SGO Speed Mentoring

Monday, March 18, 2019 | 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Room 313 AB
Hawaii Convention Center

Crafting a professionally satisfying career: Is community practice or academia (clinical or basic research) right for you?

Terri L. Cornelison, MD, PhD, FACOG

Dr. Terri Cornelison is a gynecologic oncologist and the first Director of the Health of Women Program, Assistant Director for the Health of Women, Office of the Center Director, Center for Devices and Radiologic Health (CDRH), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where she is building a center-wide program to improve the health of women. The key focus is to improve availability, analysis, and communication of sex- and gender-specific information for the safe and effective use of medical devices to improve the performance of medical devices in women and in men; develop research priorities for the device health of women ecosystem; and lead and coordinate development and implementation of major health science and medical programs and initiatives across CDRH. Dr. Cornelison has an extensive broad-based background in molecular and cellular oncology, laboratory science, clinical care, academia, public health, program and policy development, and executive leadership. Before joining the FDA, Dr. Cornelison was the first Associate Director for Clinical Research, Office of Research on Women’s Health, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, where she was responsible for the clinical oversight of a complex biomedical national research program involving basic and pre-clinical studies, clinical trials, and epidemiologic studies. Prior to this, Dr. Cornelison was the Acting Chief and Program Director of the Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Research Group of the Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute. Dr. Cornelison is a Captain in the United States Public Health Service, and an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University and School of Medicine.
Melissa Hardesty, MD, MPH

Medical training has taken me from coast to coast and from the extremes of academia to very rural community practice along the way. After growing up in southern California I went to medical school in Albany, NY, then to a vigorous academic program in Pittsburgh to Magee Womens Hospital for Residency. I had a National Health Service commitment from medical school and I worked as a rural OB/GYN in rural Arizona for four years following residency about as community as you can get in a town of 6,000 people two hours away from other generalists and four hours away from specialists. Then I returned to academics at the University of Washington for a fellowship in GYN ONC while there I completed an MPH and successfully published a number of papers in the area of outcomes research. I was very interested in staying in academics but the circumstances of life and family the right job were not there when I was looking and I returned to outskirts medicine, taking a job in Anchorage, Alaska, in private practice. I am now an owner/partner in my practice. Since arriving in Alaska I have been able to get academic appointments at UW and UAA and regularly work with medical and PA students, FP residents and the occasional enterprising OB/GYN resident. I regularly review papers for peer reviewed journals and have stayed active in SGO committee work. I could not be happier with my current position and its combination of clinical work and teaching.

LTC Caela Miller, MD

LTC Dr. Caela Miller grew up on Long Island running cross country, dancing in recitals, and going into NYC to see plays and visit museums. Despite her naturally extroverted nature she spent a lot of her time as a teenager in science labs, and various different libraries. Because of that time investment she found herself at Yale University and graduated with an official degree in Molecular Biology and Biophysics but an unofficial degree in “oh that is how the world works.” She was awarded an Army HPSP scholarship to study medicine at State University of New York at Stony Brook University where she fell head over heels in love with Gynecologic Oncology. She completed her Residency and Fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Despite interludes practicing obstetrics stateside when the needs of the Army dictated, a larger than passing interest in traditional American cocktails, and a brief stint as a deployed General Surgeon in Afghanistan on an Airborne Forward Surgical Team, she has found herself in her early 40s with a 16-year army career, a wife, and mother of two little boys. She has also managed to publish over 20 different publications, serve on national ACOG committees, become Division Director at Brooke Army Medical Center from 2016-2018, attained Associate Professor rank at Uniformed Health Services University School of Medicine and is now the Director for Quality (and NYSQUIP Champion) of Surgical Services at Tripler Army Medical Center. She attributes most of this success to having good mentors, better students, amazing peers and for being content with base hits over home runs and the early opportunities military medicine made available.
Pamela Soliman, MD, MPH

