



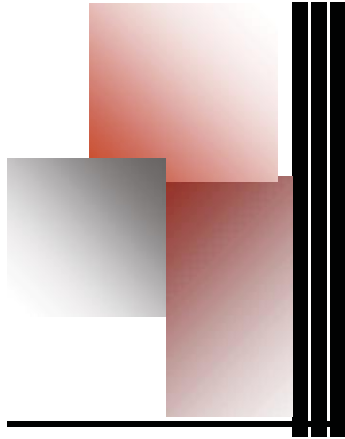
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Hematology Oncology Fellowship

Current Fellow Projects

Division of Hematology Oncology
IU department of Medicine
535 Barnhill Drive, Room 473
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: (317) 278-6942
Fax: (317) 278-4190



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Current Fellowship Projects

Tyler Davis, MD:

Dr. Davis is developing his interests in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety. He is actively completing a manuscript on a systematic program to integrate resident education within the institutional mission of improving the delivery of patient care. He also is working with Dr. Sherif Farag on the role of liposomal vincristine in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia as well as finishing earlier work with Dr. Noah Hahn regarding treatment selection in men with castrate resistant prostate cancer based upon SNP (small nucleotide polymorphism) analysis.

Brian Myre, MD:

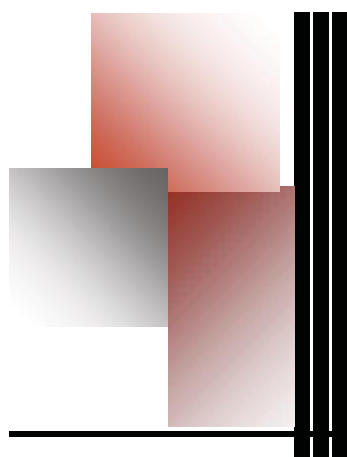
Dr. Myre has worked on a phase I trial of 2nd line therapy in metastatic colorectal cancer. This research was presented at GI ASCO. His interests also include the field of stem cell transplantation and its complications.

Natraj Ammakkanavar, MD:

In addition to establishing a database for Stage I testicular germ cell tumor, Dr. Ammakkanavar is currently working on retrospective analysis of clinical stage I Non-Seminomatous testicular germ cell tumor patients, looking for factors influencing risk of recurrence in these patients. We hope that the data would help us find better ways to risk stratify patients, further influencing appropriate adjuvant treatment. Dr. Ammakkanavar is working on a panel of Peripheral T-cell Lymphoma patients treated at IU, looking for specific prognostic factors.

Muhammad Khawaja, MD:

Dr. Khawaja's primary area of interest is the interface between cancer and immunology. His recent work includes an exploration of the immunologic and hematologic abnormalities in patients with thymic epithelial neoplasms. Currently, he is studying the comparative effectiveness of conventional and non-myeloablative allotransplantation, including the significance of immune mediated graft-versus-tumor effect. He is also interested in studying biomarkers involved in graft-versus-host disease.



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Mohammad Abu Zaid, MD

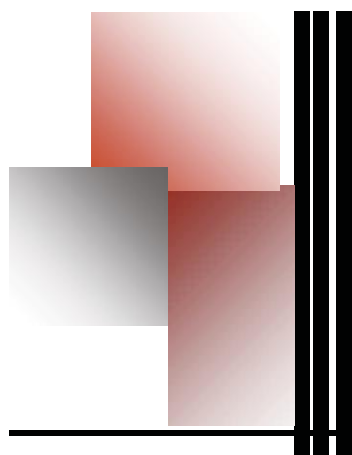
Dr. Abu Zaid's research focus is on cancer immunotherapy and thymic malignancies. He has written a phase 2 protocol for a PI3K-inhibitor in thymomas which is currently open and accruing patients. He has built a database with over 800 patients with thymic malignancies. He also has a pilot study looking at a novel Biodynamic Imaging technology to predict response to chemotherapy in esophageal cancer. He presented his research in AML at ASH 2014 Annual Meeting. He looked at the chronic health condition profile in 680 testis cancer survivors and his work was accepted for the poster discussion session at ASCO 2015 Annual Meeting. His bench work focuses on a new subset of T-cells (IL33-T-9 Cells) as an immunotherapy for hematologic malignancies.

