



David Geffen  
School of Medicine

**UCLA** Health

## UCLA Radiation Oncology Buzz

### *Colleagues and Friends of the UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology:*



In this issue of the UCLA Radiation Oncology Buzz, we share recent department highlights, welcome new residents, and acknowledge the success of our graduating trainees—all of whom are beginning their careers in outstanding academic positions.

With the recent growth in the department, we're excited to share a number of faculty and staff promotions to new leadership roles. In the same spirit, we would like to congratulate our faculty, residents, and staff on their recent awards and accomplishments, including two who were designated as AAPM Fellows and one as an ASTRO Fellow. This issue also covers a number of exciting educational conferences UCLA Radiation Oncology hosted in 2019.

On the technology side, we delve into the successful upgrade of the ViewRay Linear Accelerator System and the opening of the MRI-Guided On-Table Adaptive Radiation Therapy (SMART) for the Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer Trial at UCLA. We are also proud to announce the implementation of prospective peer review on all SRS and SBRT cases. Given the complex nature of these high-dose treatments, UCLA has implemented this additional measure for enhanced quality and safety assurance.

Please enjoy browsing through this issue of the Buzz.

**Michael Steinberg, MD**  
Professor and Chair

### UCLA Radiation Oncology Adopts Cultural North Star

The Cultural North Star is a School of Medicine wide initiative to build a strong organizational culture that is inclusive and mission-driven. The three pillars of the Cultural North Star are 1) Do What's Right, 2) Make Things Better and 3) Be Kind. We are united by our shared mission of advancing science and medicine. Dr. Emily Rose, Senior Advisor to the Dean engaged in conversation with faculty, residents and managers on how to embody these ideas in everyday actions and interactions. We are reminded to embrace failures as opportunities to learn, engage in dialogue even when we disagree and that we are grounded in ethics and data.

The theme colors of this edition of the UCLA Radiation Oncology Buzz are inspired by the Cultural North Star. To learn more about the Cultural North Star, visit [www.medschool.ucla.edu/cultural-north-star](http://www.medschool.ucla.edu/cultural-north-star).



David Geffen  
School of Medicine



Cultural North Star

#### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">ViewRay Linac Upgrade</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Faculty &amp; Staff News</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Faculty &amp; Staff Awards</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">AAPM &amp; ASTRO</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">UCLA Hosted Conferences</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Educational Programs</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Research Updates</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">2019 Happenings</a>	<a href="#">10</a>

## Clinical Team Excellence Updates

### ViewRay Linear Accelerator System Upgrade Complete



The upgrade to the ViewRay Linac System was completed on October 1, 2019. This is nearly five years after UCLA first installed the ViewRay Cobalt System in October 2014. This cutting edge technology integrates high quality IMRT with simultaneous MR imaging to target the tumor through optimizing alignment, soft tissue gated treatment and allowing for adaptation. This upgrade to the linac system allows for better plan dosimetry and faster treatment delivery. The first patient treated at UCLA on the ViewRay Linac System was a newly diagnosed high grade metastatic leiomyosarcoma to right pelvis and right tricep. The right upper extremity was treated with the ViewRay with smaller PTV margin and better tumor based patient setup.



myosarcoma to right pelvis and right tricep. The right upper extremity was treated with the ViewRay with smaller PTV margin and better tumor based patient setup.

### Stereotactic MRI-guided On-table Adaptive Radiation Therapy (SMART) for Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer Trial.



Following ViewRay Linac System upgrade, UCLA opened the Stereotactic MRI-guided On-table Adaptive Radiation Therapy (SMART) for Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer Trial. Dr. Ann Raldow (PI) enrolled the first patient on October 30, 2019. In this trial, patients receive a high-dose of MRI-guided radiation therapy and on-table adaptive re-planning will be used to customize the treatment to the patients' daily anatomy. Retrospective studies have suggested that dose-escalated radiation therapy using real time adaptive dose planning on an MRI-guided radiation therapy system has the potential to improve overall survival in patients with locally advanced pancreatic cancer without increasing serious gastrointestinal toxicity. These compelling data prompted the development

of the SMART trial for Locally Advanced Pancreatic Cancer Trial. Study outcomes include gastrointestinal toxicity, overall survival after two years, progression-free survival at six months and patient-reported quality of life at three and 12 months.