I am currently a professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center. I serve as the Medical Director of our outpatient center and the Deputy Chair of our department. I joined the faculty after completing my fellowship in 2007. My decision to stay in academic medicine was based on my interest in both education and clinical research in addition to patient care. Over the last 12 years, I have had the opportunity to expand in both of these areas. I have played an active role as a surgical educator and developed an education committee and a surgical curriculum to enhance our fellow education program. I serve as the Co-director of Education for minimally invasive surgery within the Division of Surgery. This has allowed me to help develop and run minimally invasive surgery courses annually for all surgical fellows at our institution. I previously served as the Associate Fellowship Director until I took on other administrative roles within the institution. In regard to clinical research, I have mentored numerous fellows and rotating residents on research projects ranging from chart reviews and development of databases, to prospective surgical trials and investigator-initiated phase 2 treatment trials. In addition to research and education, I have been given administrative opportunities which I have found rewarding. I would be happy to discuss some of the career path decisions I have made to ensure that my career continues to be satisfying. I have learned that the career path you start on may evolve into something different based on experiences and opportunities.

Anil K. Sood, MD

Dr. Anil K. Sood is Professor in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine at the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center. He holds a joint appointment in Cancer Biology and is co-director of the Center for RNA Interference and Non-Coding RNA at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. He is also Director of the multi-disciplinary Blanton-Davis Ovarian Cancer Research Program and co-leads the Ovarian Cancer Moonshot Program. Dr. Sood received his medical degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. A major and consistent theme of his scientific research has been on understanding human cancer biology and converting lab discoveries into novel therapeutics. His research group has made several seminal research contributions in the fields of tumor microenvironment, nanomedicine, and neuroendocrine effects on cancer biology. Dr. Sood has received recognition for his research accomplishments including the Hunter Award, the Margaret Greenfield/Carmel Cohen Excellence in Ovarian Cancer Research Prize, and the GCF/Claudia Cohen Research Foundation Prize for Outstanding Gynecologic Cancer Researcher. He is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and the Association of American Physicians (AAP). Dr. Sood was selected as an American Cancer Society Research Professor in 2017.
So, you want to be Division Director or President of SGO: Becoming a leader

Stephanie V. Blank, MD

Dr. Stephanie V. Blank is the Director of Gynecologic Oncology for the Mount Sinai Health System, Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Director of Women’s Health for the Blavatnik Family Chelsea Medical Center at Mount Sinai, Clinical Lead of the Blavatnik Family Women’s Health Research Institute and Secretary Treasurer of the SGO. After many years as a busy clinician who liked every aspect of her work, Stephanie formally assessed where she was, how she was spending her time, her purpose, and decided to focus on the bigger picture in general. She has valued leadership experiences at an institutional and national level. Her advice for future leaders: 1. Take risks 2. Prioritize 3. Love what you do.

Chad Hamilton, MD

Dr. Chad Hamilton is a gynecologic oncologist with Mid Atlantic Gynecologic Oncology and Pelvic Surgery Associates and is Co-Director of Gynecologic Cancer Research at the Inova Schar Cancer Institute. Prior to his retirement from the Air Force in April 2018, Dr. Hamilton was the Chief of Gynecologic Oncology at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. He also served as Program Director of the National Capital Consortium Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology as well as the Principal Investigator of the Department of Defense Gynecologic Cancer Translational Research Center of Excellence. During his military service, Dr. Hamilton completed a deployment as surgeon and obstetrician / gynecologist at Craig Joint Theater Hospital, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in 2008, and was subsequently awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service. He was twice awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and two Special Experience Identifiers from the Air Force Medical Service in recognition of excellence in clinical and academic teaching and for exceptional professional abilities. In 2015 he was a Master Clinician Award recipient at Walter Reed. In his duties, he also served as a consultant to the National Cancer Institute and the White House Medical Unit. Dr. Hamilton has published over 60 scientific articles, reviews, and book chapters and is currently a member of the Clinical Practice Committee for the Society of Gynecologic Oncology, a subspecialty board examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a Programmatic Panel Member for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. He is an active supporter of the Foundation for Women’s Cancer where he has spoken at numerous Survivor’s Courses and is Captain of the National Surgeons Team for the Annual Race to End Women's Cancer. Dr. Hamilton received his undergraduate degree with academic distinction in Biology at the United States Air Force Academy and his medical degree with honors from the Tulane University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Wilford Hall USAF and Brooke Army Medical Centers in San Antonio, Texas and his fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Stanford University and the University of California at San Francisco.
Kevin Holcomb, MD