Greg Durm, MD

Dr. Durm is developing his interests in lung cancer and thoracic oncology, particularly in the use of immunotherapies to treat lung malignancies. He wrote the protocol for a multi-center phase II trial using Pembrolizumab as consolidation therapy in patients who have previously undergone concurrent chemoradiation for stage III NSCLC, and this trial is currently enrolling patients. He also wrote a trial looking at the feasibility of isolating circulating tumor cells from NSCLC patients and then assessing them for PD-L1 status. He is currently in the process of several additional projects including looking at markers for Cisplatin resistance in the treatment of esophageal adenocarcinoma, looking at protein expression profiles in small cell lung cancer patients, and looking at a panel of stage I non-seminoma patients to potentially identify risk factors for relapse.

Praveen Ranganath

Primary area of interest is in stem cell transplant and graft versus host disease. Currently actively working on defining optimal levels of sirolimus to prevent development of hepatic sinusoidal obstruction disease. Also involved in biomarker analysis of plasma samples to predict acute or chronic GVHD and correlation with one year non-relapse mortality. With Dr. Einhorn and Dr. Kessler, looking into Perioperative morbidity and mortality associated with bleomycin in patients with primary mediastinal non seminomatous germ cell tumors.



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Sawsan Rashdan, MD

Dr. Rashdan is currently working on a project that studies the effect of methylation on the response of the testicular cancer cells to chemotherapy and whether highly methylated tumors are more likely to relapse after treatment. This may help in finding a new marker that helps to recognize more aggressive tumors early in the disease course.

Sagar Sardesai, MD

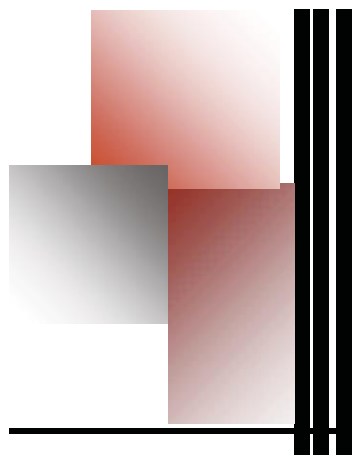
Dr. Sardesai is currently working on a BCRF funded grant. This proof of concept pilot study involves a generic FDA approved antihypertensive which has recently shown to reduce bone turnover in bone metastases and inhibit migration of mammary tumor cells in mouse models - Guanabenz. The study will assess biologic activity of guanabenz in solid tumor patients with bone metastases and compare exposure levels in patients to pre-clinical models.

He is also exploring the role of guanabenz in aromatase inhibitor associated bone loss in a phase II single arm trial involving 32 post-menopausal women with hormone receptor positive early breast cancer.

He is also collaborating a retrospective project with IU radiology on interpreting the relationship between BMI and breast density assessed via screening mammograms in healthy women with no prior history of breast cancer.

Nabil Adra, MD

Dr. Adra has an interest in GU Oncology. He has developed a database for poor risk germ cell tumor patients looking at identifying subgroups among these patients that have a more/less favorable outcomes. This was presented at ASCO in 2 successive years (2013 and 2014) and is pending publication. Dr. Adra is also working on a Phase 2 study of Pembrolizumab (a PD1 inhibitor) in patients with refractory germ cell tumors.



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Jill Kremer, MD

Dr. Kremer's primary interest is in breast oncology, particularly prevention. She is currently involved in bench research with the Komen Tissue Bank involving micro-dissection and RNA analysis of normal breast tissue to evaluate the characteristics of pregnancy, lactation and involution on RNA expression. She is also co-authoring a book chapter on clinical trials, the Komen Tissue Bank and the future of breast cancer prevention.

Laura Lourdes, MD

Dr. Lourdes is interested in thoracic oncology, specifically targeted therapy in non-small cell lung cancer. She is working with Dr. Nasser Hanna and Dr. Shadia Jalal to look at combination targeted therapy in NSCLC as well as the role of circulating tumor cells in NSCLC.

Hirva Mamdani, MD

Dr. Mamdani's primary areas of interest are personalized cancer medicine and cancer immunology. Currently she is working with Dr. Shadia Jalal on exploring the role of immunotherapy in esophageal cancer as well as with Dr. Nasser Hanna on the use of aurora kinase inhibitors in advanced non-small cell lung cancer. Dr. Mamdani is also interested in studying the mechanism and outcomes of Good's Syndrome in patients with thymic neoplasms.

Derek Thomas, MD

Dr. Thomas' current work includes several projects involving genitourinary malignancies. He is evaluating the potential significance of several biomarkers for predicting response to docetaxel in castrate resistant metastatic prostate cancer in addition to working on a clinical trial involving a novel therapeutic approach for the treatment of relapsed metastatic urothelial cancer. Additionally, he is working on publishing retrospective data regarding the prognostic significance of concurrent carcinoma in situ on pre-cystectomy pathology specimens in patients with muscle-invasive urothelial cancer treated with neo-adjuvant chemotherapy