### Prospective Peer Review of SRS/SBRT Cases

UCLA Radiation Oncology has implemented prospective peer review of radiosurgical techniques which include stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) and stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT). These high-dose, focused radiotherapy delivery techniques have been utilized more routinely throughout radiation oncology for ablative treatment of primary cancers and metastatic lesions given the emerging evidence that these specialized techniques can improve clinical outcomes and potentially provide synergy with new systemic therapies (including novel immunotherapies, etc). Given the complex nature of these radiosurgical treatments, multiple pre-existing measures are in place, including more advanced, precise imaging, immobilization techniques, and quality assurance measurements to optimize a patient's treatment delivery. In order to further complement these measures, UCLA Radiation Oncology has instituted prospective peer review by a second faculty member for all radiosurgical cases. This has resulted in improved standardization in radiosurgical technique in a number of settings, improving patient care and the ability to assess the impact of radiosurgical strategies in research settings.

## Faculty and Staff News

### New Westwood Medical Director



**Tania Kaprealian, MD, MBA**  
Associate Professor

Dr. Tania Kaprealian was appointed Medical Director, Westwood for UCLA Radiation Oncology in 2019. Dr. Kaprealian joined the UCLA faculty in 2011. In 2013, she became Chief of CNS Service and Co-Director of the Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) Program. In 2016, Dr. Kaprealian also received a joint appointment as faculty in the Department of Neurosurgery at UCLA. She completed the UCLA Anderson MBA Program in 2019.

### New Quality and Safety Officer



**John Hegde, MD**  
Assistant Professor

Dr. John Hegde was appointed as Physician Quality and Safety Officer for UCLA Radiation Oncology in 2019. Dr. Hegde went to Harvard Medical School where he completed a Summer Research Fellowship and a Year-Long Research Fellowship. Dr. Hegde completed his residency in Radiation Oncology at UCLA in 2018 and also served as Chief Resident from 2017-2018. During his residency, he completed the UCLA Health Resident Informaticist Program and served on the CareConnect (Electronic Medical Record) Resident Optimization Committee. Dr. Hegde joined the UCLA faculty upon graduation in 2018. He joins Dr. Nzhde Agazaryan, PhD, Physicist Quality and Safety Officer, in leading the department's quality efforts.

### Welcome New Faculty Member



**Alan Lee, MD**  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Alan Lee completed his undergraduate studies at The University of Kansas and medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY. He completed his internship in medicine/surgery at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in Boston and radiation oncology training at Montefiore Medical Center / Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY. During his residency, he developed a strong interest in brachytherapy which led him to pursue fellowship training at UCLA. Dr. Lee completed his brachytherapy fellowship in June 2019 and subsequently joined the UCLA faculty as Assistant Professor.

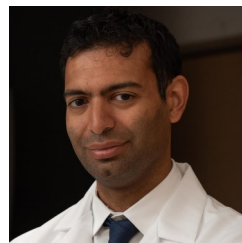
### New Vice Chair of Education



**Ann Raldow, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Ann Raldow was appointed as Vice Chair of Education and Residency Program Director. Dr. Raldow joined the UCLA Radiation Oncology faculty in 2016. She completed her residency training at the Harvard Radiation Oncology Program and received her MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She also previously served as Associate Residency Program Director from 2017-2019 and Department Quality Officer in 2019. She is currently Chief of GI Service in the department.

### New Vice Chair of Clinical and Translational Research



**Amar Kishan, MD**  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Amar Kishan was appointed as Vice Chair of Clinical and Translational Research. Dr. Kishan joined the UCLA Radiation Oncology faculty in 2017. He has produced over 40 peer-reviewed articles, many of which were in high impact journals over the last few years. In 2018, he received the Radiation Oncology Institute (ROI) Publication Award for most impactful publication in the field of radiation oncology. Dr. Kishan is also principal investigator on two active clinical trials and has an excellent record of obtaining funding for his studies.



## Faculty and Staff News Continued

### Welcome New Staff Leadership

#### **Ermina Cavcic, BSN, NP**

Ermina joined the department in February 2019 as our Nurse Manager from the Department of Medicine where she was a Medical Oncology Nurse Practitioner on the oncology unit at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Prior to that, she was an Administrative Nurse II and staff nurse for the Santa Monica Hospital oncology unit.