I am presently the Vice-Chairman of Gynecology and Director of Gynecologic Oncology at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center as well as an Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology. I completed my residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Hospital-Cornell in 1996 and my fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at SUNY Downstate/Kings County in 1999. In 2006, I returned to Weill-Cornell as a member of the gynecologic oncology division. Since that time, gynecologic oncology has expanded at the institution. Together with our colleagues at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, we established a joint fellowship training program. Translational research through collaboration with our basic science colleagues has increased and we have significantly expanded our clinical trial research infrastructure and accrual. In 2015, I was promoted to Director of Gynecologic Oncology and in 2018, to Vice Chair of Gynecology. The recruitment and mentorship of junior faculty is one of the most gratifying aspects of my career. I look forward to sharing lessons from my journey with junior members of SGO.

Kenneth H. Kim, MD, MHPE, FACOG, FACS

Dr. Kenneth H. Kim is an Associate Professor and Associate Fellowship Director at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He also serves as the Director for Multispecialty Robotic Surgical Education and Training. He completed his residency in OB/GYN at The Ohio State University, and his fellowship at UAB. Before returning to UAB, he was an Assistant Professor at University of North Carolina, where he also served as Associate Residency Director. He has served on the Scientific Program Committee for ACOG, and also served as a co-author for ACOG's PROLOG for Gyn Oncology and Critical Care. He currently sits on the CREOG Education Committee where he serves on the Committee for Faculty Development and Mentoring, as well as Chair of Surgical Simulation and Training Curricula. He has been an active member on the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) Education Committee for over a decade, and has served in nearly all educational capacities, including designing SGO ConnectEd. He currently serves as Chair of the SGO Education Committee as well as Vice Chair of the SGO Wellness Task Force. He previously served on the SGO/FWC Board of Directors. He has been appointed as Program Chair for the inaugural SGO Southeastern Regional Meeting in 2019, as well as co-chair of SGO’s Annual Meeting on Women’s Cancer in 2020.

He is the founder and course director for the SGO MIS Academy. He is currently on the ABOG Excellence Foundation Board of Directors, where he serves as Vice President on the Executive Council. He is the Chair for all Excellence in Surgical Mentoring Courses and the famed Excellence in Clinical Research Courses. He is a member of the Gynecologic Oncology Reports Editorial Board. He previously served on the Editorial Board for AAGL SurgeryU. He is the current SGO Liaison to the American College of Surgeons Advisory Council for OB/GYN. He has been inducted into the Academy of Educators, as well as the GHHS. He has designed multiple websites and digital learning management systems in multiple societies. He has designed various curricula, and has moderated and/or taught various educational, wellness, and surgical courses nationally and internationally, and across multiple surgical disciplines. He has received numerous departmental, institutional, and national teaching awards for student, resident, fellow, and early career education and mentoring.
Susan C. Modesitt, MD

