

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Hematology Oncology Fellowship

Current Fellow Projects



IU HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

Current Fellowship Projects

Ryan Porter:

Establishing a clinical database of all patients with thymic malignancies and tissue blocks. Working with bench researchers, Dr. Milan Radovich and Dr. Bryan Schneider, to evaluate next generation sequencing to uncover mutational targets/pathways that could be potential therapeutic targets and provide prognostic insight.

Heather Riggs:

Health services research analyzed the baseline demographic, clinical, and regimen-related predictors of adjuvant chemotherapy delivery among veterans with resected stage III and high-risk stage II colon cancer. She received funding from the John A. Hartford foundation which supported her research and completion of a Master's degree in Clinical Research from the CITE program of Indiana CTSI.

Yaser Homs:

Studied preclinical data, including in-vitro allo-stimulated T-cells and the effect of GVHD in transplanted murine models for SF1126 (P13K inhibitor). Other research included studying the effects of STAT3 inhibition on human dendritic cells as well as clinical research in the field of lung cancer and BMT.

Costantine Albany:

Secured funding and wrote an ongoing clinical trial that evaluates Fosaprepitant with a 5HT3 receptor antagonists and dexamethasone in patients with germ cell tumors undergoing 5 day cisplatin based chemotherapy. In addition, Dr. Albany received an ASCO merit award for his retrospective analysis of outcomes of patients with intermediate risk germ cell tumor treated at Indiana University.

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Shilpa Shah:

Evaluating the serum of patients with prostate cancer and healthy patients to discern structural changes of glycoproteins between the 2 groups. This has the potential to form the basis for development of new prescreening methods to detect prostate cancer.

Brian Mulherin:

Evaluated patients with relapsed germ cell tumor who had previously been treated with high dose chemotherapy and subsequently received gemcitabine plus paclitaxel. This work was presented at ASCO, where Dr. Mulherin earned a Merit Award for his research.

Jordan Schmitt:

Studied the effect of tissue-transglutaminase 2 (TG2) on the metastatic spread of ovarian cancer. Her research compared TG2 expression in primary tumors and in the metastatic sites from the same patient from samples collected in tumor banks. She also developed a human xenograft model and had been part of experiments using an orthotopic mouse model. As part of a collaborative effort with Purdue University Department of Chemistry, funded by the Walther Oncology Physical Sciences and Engineering: research Embedding Program, Dr. Schmitt also helped develop of a model of siRNA delivery to knock-down TG2 in ovarian cancer cells using gold nanorod technology.

Trent Miller:

Dr. Miller is working on a prevalence study of hypogonadism in patients who have been treated with and without chemotherapy for testicular cancer. He will be using questionnaires to assess quality of life metrics in patients who have been treated for testicular cancer to see if these can be correlated to biochemical evidence of hypogonadism.

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Bilal Siddiqui:

Wrote the protocol for a multi center, international, open-label, Adaptive, randomized study of Palifosfamide-tris, a novel DNZ cross linker, in combination with Carboplatin and Etoposide (PaCE) chemotherapy versus Carboplatin and Etoposide (CE) alone in chemotherapy naïve patients with extensive stage small cell lung cancer. Dr. Siddiqui had previously presented the results of the phase I study of this combination. In a separate clinical research project, he is also evaluating factors affecting survival in patients with stage 4 thymoma.

Safi Shahda:

His primary focus is the study of GI cancers. He is evaluating the role of APE in regulating hypoxia signaling genes in pancreatic cancer cell lines and xenograft. Dr. Shahda cultured cells, collected them, lysed, isolated the RNA, converted that to cDNA and then quantified these genes under different circumstances of hypoxia and normoxia by qPCR method. In addition, Dr. Shahda has written protocols evaluating capecitabine and afatinib in biliary cancer and refractory solid tumors as well as a study of the hedgehog inhibitor, Vismodigib, with radiation as neoadjuvant therapy for patients with resectable pancreatic cancer.

Brandon Hardesty:

His research focus is in the field of transplantation. He is working on attempting to define lymphocyte populations and cytokines in the peri-engraftment period.

Amit Jain:

His clinical research has focused on germ cell tumors and includes evaluating oxaliplatin with bevacizumab for patients with refractory germ cell tumors as well as evaluating outcomes of patients treated with chemotherapy who have primitive neuroectodermal tumor that have transformed from teratoma.

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Laura Tenner:

Her primary focus is in the area of ethics. Her first year has been spent becoming familiar with the major ethical dilemmas concerning informed consent, end of life care and access to cancer care and have resulted in a publication regarding GI malignancies and genetic testing.

Shailesh Satpute:

Dr. Satpute is examining the differential expression of BRAF mutations in different risk group patients with germ cell tumor and is conducting other research evaluating clinical outcomes of patients with intermediate risk germ cell tumors. In addition, he will be working with Dr. Robert Nelson to study T cell antigens in peripheral blood lymphocytes in patients undergoing nonmyeloablative stem cell transplants.