#### **Hilda Hernandez, RN, MSN**

Hilda was promoted to Administrative Nurse II for External Beam Radiation Therapy. Hilda has worked at UCLA for 5 years. She was a clinical nurse in Bowyer Oncology Center from 2014-2016 and joined UCLA Radiation Oncology in 2016.

#### **Kayla Kafka, RN, BS**

Kayla was promoted to Administrative Nurse II for Brachytherapy. Kayla has worked at UCLA Radiation Oncology since 2012. She was a Clinical Nurse III in the department from 2012-2019 and became Brachytherapy Service Line Coordinator in 2017.

#### **Mark Solis, BS, RT(T)**

Mark was promoted to Chief Therapist, Santa Monica Radiation Oncology. Between 2012-2016, Mark was a staff therapist at UCLA for both Westwood and Santa Monica locations. He then worked at Providence Little Company of Mary from 2016-2017. Mark returned to UCLA in 2017 and has been a Senior Therapist for UCLA for the last 2 years.

#### **Hussen Abdelhayi, RT(T)**

Hussen was promoted to Associate Chief Therapist, Westwood Radiation Oncology. He has worked in the department for 12 years and became Senior Radiation therapist in 2014. Hussen also serves as MR Safety Officer.

#### **Kevin Cazares**

Kevin was promoted to Westwood Administrative Supervisor for Radiation Oncology, a newly created role. Kevin has worked at UCLA for eight years of which seven were in Radiation Oncology. In his new position, Kevin will be supervising the front desk staff for both the Department of Radiation Oncology and the Department of Thoracic and Surgical Oncology.

#### **Mary Willis**

Mary was promoted to Santa Monica Administrative Supervisor for Radiation Oncology, also a newly created role. She was a patient navigator at UCLA Radiation Oncology from 2012-2015 and moved to Texas from 2015-2018. She returned to the department and worked in our Santa Monica front desk in 2018. Mary will be supervising the Santa Monica Front Desk and will be a liaison to the Nurse Manager for the back office.



## 2019 Faculty Retreat

The Department hosted an All Faculty Retreat on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica, CA. Residents were also invited to participate. The first group session reviewed the department's strategic objectives that were formed in the 2017 Faculty Retreat and the work that has been accomplished for each objective. This retreat had a focus on our strategic objective to bridge the gap from bench to bedside, including health services research. Special guest speakers Dr. Jonathan Hiatt, Vice Dean for Faculty, spoke on "Surviving the Academic Personnel Manual (APM), The Call and the Comp Plan in the Current Research Environment" and Amir Naiberg, Associate Vice Chancellor and CEO & President for the Technology Development Group (TDG), spoke on "TDG and Intellectual Property". Dr. Patrick Kupelian also gave an update on the Varian Flash project. The retreat concluded with faculty, residents and department leadership in breakout groups to brainstorm potential translational projects followed by a group discussion. These projects will be continually discussed and considered throughout the next few years.



# Faculty and Staff Awards



## UCLA Health Innovation Challenge

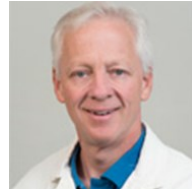
The UCLA Health Innovation Challenge was launched in 2019 to provide faculty, staff, trainees, patients, caregivers, volunteers, and UCLA students, the opportunity to help advance long-lasting health and wellness solutions. The five submission categories include Medical Technology/Digital Health, IT Support for Care Efficiency, Patient Experience (CICARE), Performance Improvement, and Greatest Idea.



**Liz Morasso, LCSW, and Ann Raldow, MD, MPH** were awarded \$10,000 for their project entitled “SHINE” through the Patient Experience track. SHINE stands for

“Supporting the Healing of Individuals Through Education and Empowerment”. The SHINE program provides patients with survivorship tools and resources that they need in order to thrive medically and psychosocially after the completion of cancer treatment . SHINE is rooted in UCLA’s vision of healing humankind one patient at a time while improving patient satisfaction and quality of care. SHINE will be piloted within the department and later expanded to other oncology departments.