Dr. Susan C. Modesitt is the Director of the Gynecologic Oncology Division and the Director of the High Risk Breast/Ovarian Cancer clinic at the University of Virginia. She is also the Richard and Louise Crockett endowed Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She completed her undergraduate degree at Emory University, medical school at the University of Virginia, her OB/GYN residency at the University of North Carolina and her Gynecologic Oncology fellowship at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She was on faculty at the University of Kentucky until 2006 when she was recruited back to join the faculty at UVA and she was named Division Director in 2007. Dr. Modesitt is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as the American College of Surgeons and continues to serve in multiple leadership roles and committees for the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (e.g. Annual Meeting Program Chair in 2017 and current Board of Directors member), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Gynecologic Oncology Group, and the UVA Cancer center. She has published over 90 articles, 10 book chapters, and has been recognized annually as a Top Doctor for Cancer. Her research focuses on obesity related cancers, clinical trials, and hereditary cancers. Barring injuries, she does triathlons or goes on long cycling trips with her family. In terms of her ability to speak to becoming a Division director or President of SGO, achieving one out of two isn’t bad; she is happy to discuss strategies to assess if these are goals that will bring you professional fulfillment or simply make you want to slit your wrists and how to tell the difference.

Jason D. Wright, MD

Dr. Wright is the Sol Goldman Associate Professor, Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, and Vice Chair of Academic Affairs in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Wright received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Missouri and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Washington University in St. Louis. He is board certified in gynecologic oncology as well as obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Wright’s primary area of research focus is comparative effectiveness and outcomes research. His team has undertaken large, population-based studies to examine the use of novel drugs and technologies for cancer patients, surgical quality, fertility preservation, and the management of complications in cancer patients. Dr. Wright’s work has had an important impact on public health policy and has been widely recognized. His work has been funded by the NIH, DOD, the Department of Health and Human Services and a number of other societies and philanthropic sources. Dr. Wright serves on a number of grant review committees and editorial boards and lectures nationally and internationally. Dr. Wright has published more than 300 scientific manuscripts as well as a numerous chapters and textbooks.
Job Negotiation: Figuring out what is important to YOU

Sandra E. Brooks, MD, MBA

Sandra E Brooks, MD, MBA is currently Chief Medical Officer of St. Joseph’s Women’s and Children’s Hospital, a part of the 14 hospital BayCare, Health System in Tampa. Trained in OB Gyn at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Gyn Oncology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Dr. Brooks also served as Professor and Director of the Division of Gynecology Oncology of the University of Maryland for 10 years where her research focused on health services and health disparities. She has also led a GOG study as principal investigator evaluating factors associated with enrolment into clinical trials. Dr. Brooks credits achieving her MBA from Johns Hopkins as aiding her in transitioning to a role as a physician executive in Louisville where she led a population health based service line. She subsequently served as Chief medical officer of a multi-site health network before moving to her current role. Dr. Brooks’ national work has included serving on Boards of the American Public Health Association, and as an invited expert on an Institute of Medicine workshop focused on addressing barriers to enrollment in to clinical trials. Dr. Brooks has been married nearly 32 years to Dr. Garth Beache and credits their true partnership to aiding the balance and integration of family, interests outside of medicine, and career. They have two daughters. Sydney a PGY-1 in general surgery at Washington University in St. Louis and Kendall, a sophomore in Computer Science and Engineering at Stanford University.

Erin E. Stevens, MD

Erin E. Stevens, MD, is a solo practice gynecologic oncologist in Green Bay, WI, at Prevea Health - HSHS St Vincent. After completing her fellowship in 2013 at Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, she joined Billings Clinic, a multi-specialty group in Billings, MT. She practiced in Montana for five years prior to her recent transition in September 2018. Having just recently gone through the job search process again, she can reflect on what she was looking for in her first job out of fellowship and how and why she decided to transition to her new position. As a non-academic gynecologic oncologist, she can talk about what you can negotiate in an offer, what resources are available and how to find them, and how to best figure out what is non-negotiable for you!

Premal H. Thaker, MD

Professor of Gynecologic Oncology at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO. Having been on faculty at Washington University since 2006, I have been able to mentor many fellows who have taken diverse career paths into community private practice, academia, or hybrid jobs. In order to create the right job for an individual, it is first important to realize what is important to you in terms of your job. Without prioritizing those items whether it be protected research time, clinical productivity (clinic vs OR time), teaching, you cannot successfully negotiate a job. It is an exciting and daunting time as you finally get to make the decisions as opposed to “matching” into a spot. In medicine, we are not taught the art of negotiation but it is important not only from a financial standpoint but also in terms of job satisfaction/longevity and maintaining your personal relationships. This skill set of negotiation is also important even as you advance your career.
Time to move on: Things to consider when contemplating a career transition

Sandra E. Brooks, MD, MBA

See bio above under Job Negotiation.

