

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center 37th Annual Scientific Retreat Agenda
September 18–19, 2025
The Assembly Building

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

****All events take place in the Auditorium unless otherwise noted****

8:00 am - 9:00 am **Check-in /** Main Entrance Lobby
Continental Breakfast / Atrium
Poster Set-up / First Floor Atrium
Session 1 posters must be set up by 9:00 am
All posters must be removed by 3:45 pm

9:00 am - 10:00 am **Welcome and Director Overview**
Kathryn H. Schmitz, PhD, MPH
 Interim Director, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
 Associate Director of Population Sciences

10:00 am -11:30 am **Poster Session I (numbers 1-50) and Poster Judging**
Note: All **Session I** poster presenters should be at posters during this session
All posters must be removed by 3:45 pm

11:30 am - 12:30 pm **Ronald B. Herberman, MD Lectureship**
How T Cells Recognize and Target Tumor Cells and Why It Matters
Timothy A. Chan, MD, PhD
 Dept. Chair, Global Center for Immunotherapy and Immuno-Oncology (CITI)
 Co-Director, National Center for Regenerative Medicine
 Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic & Case Western School of Medicine

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm **Lunch /** Atrium

1:15 pm - 2:00 pm **Breakout Session #1; precision immunology, catchment area, translational collaborations**
Precision Immunology / Richards Auditorium
Benjamin Nacev, MD, PhD, Moderator
 Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology
 Section Chief, Sarcoma Medical Oncology
Jing Li, PhD, Moderator
 Assistant Professor of Immunology
Timothy A. Chan, MD, PhD
 Dept. Chair, Global Center for Immunotherapy and Immuno-Oncology (CITI)
 Co-Director, National Center for Regenerative Medicine
 Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic & Case Western School of Medicine
Udai Kammula, MD
 Associate Professor of Surgery
 Director, Solid Tumor Cell Therapy Program
Marlies Meisel, PhD
 Assistant Professor of Immunology
Demystifying Catchment Area Research / B1610
Natacha De Genna, PhD, Moderator
 Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Epidemiology
Lindsay Sabik, PhD
 Professor and Vice Chair for Research Faculty in Health Policy and Management
Laura Stabile, PhD
 Research Associate Professor in Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
Kathryn Demanelis, PhD
 Research Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology

Translational Collaborations / Conference Room 2001

Wei Du, MD, PhD, Moderator
 Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology

Adam Mueller, MD, PhD, Moderator
 Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology

Aatur Singhi MD, PhD
 Associate Professor of Pathology

Roderick O'Sullivan, PhD
 Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology

Carola Neumann, MD
 Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology & Vice Chair for Precision and Translational Pharmacology

Marija Balic MD, ScD, MBA
 Professor of Medicine, Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Break

2:15 pm - 3:45 pm

Hillman Investigator-Initiated Trials

Benjamin Nacev, MD, PhD, Moderator
 Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology
 Section Chief, Sarcoma Medical Oncology

2:15 pm - 2:45 pm

Lan G. Coffman, MD, PhD
 Associate Professor
 Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology
 Division of Gynecologic Oncology

2:45 pm - 3:15 pm

Julia Foldi, MD, PhD
 Assistant Professor of Medicine
 Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology

3:15 pm - 3:45 pm

Yvonne Mowery, MD, PhD
 Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Communication/CCSG

4:00 - 4:30 pm

Elizabeth Pitts, PhD
 Assistant Professor in Department of English

4:30 - 5:00 pm

Tess Cummings RN, DBA
 Associate Director for Research Administration
 Assistant Professor, Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology

5:00 PM

Reception (hors d'oeuvres, wine/beer)

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

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8:00 am - 9:30 am **Check-in / Main Entrance Lobby**
Continental Breakfast / Atrium
Poster Set-up / First Floor Atrium
All posters must be set up by 4:15pm on 9/18
All posters must be removed by 10:45 am

8:00 am - 9:30 am **Poster Session II (numbers 51-100) and Poster Judging**
Note: All Session II poster presenters should be at their posters during this session
All posters must be removed by 10:45 am

9:30 am - 10:00 am **New UPMC Hillman Director Introduction**
John C. Byrd, MD
 Director, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center - effective Nov 1

10:00 am - 11:00 am **Maryann Donovan, PhD, MPH Lectureship**
Cancer Early Detection: the right tool for the right person at the right time
Timothy R. Rebbeck, PhD
 Vincent L. Gregory, Jr. Professor of Cancer Prevention
 Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and
 Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

11:00 am - 11:15 am **Break**

11:15 am - 12:00 pm **Breakout Session #2; cancer prevention; trainee career development, mid-career development**

Cancer Prevention & Early Detection / Richards Auditorium

Kathryn Demanelis, PhD, Moderator
 Research Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology

Angela Mazul, PhD, Moderator
 Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology

Timothy R. Rebbeck, PhD
 Vincent L. Gregory, Jr. Professor of Cancer Prevention
 Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and
 Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Francesmary Modugno, PhD, MS, MPH
 Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences

Jose P. Zevallos, MD, MPH, FACS
 The Eugene N. Myers, MD Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
 Interim Deputy Director, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Adam Officer, PhD
 T32 Translational Research Training in Cancer Prevention and Control Postdoctoral Trainee