## Most Cited Publication in *Medical Physics*



**Daniel Low, PhD**  
**Professor and Vice Chair, Medical Physics**

Dr. Low is first author on the article titled “A technique for the quantitative evaluation of dose distributions,” published in *Medical Physics* (1998). The paper has recently risen to the most cited paper in the journal as tabulated by ISI (webofknowledge). This is compared with over 47,000 papers published in the journal since 1980. The journal was started in 1976 but the oldest listing in ISI is from 1980. The article describes a method for comparing two dose distributions and is typically cited when the technique is used.

## UCLA Nursing Award Recipient



**Kayla Kafka, RN, BSN**, won the **UCLA Nursing Clinical Transferor of Knowledge Award**. Kayla is an

Administrative Nurse II who works with the Brachytherapy Division within the department. In 2016, Kayla identified that inpatient nurses did not feel comfortable taking care of our brachytherapy patients as they lacked the vital knowledge and skills to provide adequate and safe care. She created interdepartmental education programs, which included didactic lectures, formal competencies, patient care guides, hands-on skills and new hire lectures to address the gap. As a result, the nursing error rates for brachytherapy patients were significantly reduced and post-education surveys indicated an increase in nurse comfort levels with brachytherapy patient care. In 2018, Kayla published the article "Interdepartmental Collaboration in Developing Educational Program for Caring for The High-Dose-Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy Patients In The Inpatient Setting" in the International Multidisciplinary Journal, Brachytherapy.

## Santa Monica Radiation Oncology Achieves Ambulatory Rounding Tier 4 Completion

Santa Monica Radiation Oncology achieved Tier 4 completion of the UCLA Ambulatory Resource Team (ART) Rounding Program. This program observes and scores patient interactions with front desk, nursing and radiation therapy teams. Tier completion can be achieved through demonstrating excellent CICARE, an evidence-based acronym of a set of six communication behaviors to guide each encounter. This accomplishment has earned the Santa Monica team a \$10,000 award to be used towards practice improvements in our clinic.



**Connect with Compassion**  
**Introduce yourself with Integrity**  
**Communicate with Teamwork**  
**Ask with Discovery**  
**Respond with Respect**  
**Exit with Excellence**

## News and Accomplishments

### American Association of Physicists in Medicine 2019 Annual Meeting

**AAPM 2019** JUL 14-18



**61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION | SAN ANTONIO, TX**  
BUILDING BRIDGES. CULTIVATING SAFETY. GROWING VALUE.

UCLA physics faculty, residents and graduate students were well represented at the AAPM Annual Meeting with a high abstract acceptance rate. There were many great presentations across a large breadth of subjects.

Please see the link below for the AAPM Special Edition for all the department's activities during the meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

[https://www.uclahealth.org/radonc/workfiles/AAPM19\\_SpecialEdition.pdf](https://www.uclahealth.org/radonc/workfiles/AAPM19_SpecialEdition.pdf)

#### *CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW AAPM FELLOW AWARDEES*

**Sharon Qi, PhD and Minsong Cao, PhD**

The AAPM awards the honor of Fellow to members with long service to the AAPM, physicists that have advanced medical physics knowledge, physicists that have made significant contributions to teaching, and physicists in leadership in the practice of medical physicist. Dr. Sharon Qi and Dr. Minsong Cao both received this award at the 2019 AAPM Annual Meeting.



### American Society of Radiation Oncology 2019 Annual Meeting



The ASTRO Annual Meeting took place in September 2019 at the McCormick Place West Convention Center in Chicago, IL. UCLA faculty, trainees and students presented an impressive number of oral presentations, posters and panels. These included an ARRO panel on the Radiation Oncology workforce, Presidential Symposiums, a Meet the Expert session, scientific session moderators, education session speakers and many more.