Jubilee Brown, MD

Professor and Associate Director of Gynecologic Oncology, Levine Cancer Institute, Atrium Health, Charlotte, NC. After 17 years at the MD Anderson Cancer Center crafting career niches in rare tumors and minimally invasive gynecologic oncology, I moved to the Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, NC. I have loved both components of my faculty life, and now get to reap the benefits of helping to round out a program that already has a huge clinical volume, mentoring phenomenal residents, expanding my research focus, and continuing to grow on a national level in the rare tumor and MIS areas. Making a move is a life commitment, and I learned to consider so many things - the risk/benefit ratio for my family, the pros and cons of the different practice settings, how to figure out what is important for me personally and professionally, and how to balance all of these factors. I found that truly investigating the details of the program and being realistic about all of the factors of both practicing and living situations allowed me to plan ahead and make a good decision. While I loved my former job, I am so happy in my current position, and have become exponentially more productive in the academic setting. I think that making a healthy change requires a balance of courage and realism, ensuring that we do not jump too fast but have the courage to fly.

Terri L. Cornelison, MD, PhD, FACOG

See bio above under Crafting a Professionally Satisfying Career.
Yvonne G. Lin, MD, MS

Yvonne G. Lin, MD, MS, is a board-certified gynecologic oncologist and also a Medical Director in late stage development at Genentech Roche in South San Francisco. In her current role at Genentech, Yvonne is the medical lead for the IMagyn050 / GOG3015 / ENGOT-ov39 study, a global phase 3 trial evaluating atezolizumab in combination with chemotherapy/bevacizumab in patients with newly diagnosed ovarian cancer. She is also the co-lead of the integrated cross-Roche ovarian cancer strategy, and developing novel operational and collaborative models for drug development. Prior to joining industry, Yvonne was an NCI-funded physician scientist at USC where her research focused on the intersection between metabolic excess, endoplasmic reticular stress and endometrial tumorigenesis. While at USC, she was the Study Chair for GOG9929, a Phase 1 cervical cancer study of ipilimumab after definitive chemoradiation. She has authored/co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications in the field. She has a clinical appointment at UCSF as an associate diplomate attending and sees second opinions a couple times a month. Yvonne is a fitness enthusiast, and can frequently be found at the spin studio on weekends.
Managing professional relationships and office politics: Positioning yourself for success

Monica Jones, MD, MSc, FACOG, FACS

Chair, Women’s and Children’s Services, Anne Arundel Medical Center, Annapolis, MD. Everything I learned about the politics of medicine, I learned in kindergarten! As a department chair, I have had to learn about the politics of medicine and how to navigate politics in order to develop professionally and advance our department mission of quality and safety for our patients. I draw the parallel to starting kindergarten for three main reasons. Kindergarten is an incredible time of discovery for most children. It is a time of self-awareness and exploration to determine what motivates key stakeholders in the classroom. This can be similar to navigating the political landscape of medicine as it first requires understanding the culture of a terrain in order to navigate it appropriately and purposefully. A part of understanding the culture is understanding what motivates those that directly report to you and those that you report to. There is often a dynamic in the kindergarten classroom around what activities are required to get to lunch then to recess. Similarly, following an understanding of culture comes a discovery of what your investment will be to achieve engagement of all relevant stakeholders and alignment of team members around a common mission, vision and goals. This investment often requires meetings before meetings where critical decisions are made to gain an understanding of where misalignments might exist and what barriers will need to be overcome to achieve one’s goals. Finally, kindergarten students work to improve what was achieved one day to ensure the next day is even better. In the workplace, this translates to an understanding of which failures might be built upon to turn them into successes. This requires learning from failures and building upon success. I will plan to role play a few scenarios to demonstrate these points during my mentorship session.

