NOTE from UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Director

As director of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, gender equity and inclusion are some of my highest priorities for both our workforce and the community we serve. These have long been priorities for me, especially as a husband and a father of three, including two daughters. When I took the job as director five years ago, I implemented the Women’s Task Force to ensure that our cancer center faculty were empowered to create a work environment that is more equitable and inclusive of women. The work of the Task Force since then has evolved into not only making our center more equitable and inclusive of women, but for everyone. I am grateful and proud of the work this Task Force has accomplished so far and am honored to welcome you to their first newsletter so you too can see the myriad of their accomplishments.

NOTE from Co-Leaders

Welcome to UPMC Hillman Cancer Center’s Women’s Initiatives Task Force first newsletter. Our Task Force was assembled in 2018 under the direction of Dr. Robert Ferris as the director of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center to address issues for female faculty. We were initially chaired by Dr. Lisa Butterfield and included a select number of female faculty with the mission to support and foster the recruitment, retention, and promotion of female faculty at UPMC Hillman and to address issues and concerns from female faculty members. In 2019, the leadership of the Task Force was passed to Dr. Kara Bernstein to continue its mission.

Early work of the Task Force was determined by choosing key initiatives identified by a climate survey of women at UPMC Hillman to address specific concerns surrounding gender equity, combined with areas of importance identified by the original task force members and seminal peer-reviewed articles related to issues for women in academia. Initiatives included tracking gender equity, networking and career development, and tracking resources available on UPMC Hillman’s campus and beyond.

During Dr. Bernstein’s tenure as chair, we created guidelines for UPMC Hillman’s seminar series to make male and female faculty speakers equivalent and generated transparency on leadership positions, pilot funding, lab space, and hiring of female investigators. We continue to report out the statistics for UPMC Hillman annually to ensure that gender equity is present.

One of our most successful education initiatives has been our faculty/trainee educational monthly luncheons, which utilize the expertise of internal and external speakers for education on important issues including, but not limited to, negotiation, mentoring, implicit bias, diversity, and faculty promotion.

We also led a survey of individuals across UPMC Hillman who are parents in 2020, and the results were presented at the ASCO Annual Meeting in 2021. New initiatives have stemmed from the results of this
survey, including the development of resources for UPMC Hillman parents, improved lactation rooms, and onsite childcare for in-person events for the post-COVID era.

In recent years, the Task Force has expanded significantly with subcommittees on resource development, diversity and inclusion, trainee outreach and resources, data management, parent resources, communication, and educational luncheons. In 2021, we were appointed co-chairs to inclusively represent the research and clinical aspects of UPMC Hillman. The Task Force was also expanded to include more female and male faculty, as well as trainees to represent the perspectives of clinical fellows, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students.

This year, we are happy to announce a new name for our committee: UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Women’s Initiatives Task Force. Today, new initiatives are being set forth to address emotional wellness and faculty training for the promotion process. We have also started to talk with other groups that are passionate about issues for women, including those from UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and the Department of Immunology in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

We are infinitely proud of all that this exceptional group has achieved, and we hope you enjoy the first-ever newsletter summarizing our accomplishments and vision for the future.

Tullia Bruno, PhD, and Annie Im, MD

SUBCOMMITTEES’ Highlights from 2021-2022

Communications Subcommittee

The overarching goal of the Communications subcommittee is to increase awareness and interest of the activities of the Women’s Task Force. The subcommittee assists in creating content for the Women’s Task Force’s website and newsletter. Members include:

Chair: Marci Lee Nilsen, PhD, RN
Member, Biobehavioral Cancer Control
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Acute and Tertiary Care, School of Nursing
Department of Otolaryngology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Wei Du, MD, PhD
Member, Genome Stability Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Laura Stabile, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Laurice Vance-Carr
Senior Administrator
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Data Management Subcommittee

The goal of the Data Management Subcommittee is to gather and distribute data related to gender statistics at UPMC Hillman. Thus far, we have collected data related to 2021-2022 seminar speakers, hiring, and leadership positions. Members include:

Chair: Katherine Aird, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Liaison from advisory board: Kara Bernstein, PhD
Member, Genome Stability Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Lan Coffman, MD, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Dorota Jazwinska, PhD Candidate
Zervantonakis Lab (who is a Member, Cancer Biology Program)
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Department of Bioengineering
University of Pittsburgh
Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee
The overarching goal of the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee is to foster institutional diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and evaluate such commitment in clearly defined metrics, to provide an environment of excellence by enhancing self and group identities, and to promote institutional recognition of academic and clinical achievement from women and underrepresented groups. The subcommittee is also sponsoring institutional-level initiatives on mentoring early-career women faculty on grant applications and tenure promotions, creating centralized resources to highlight female leaders and their work, and inviting speakers to discuss key topics on DEI at the monthly luncheons. The subcommittee collaborates closely with all five of the other subcommittees to drive the mission of Women's Task Force to reality. Members include:

Chair: Riyue Bao, PhD
Co-Director, Cancer Bioinformatics Services
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Research Associate Professor
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Tim Burns, MD, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Kathleen Dorritie, MD
Member, Cancer Therapeutics Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Yana Najjar, MD
Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Marci Lee Nilsen, PhD, RN
Member, Biobehavioral Cancer Control
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Acute and Tertiary Care, School of Nursing
Department of Otolaryngology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Laurice Vance-Carr
Senior Administrator
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Faculty/Trainee Educational Luncheons Subcommittee
The Faculty/Trainee Educational Luncheons Subcommittee has arranged a fantastic line-up of speakers in 2022 and are booking luncheons for 2022-2023. Attendance and discussions have been excellent, and the subcommittee looks forward to continuing to engage UPMC Hillman’s community in discussions on important topics for women in medicine and science. Members include:

Co-chair: Kelly Bailey, MD, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Department of Pediatrics
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Pediatric Oncologist
Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

Co-chair: Jennifer Xavier, PhD
Associate Director of Research, Institute for Precision Medicine
Research Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Steffi Oesterreich, PhD
Co-Leader, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Co-Director, Women’s Cancer Research Center
UPMC Hillman and Magee-Womens Research Institute
Professor & Vice Chair
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Parent Survey Subcommittee
The goal of the Parent Survey Subcommittee is to repeat UPMC Hillman Cancer Center’s Parent Survey when action items from the original survey have been implemented. Pending this, we are planning to submit a manuscript of the results. Members include:

Co-chair: Tullia Bruno, PhD
Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program
Member, Tumor Microenvironment Center
Scientific Director, Cytometry Facility
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, Department of Immunology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Co-chair: Annie Im, MD
Member, Cancer Therapeutics Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Continued >
SUBCOMMITTEES’ Highlights from 2021-2022 (continued from page 3)

Todd Bear, PhD, MPH
Director, Population Survey Facility
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences
University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health

Devin Dressman, PhD
Associate Director, Research Operations and Strategy
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Yana Najjar, MD
Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Lyn Robertson, DrPH, MSN, BSN
Director of Cancer Screening and External Partnerships
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology, School of Medicine
School of Nursing
School of Public Health
University of Pittsburgh

Kathleen Dorritie, MD
Member, Cancer Therapeutics Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Chris Milcarek, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Immunology
Department of Immunology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Adam Soloff, PhD
Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Jenny Xavier, PhD
Associate Director of Research
Institute for Precision Medicine
Research Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Resource Development Subcommittee
The Resource Development Subcommittee is focused on working on action items that came from UPMC Hillman’s Parent Survey that was distributed last year. They have been working on a spreadsheet for parent resources that includes categories such as day cares, nanny resources, pediatricians, camps and after school programs, etc. in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. This will be available electronically, and the subcommittee hopes it can be used for current faculty/trainees as well as incoming faculty and recruits. They also have been working on improving current lactation spaces and advocating for spaces where they may be lacking. Finally, if needed in the future when more meetings may be in-person, we are addressing on-site daycare for events (such as UPMC Hillman Cancer Center’s Science Retreat). Members include:

Chair: Annie Im, MD
Member, Cancer Therapeutics Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Yvonne Chao, MD, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Trainee Outreach and Resources Subcommittee
The Trainee Outreach and Resources Subcommittee sponsored the Faculty/Trainee Educational Luncheon in June geared toward trainees and junior faculty and is working on a guide for research and clinical trainees about professional development resources at UPMC and Pitt. Members include:

Chair: Emily Geramita, MD, PhD
Fellow
Division of Hematology/Oncology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Dorota Jazwinska, PhD Candidate
Zervantonakis Lab (who is a Member, Cancer Biology Program)
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Department of Bioengineering
University of Pittsburgh

Abby Overacre-Delgoffe, PhD
Member, Tumor Microenvironment Center
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Department of Immunology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Food for Thought:
Recap of Educational Luncheons

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center’s Women’s Initiatives Task Force holds luncheons on the second Friday of each month throughout the 2022-2023 academic year. The goal of the luncheons is to engage with excellent speakers on topics important to women in medicine and science. We foster open discussions and implement action items from these discussions to help improve the experience of women in medicine and science at UPMC Hillman. All trainees, faculty, and staff (of all gender identities) are welcome to participate.

In 2021-2022, all educational luncheons were held virtually or hybrid and were advertised through UPMC Hillman weekly email announcements. Prior to the pandemic, luncheons were held in-person. Our speaker line-up for the 2021-2022 year included the following:

**Sept. 17, 2021:** Cyndy Patton, Senior Manager, UPMC Public Relations — “How to give media interviews.” Ms. Patton, a former TV anchor and current lead for UPMC Hillman Cancer Center’s media relations, provided guidance and internal procedures on how to facilitate distribution of exciting scientific discoveries to the media.

**Oct. 1, 2021:** Erika Friehling, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Vice Chair of Faculty Development, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, University of Pittsburgh — “Mentoring through differences.” The attendees listened to Michelle Obama’s podcast on mentoring prior to the lunch in order to facilitate the discussion on how to develop productive mentor/mentee relationships.

**Nov. 5, 2021:** Serre-Yu Wong, MD, PhD, Instructor, Division of Gastroenterology, Mount Sinai, and Manasi Agrawal, MD, Assistant Professor, Division of Gastroenterology, Mount Sinai — “Promoting equity in academia.” Drs. Wong and Agrawal shared their research showing that Grand Rounds speakers where predominantly men in their field and attendees discussed ways to diversify speaker invitations.

**Dec. 3, 2021:** Alda Gonzaga, MD, MS, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh — “How to avoid gender biases in letters of recommendations and evaluations.” Dr. Gonzaga shared advice and led a discussion to help attendees to be aware of potential biases and how to avoid them in letter writing.

**Jan. 7, 2022:** Angela Weyand, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, University of Michigan — “Race and sex-based reference ranges in hematology.” Dr. Weyand is known as the “Shematologist” on Twitter (follow her @acweyand). Dr. Weyand shared her research on reference ranges in hematology and the importance of diversifying current guidelines.

**Feb. 4, 2022:** Steffi Oesterreich, PhD, Co-Leader, Cancer Biology Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center; Co-Director, Women’s Cancer Research Center, UPMC Hillman and Magee-Womens Research Institute; and Professor & Vice Chair, Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology, University of Pittsburgh — “Work life balance in academia.” Dr. Oesterreich discussed her first-hand experience balancing her roles as a scientist, mother, and wife.

**March 4, 2022:** Susan M. Pollart, MD, MS, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development, University of Virginia School of Medicine — “Moving on: Addressing the COVID impact on women in academic medicine.” Dr. Pollart highlighted the many challenges the pandemic brought specifically to women in science and medicine with an emphasis on how to move forward in positive recognition of the new skills that have been acquired during the difficult period.

**April 1, 2022:** Merry Jennifer Markham, MD, FACP, FASCO, Professor of Medicine, Chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology, University of Florida — “Social media self-promotion and career development.” Dr. Markham discussed trends regarding social media and professional development for oncology professionals and offered guidance for establishing a responsible social media presence. Follow her on Twitter @DrMarkam.

**May 6, 2022:** Jen Corbelli, MD, MS, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh and Missy McNeil, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh — “7 habits of highly successful women.” Drs. Corbelli and McNeil lead a workshop on habits of successful women.