To view the complete list of presentations, visit the following link:

[https://www.uclahealth.org/radonc/workfiles/ASTRO19\\_SpecEdit.pdf](https://www.uclahealth.org/radonc/workfiles/ASTRO19_SpecEdit.pdf)

#### **ASTRO Fellow Awardee**



Daniel Low, PhD, FAAPM, FASTRO, received the honor of ASTRO Fellow at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. This honor is bestowed on members who have made commendable contributions to the field of Radiation Oncology through leadership/service, research, patient care or education. Dr. Low is Professor and Vice Chair of Medical Physics at UCLA Radiation Oncology. He is also a faculty member in the graduate Physics and Biology in Medicine program at UCLA. In addition to his teaching and service in the department and at UCLA, he has an impressive service record nationally with ASTRO and AAPM. Dr. Low Chair of the NIH – Government Relations Subcommittee of the Government Relations Council of ASTRO from 2010-2011 and has also served as Co-Chair of ASTRO Science Council between 2015-2017 and as Chair from 2017-2019. He also received the honor of AAPM Fellow in 2004. Congratulations Dr. Low on this stellar achievement!



# UCLA Radiation Oncology Hosted Conferences

## MR-Guided Radiation Therapy: The Next Frontier in Radiation Oncology

The Department hosted the MR-Guided Radiation Therapy: The Next Frontier in Radiation Oncology Conference on May 17, 2019 at the UCLA Meyer & Renee Luskin Conference Center in Los Angeles, CA. The conference welcomed attendees from across the nation. Benefits of MR-Guided Radiation Therapy (MRgRT) include superior soft tissue imaging, the ability to track tumors and gate treatment delivery, and the opportunity to adapt for inter- and intra-fraction anatomical variations. This course updated on the status of MRgRT, examined clinical treatment scenarios, provided strategies to overcome implementation challenges and reviewed current research programs designed to explore the benefits of MRgRT.

Course directors included Dr. Percy Lee, Dr. Ann Raldow, Dr. Minsong Cao and Dr. Daniel Low. Presentations were delivered by UCLA faculty in the departments of Radiation Oncology and Radiology as well as by three guest faculty from outside institutions.

The course was accredited by the ACCME for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits, by CAMPEP for MPCEC hours and by the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) CE Credits.



## THE UCLA WAY! THE FIRST ANNUAL UCLA RADIATION THERAPIST CONFERENCE

This conference was organized by Mariamawit Tesfaye, BSRT(T), Chief Therapist at the time, who has since left UCLA. The course was designed to connect UCLA with other Radiation Oncology departments in the community and to share our expertise on special procedure treatments as well as our challenges in complex treatment setups. Topics included MR Guided Radiotherapy, Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy, High Dose Rate Brachytherapy, Online Adaptive Treatment on the ViewRay, Quality and Safety, Patient Positioning, Elimination of Tattoos and Team Communication. This course provided CE credits by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB).



## Educational Programs

### Graduating Trainees Move On to Prestigious Positions

**Kiri Sandler, MD**  
Physician Resident 2015-2019

Dr. Kiri Sandler joined the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) as an Assistant Professor

**Audrey Dang, MD**  
Physician Resident 2015-2019

Dr. Audrey Dang joined the Tulane as an Assistant Professor.

**Michael Chenyang Wang, MD, PhD**  
Physician Resident 2015-2019

Dr. Michael Wang joined the MD Anderson as an Assistant Professor.

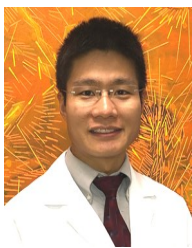
**Victoria Yu, PhD**  
Physics Resident 2017-2019

Dr. Victoria Yu joined the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as a Medical Physics Faculty.

**Alan Lee, MD**  
Brachytherapy Fellow 2018-2019

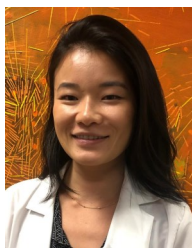
Dr. Alan Lee will be staying on as an Assistant Professor at UCLA Radiation Oncology.

