of oral surgery (dental extractions, dental implants, bone grafting, soft tissue grafting), head and neck oncology, head and neck reconstruction, and maxillofacial surgery. His research interests are focused in the areas of head and neck oncology and reconstructive surgery. Dr. Cheng currently serves as the section chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital and medical director of the Legacy Good Samaritan Oral/Head and Neck Cancer Program. He is also an assistant professor at the OHSU School of Dentistry in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.



**Panelist: Melissa Moffitt, M.D.**

*Gynecologic Oncology*

Dr. Moffitt is a gynecological oncologist. She started practice in 2011 and has served at Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center while currently serving at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center. Dr. Moffitt received the following training: 2004–2005 Ob/Gyn Internship, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 2005–2008 Ob/Gyn Residency, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA 2008–2011 Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship, LA County/University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. She also received the following certifications: Diplomat of The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG), General Ob/Gyn Diplomat of The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG), Gynecologic Oncology She has the following publications: Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev, Hum Reprod.



**Panelist: Ryan Kopp, M.D.**

*Associate Professor of Urology, OHSU School of Medicine*

Dr. Kopp received his medical degree in 2007 at Indiana University School of Medicine. He then went on to his residency in urology at the University of California San Diego in 2013. He finished with his fellowship in urologic oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2015. He is currently an associate professor of urology at OHSU and the Portland VA Medical Center.



**Panelist: Jen-Jane Liu, M.D.**

*Associate Professor of Urology, OHSU School of Medicine*

Dr. 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 to benefit 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, co-medical director of the OHSU Genitourinary Multidisciplinary Clinic and is also on the American Urologic Association Science and Technology Committee.

**2:15 p.m. Updates in Pancreatic Cancer**

**2:15 p.m. Updates in Radiation Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer**



**Aaron Grossberg, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Medicine at OHSU, Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care, Department of Cellular, Developmental, and Cancer Biology*

Dr. Grossberg is a physician-scientist at OHSU in the Department of Radiation Medicine. He specializes in caring for patients with pancreatic, hepatobiliary, and anorectal cancers, with a focus on the use of modern image guided radiotherapy to safely deliver high doses of radiation to primary tumors and metastases. His laboratory investigates the systemic effects of cancer on the patient, with a focus on the cancer-associated wasting

syndrome, cachexia. His lab seeks to understand how cancers change the way the body uses fuels in the hopes of developing dietary and pharmacologic approaches that improve patients' resilience, quality of life, and survival.

### 2:35 p.m. Pancreatic Cancer Current Topics



**[Flavio Rocha, M.D., FACS, FSSO](#)**

*Physician-in-Chief, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute  
Hedinger Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, OHSU  
Professor and Division Head of Surgical Oncology*

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.

### 3:00 p.m. Closing Remarks



**[Flavio Rocha, M.D., FACS, FSSO](#)**

*Physician-in-Chief, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute  
Hedinger Professor of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, OHSU  
Professor and Division Head of Surgical Oncology*

*For questions about this event, please email our team at [kccsymposium@ohsu.edu](mailto:kccsymposium@ohsu.edu).*

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