**June 3, 2022:** Laurie Weingart, PhD, Professor of Organizational Behavior and Theory, CMU — “The No Club.” Dr. Weingart, co-author of the book, “The No Club: Putting a Stop to Women’s Dead-End Work,” discussed how to make strategic decisions about tasks that add to a person’s workload and how to handle “dead-end” work requests.

If you have an interest in hosting a future luncheon speaker or presenting, please contact subcommittee chairs Kelly Bailey (kelly.bailey@chp.edu) or Jenny Xavier (xavierjm@upmc.edu).
Kelly Bailey, MD, PhD. Member, Cancer Biology Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center; Pediatric Oncologist, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh; and Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine received the Hillman Junior Scholar Award for Basic Science (October 2021).

Weidu MD, PhD. Member, Genome Stability Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and Associate Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh was named the 2021-2022 Hillman Senior Fellow for Innovative Cancer Research.

Kara Bernstein, PhD. Member, Genome Stability Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine received a Department of Defense Grant entitled “Molecular targeting of homologous recombination-deficient breast cancer.”

Olivera Finn, PhD was honored by the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer in the 2022 class of Fellows of the Academy of Immuno-Oncology, one of the society’s most prestigious honors.

Tullia C. Bruno, PhD. Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program, Member, Tumor Microenvironment Center, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, Assistant Professor, Department of Immunology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine received the Mark Foundation for Cancer Research Endeavor Award, a $3 million team award to study tertiary lymphoid structure formation and maturity for improved immunotherapeutics. She was also honored as the Emerson Collective Awardee for tertiary lymphoid structure amplification in human tumors and with a DOD Melanoma Research Program Idea Award for understanding tertiary lymphoid formation in melanoma brain metastases.

Deborah Galson, PhD. Member, Genome Stability Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and Associate Professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine was part a multidisciplinary team, representing faculty from the University of Pittsburgh Schools of Dental Medicine, Medicine, and Pharmacy and the Swanson School of Engineering, awarded $60,000 from the University of Pittsburgh’s Momentum Teaming grants program. The team includes six additional faculty members: Giuseppe Intini, DDS, PhD, Dobrawa Napierala, PhD, and Juan Taboas, PhD (Dental Medicine), and Peter Alexander, PhD (Medicine), Shilpa Sant, PhD (Pharmacy) and Partha Roy, PhD (Engineering). The award will be used to advance the Pittsburgh Center for Interdisciplinary Bone and Mineral Research (PCIBMR), a 73-member consortium of faculty members whose research interests converge around musculoskeletal disorders, bone injuries, osteoporosis, cancer, and regenerative medicine (www.pcibmr.pitt.edu). The team will organize a multidisciplinary scientific retreat, a hands-on workshop on bioengineered models for bone research, and will develop a Bioengineered Models resource core and a Mechanosensing resource core.

Steffi Oesterreich, PhD. Co-Leader, Cancer Biology Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center; Co-Director, Women’s Cancer Research Center, UPMC Hillman and Magee-Womens Research Institute; and Professor & Vice Chair of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine was named the Shear Family Endowed Chair in Breast Cancer Research at the University of Pittsburgh.
Laurice Vance-Carr, Senior Administrator

Laurice Vance-Carr is a great asset to the Women’s Initiatives Task Force and has served on the group since its conception in 2018. She provides administrative assistance to the Task Force chair, co-chair, and subcommittees and provides guidance to the group and its many internal and external monthly luncheon speakers, records the minutes for the monthly and subcommittee meetings, and is responsible for distributing articles and announcements to women across the various campuses via email distribution.

Laurice has more than 30 years of experience as an administrative assistant. She has been employed with the University of Pittsburgh since 2007 and works as a Senior Administrator for UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. Laurice was recruited to Pitt by Dr. Soldano Ferrone, with whom she worked at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY. In 2011, Laurice transitioned into her current position as a Senior Administrator, in which she currently supports nine faculty members and labs with administrative duties.