### Welcome to our new Residents!



**Martin Ma, MD, PhD**  
Physician Resident

**Hometown:** Beijing, China  
**BS:** Tsinghua University  
**MD, PhD:** Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
**Internship:** University of Washington  
**Favorite Things about UCLA:** Supportive faculty and staff creating a great learning environment, tight-knit resident community, amazing brachytherapy training, excellent research opportunities, fast up-ward trajectory  
**Favorite Things about LA:** Good hiking opportunities, diverse culture, perfect weather for flying model airplanes



**Jie Deng, MD, PhD**  
Physician Resident

**Hometown:** Safety Harbor, FL  
**BS:** University of Florida  
**MD, PhD:** Dartmouth Medical School  
**Internship:** Resurrection Medical Center  
**Favorite Things about UCLA:** An immediate sense of family within the department, cutting-edge research opportunities, and an abundance of role models and mentors  
**Favorite Things about LA:** Diverse communities, vibrant city life balanced with a wide spectrum of outdoor activities, and living by the ocean



**Ricky Savjani, MD, PhD**  
Physician Resident

**Hometown:** Houston, TX  
**BS:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**MD, PhD:** Texas A&M College of Medicine  
**Internship:** University of Chicago (NorthShore)  
**Favorite Things about UCLA:** Amazing attendings and residents, wonderful facility, focus on advancing imaging approaches  
**Favorite Things about LA:** Awesome weather year-round, basketball, Lakers, great



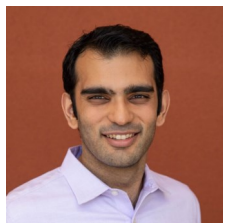
**Kaley Woods, PhD**  
Physics Resident

**Hometown:** Huntington Beach, CA  
**BS:** Bioengineering, UCLA  
**PhD:** Biomedical Physics, UCLA  
**Favorite Things about UCLA:** They can't seem to get rid of me! Also the people, education, and research are unmatched.  
**Favorite Things about LA:** I can hike up a mountain, swim in the ocean, and eat tacos all in the same day (and any time of year!)



## Educational Programs Continued

### UCLA Biodesign Fellowship Program



**Neil Parikh, MD, MBA**, was accepted into the inaugural class of the UCLA Biodesign Fellowship Program. This interdisciplinary program provides engineering, medicine, design and computer science professionals with a platform for healthcare innovation. Dr. Parikh is currently a PGY4 Radiation Oncology resident who also has interests in time-driven activity-based costing, cost effectiveness analyses, and clinical impact of novel technologies.

### ARRO Educator of the Year Award

The UCLA Radiation Oncology Residents are happy to announce **Dr. Amar Kishan** as this year's recipient of the Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology (ARRO) Educator of the Year Award. Dr. Kishan was a resident in the department from 2013-2017 and joined the faculty in July 2017. He is currently Vice Chair of Clinical and Translational Research, Chief of GU and Associate Program Director.



## Research Updates

### Clinical Trials

Over the past year, UCLA Radiation Oncology has continued to expand its partnerships with drug manufacturers to make innovative investigator-initiated trials available to our patients. These studies, designed for high clinical impact and scientific discovery, opened for enrollment in Fall, 2019:

“Lilly KRAS”: *Randomized Phase II Trial of Radiotherapy with Concurrent Cisplatin +/- Concurrent Cetuximab for HPV-positive Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OPSCC) in KRAS-variant Patients*

**PI: Robert Chin, MD, PhD and Joanne Weidhaas, MD, PhD, MSM**; \$1.5 million

“AZ Gyn” – *Brachytherapy with Durvalumab (MEDI4736) and Tremelimumab in Patients with Platinum-Resistant or Refractory and Recurrent or Metastatic Gynecological Malignancies*

**PI: Albert Chang, MD, PhD**; \$1.5 million

“BO-112-SARCOMA” – *A Phase I Study of Nivolumab and Intratumoral BO 112 for Resectable Soft Tissue Sarcoma*;

**PI: Anusha Kalbasi, MD**; \$1.1 million

### Grant Highlights

**Erina Vlashi, PhD** - Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research Seed Grant

“Potentiating radiation therapy in pancreatic cancer” \$40,000 single year

**Ke Sheng, PhD, FAAPM** - R01 CA230278

“Robust IMPT with automated beam orientation and scanning spot optimization” \$1,900,000/five years

**Amar Kishan, MD** - 2019 ASTRO-PCF Career Development Award to End Prostate Cancer “*Transcriptomic and Germline Landscape of High Grade Localized Prostate Cancer: Implications for Prognostication and Treatment Decisions*” \$225,000/three years

**Ann Raldow, MD, MPH** - 2019 Joseph Drown Foundation Dean's Award in Research Excellence

“*Organ Preservation for Patients with Locally Advanced Rectal Adenocarcinoma: Evaluating the Efficacy of Short Course Radiation Therapy Followed by FOLFOX*” \$140,845/two years

# Research Updates Continued

## Publication Highlights



Jung S, Malhotra P, Nguyen KC, Salzman D, Qi Y, Pak, EH, King J, **Vlashi E**, Ann D, **Weidhaas JB**. The KRAS-variant and its impact on normal breast epithelial cell biology. *Cell Death Differ* 26, 2568–2576 (2019).