Mid-Career Development / Conference Room 2001

Charles Geyer, MD
 Professor of Medicine and Division Chief, Division of Malignant Hematology and Medical Oncology

Kathryn H. Schmitz, PhD, MPH
 Interim Director, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
 Associate Director of Population Sciences

Doris Rubio, PhD, MSW
 Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Advancement and Engagement
 Professor of Medicine and of Biomedical Informatics
 Professor of Clinical and Translational Science

Lu-In Wang, JD, BS, BA
 Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
 Provost's Advisory Council on Tenure and Promotion (PACTP)

Trainee Career Development / B1610

Deepti Ramadoss, PhD - Moderator
 Director, Office of Graduate Studies

Devin Dressman, PhD
 Associate Director of Research Operations and Strategy
 Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology

Nadine Hempel, PhD
 Associate Professor of Medicine
 Division of Malignant Hematology/Medical Oncology,
 Associate Chief - Basic Research
 UPMC HCC, Post-Doctoral Representative – Committee for Excellence in Cancer Education and Training (CECET)

Heath Skinner, MD, PhD
 Claude Worthington Benedum Chair of Radiation Oncology
 Chief Medical Officer, Radiation Oncology Network
 Professor and Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology

Richard Steinman, MD, PhD
 Associate Dean and Director, Medical Scientist Training Program
 Director, Physician Scientist Training Program
 Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
 Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm **Lunch / Atrium**

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm **Deploying Artificial Intelligence for Precision Oncology**

Elise Fouquerel, PhD, Moderator
 Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology

12:45 pm - 1:15 pm **Yanshan Wang, PhD, FAMIA**
 Assistant Professor of Health Informatics and Vice Chair for Research within Department of Health Information Management
 Director of Generative AI Division within Computational Pathology and AI Center of Excellence (CPACE)
 Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm **Rivka Colen, MD**
 Associate Professor, Department of Radiology,
 Neuroradiology Division
 Co-Director, InVivo Imaging Core CCSG
 Director, Imaging Core

1:45 pm - 2:15 pm **Jishnu Das, PhD**
 Assistant Professor, Center for Systems Immunology
 Departments of Immunology and Computational & Systems Biology
 Director, Computational Immunogenomics Core,
 Center for Systems Immunology

2:15 pm - 3:45 pm **Poster Session III (numbers 101-150) and Poster Judging**
Note: All Session III poster presenters should be at their posters during this session
All posters must be removed by 5:00 pm

3:45 pm - 4:30 pm **Trainee Short Talks Across UPMC Hillman Research Programs**

3:45pm - 3:50 pm **Hannah Bumgarner, MSTP Candidate**
 Mentor: Greg Delgoffe, PhD

3:50 pm - 3:55 pm **Jason Hong, MSTP Candidate**
 Mentor: Benjamin Nacev, MD, PhD

3:55 pm - 4:00 pm **Alexandra Hughson, PhD Candidate**
 Mentor: Haitao Guo, PhD

4:00 pm - 4:05 pm **Sindhu Karnam, PhD Candidate**
 Mentor: Jian-Min Yuan, MD, PhD

4:05 pm - 4:10 pm **Bashir Lawal, PhD, Post-doctoral Fellow**
 Mentor: Xiaosong (Jonathon) Wang, MD, PhD

4:10 pm - 4:15 pm **Kenji Miki, PhD, Post-doctoral Fellow**
 Mentor: Kalil Abdullah, MD, MSC

4:15 pm - 4:20 pm **Jacob Whitman, PhD, Post-doctoral Fellow**
 Mentor: Lindsay Sabik, PhD

4:30 PM **Reception (hors d'oeuvres, wine/beer)**
Emerging Scholar, Mentor and Poster Awards Presentation

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Mariarosaria De Rosa, PhD

Postdoctoral Associate, Dr. Patricia Opresko Laboratory
Junior Instructor, K99/R00 Grant Writing Course

Thursday, September 18th

2:15 – 2:45 pm

Lan Coffman, MD, PhD

“Targeting the soil to kill the seed: stromal modulation in ovarian cancer”

2:45 – 3:15 pm

Julia Foldi, MD, PhD

“Early Results from a Phase I Clinical Trial of a Cancer Vaccine Targeting Tumor Associated Antigen MUC1 in Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS) for Immune Interception of Breast Cancer”

3:15 – 3:45 pm

Yvonne Mowery, MD, PhD

“SU2C-SARC032: A Phase II Trial Evaluating Addition of Pembrolizumab to Radiation Therapy and Surgery for Soft Tissue Sarcoma of the Extremity”

4:00 – 4:30 pm

Elizabeth Pitts, PhD

“Public Communication in Polarized Times”

4:30 – 5:00 pm

Tess Cummings, RN, DBA

“CCSG 101: Introduction to the Cancer Center Support Grant”

Friday, September 19th

12:45 – 1:15 pm

Yanshan Wang, PhD, FAMIA

“Transforming Cancer Care and Research with Generative AI and Large Language Models”

1:15 – 1:45 pm

Rivka Colen, MD

“AI – driven Imaging: Radiomics and Radiogenomics in Cancer”

1:45 – 2:15 pm

Jishnu Das, PhD

“Studying Immunomodulation Using Interpretable Machine Learning”