Laurice volunteers in many areas across UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. She has served on the UPMC Hillman Retreat Committee for over five years as a poster judge recruiter and as one of the poster printers; she has been the leader of the UPMC Hillman campaign for the University’s United Way Campaign for three years; she led sales for the yearly daffodil’s fundraiser for the American Cancer Society for five years; and she has helped to train many new administrative assistants. She is known as the lead for many efforts in helping local homeless shelters and nursing homes. Laurice brings a bubbly cheer to all she does and keeps everything organized and updated. Many thanks to Laurice for her great contribution to the Women’s Initiatives Task Force!

Laura Stabile, PhD

Member, Cancer Biology Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine received a DOD Lung Cancer Research Program Investigator-Initiated Translational Research Award to study how the MET signaling pathway leads to lung cancer brain metastases and to develop a non-invasive strategy to detect brain-specific MET alterations.

Dr. Stabile is also the PI of a 2022 Hillman Development Pilot grant with matching funds from the Institute of Precision Medicine to investigate mutational signatures of Western PA environmental exposures in never-smokers with lung cancer. This multi-disciplinary team includes Jim Herman, MD; Riyue Bao, PhD; Gabe Sica, MD; Kathryn Demanelis PhD; Brenda Diergaarde, PhD; Lyn Robertson, DrPH, MSN, BSN; and James Fabisiak PhD.

Lyn B. Robertson, DrPH, MSN, BSN

Director of Cancer Screening and External Partnerships, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and Assistant Professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, School of Medicine, and in the Schools of Nursing and Public Health, University of Pittsburgh received the Pitt Public Health Margaret F. Gloninger Service Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to public health service. Dr. Robertson was also recognized with the 2022 PNC Elsie Hillman Distinguished Scholar Award for her work in health equity and community outreach.

Laura Stabile, PhD

Member, Cancer Biology Program, UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine received a DOD Lung Cancer Research Program Investigator-Initiated Translational Research Award to study how the MET signaling pathway leads to lung cancer brain metastases and to develop a non-invasive strategy to detect brain-specific MET alterations.

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Current Members:

Tuilia Bruno, PhD (Co-chair)
Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Department of Immunology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Annie Im, MD (Co-chair)
Member, Cancer Therapeutics Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Katherine Aird, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Kelly Bailey, MD, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Department of Pediatrics
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Yiuw Bao, PhD
Co-Director, Cancer Bioinformatics Services
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Research Associate Professor
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Tim Burns, MD, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Yvonne Chao, MD, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Lan Coffman, MD, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Devin Dressman, PhD
Associate Director
Research Operations and Strategy
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Wei Du, MD, PhD
Member, Genome Stability Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Associate Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Emily Geramita, MD, PhD
(Clinical Fellow Representative)
Fellow
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Yana Najjar, MD
Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Marci Lee Nilsen, PhD, RN
Member, Biobehavioral Cancer Control Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Acute and Tertiary Care
School of Nursing
Department of Otolaryngology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Abby Overace-Delgoffe, PhD
Member, Tumor Microenvironment Center
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Adam Soloff, PhD
Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Jenny Xavier, PhD
Associate Director of Research Institute for Precision Medicine
Research Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Administrative Assistant:

Laurice Vance-Carr
Senior Administrator
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
University of Pittsburgh

New Members:

Monica Baskin, PhD
Associate Director, Health Equity and Community Outreach & Engagement
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Yana Najjar, MD
Member, Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology/Oncology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Rachel Cumberland
Laboratory Manager
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Gera Jochum, MS
Director, Research Communications
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Lyn Robertson, DrPH, MSN, BSN
Director of Cancer Screening and External Partnerships
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Laura Stabile, PhD
Member, Cancer Biology Program
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology
School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

Antoinette Wozniak, MD
Associate Director of Clinical Research
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center

Advisory Board:

Robert Ferris, MD, PhD
Director
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center
Hillman Professor of Oncology
Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Outreach & Engagement
University of Pittsburgh

2022-2023 Roster

The mission of the Women’s Initiatives Task Force at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center is to support and foster the recruitment, retention, and promotion of female faculty at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and to raise constant awareness of issues for women in science.

Learn more about UPMC Hillman Cancer Center’s Women’s Initiatives Task Force at: https://hillmanresearch.upmc.edu/training/womens-task-force/.