Press release: <https://ucla.in/2XfpHic>



**Raldow AC**, Chen AB, Russell M, et al. Cost-effectiveness of Short-Course Radiation Therapy vs Long-Course Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2019;2(4):e192249. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.2249

Press Release: <https://ucla.in/2SgHR29>



**Kishan AU**, Dang A, Katz AJ, et al. Long-term Outcomes of Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy for Low-Risk and Intermediate-Risk Prostate Cancer. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2019;2(2):e188006. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.8006

Press Release: <https://ucla.in/2S0Ue3f>

# 2019 Happenings

## UCLA Rad Onc Participates in #WomenWhoCurie

UCLA Radiation Oncology participated in the #WomenWhoCurie social media campaign for the second year. This was organized by Dr. Stephanie Yoon, PGY3 resident, who is a member of the Society of Women in Radiation Oncology (SWRO).



## LLS 2019 Light the Night Walk



UCLA Radiation Oncology joined the UCLA Health Team for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Light the Night walk on Saturday, November 9, 2019. As a team, UCLA Health raised over \$170,000 to help create a future without blood cancers.

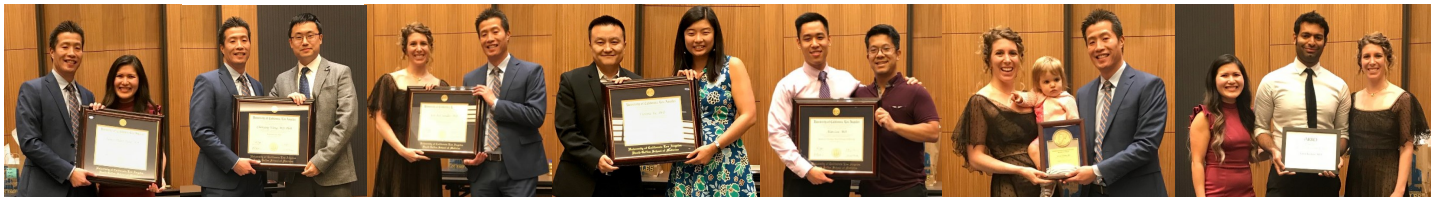


# 2019 Happenings Continued



## 2019 Graduation and Staff Service Awards June 25, 2019 Luskin Conference Center

The department held our graduation and staff service awards at UCLA’s Luskin Conference Center in June 2019. The evening of recognition included our 2019 Staff Service Awards Recognition, the retirement of one of our long-time patient navigators, and the graduation of our residents and fellows. We also celebrated several teaching and research awards. Congratulations to all of our graduates and awardees for their outstanding service to UCLA and the Department of Radiation oncology.



### 2019 Staff Service Awardees

#### 10 Years of Service

Patricia Mendoza  
Farhad Sachinvala  
Joseph Lynch

#### 15 Years of Service

Tristan Baptist

#### 30 Years of Service

Alex Betancourt



Thank you to this year’s recipients for all that you do in service to our patients and the department!

### Anna Hyde Retires after 35 years at UCLA.



Patient navigator, Anna Hyde, retired in June 2019 after 35 years at UCLA, 12 of which were in the Department of Radiation Oncology. Anna is looking forward to spending time with family and friends in retirement.

Thank you Anna for your service and excellent patient care throughout the years.

### Patient and Radiation Oncologist Meet Again 25 Year Later Across the World

Dr. Michael Steinberg had a chance encounter with a former patient while they were on vacation with their spouses in Korcula, Croatia. Their conversations led them to recognize each other from over two decades prior. The patient was a 32 year-old, young woman diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma and received radiation treatment with Dr. Steinberg 25 years ago.



Read more here: <https://ucla.in/31zrW3f>