Dineo Khabele, MD

Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Cancer Biology; Vice Chair for Research, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology; Director, Division of Gynecologic Oncology; Director, Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship, The University of Kansas Medical Center & The University of Kansas Cancer Center. I am a physician, surgeon, scientist, educator, advocate. I specialize in treating women diagnosed with ovarian and other gynecologic cancers and providing individualized and compassionate cancer care. I am also a productive scientist, and one of a few clinically active gynecologic oncologists who leads an ovarian cancer translational research program. The Translational Research in Ovarian Cancer (TROC) Labs at the University of Kansas Medical Center and the University of Kansas Cancer Center focus on developing new treatments for ovarian cancer. Our research is funded by federal grants, foundation awards, pharmaceutical industry, and institutional support. I serve on multiple medical and scientific advisory boards, including the National Institutes of Health, the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance, and the Foundation for Women’s Cancer. I am firmly committed to mentoring and training the next generation of physicians and scientists and I am the founding fellowship director of the first ACGME-accredited gynecologic oncology fellowship program in the state of Kansas. As an advocate, I am dedicated to raising awareness about women’s cancers and cancer health disparities.
Charles Landen, MD

I completed fellowship in 2007. I was on faculty at MD Anderson and University of Alabama Birmingham, and am now at University of Virginia. I have 65% protected time for research, 25% clinical, 10% admin (fellowship director). I have seen several institutions and interacted with a lot of different personalities, both in gyn oncology and throughout the institution. Working on various committees composed of basic scientists, clinicians, surgeons, educators, staff, and administrators has provided some insight into managing office politics.

Ritu Salani, MD

I am an Associate Professor of Gynecologic Oncology at the Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, where I have been faculty since 2008. Currently, I serve as the fellowship director and work in a busy academic clinical practice with six other partners from a new graduate to those nearing the end of their practice. In addition to involvement with the Education Committee through the SGO, I am also an active member of the Cervix Committee within NRG Oncology and the Education Chair for the International Gynecologic Cancer Society. These positions require a balance of personal goals, institutional/societal responsibilities, and development of relationships (locally, nationally and internationally).

Erin Bishop, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of OBGYN, Section of Gynecologic Oncology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI. I received my Doctor of Medicine from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (2006). I then completed my Obstetrics and Gynecology residency training at the University of Chicago (2006-2010), followed by a fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Oklahoma (2010-2013). I have been in academic practice at the Medical College of Wisconsin since 2013. My research focus is in the basic science lab where I study ovarian cancer metabolism. I have obtained various grants, including career-mentored grants, over the last 5 years that have allowed for protected research time. In addition to busy clinical practice and basic science research, my spouse is a physician as well and we have three small children.

Being Your Authentic Self at Work/Maintaining Work-Life Balance
Leigh A. Cantrell, MD

I am an Associate Professor at the University of Virginia. I have been at UVA for 9 years after completing fellowship at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. My interests lie in education, robotic surgery and carcinosarcoma. I believe that my fellows volunteered me for this area because of the ‘authentic self’ portion of the title. I am, and have always been, what you see is what you get. I believe that this allows colleagues, trainees and patients to trust you as they know that you are ‘real’. It does not mean that you have to be cruel with the words that you choose, but rather honest, at all times. If you disagree with something or someone, there is a way to handle it and learning the ins and outs of difficult conversations and situations is what truly takes a lifetime to achieve (i.e., I am still working on it).

Eloise Chapman-Davis, MD

I am an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Donna Redel Clinical Scholar in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York, NY. I completed my residency training at BWH/MGH Harvard program and fellowship at Northwestern in 2011. I have worked in both private, hospital-based practice, and at academic institutions. Currently I am the Associate Fellowship Director of NYP Columbia/Cornell Program. I am considered the “momma bear” to the fellows as I am known for being my “authentic self” and being approachable, while still maintaining personal and professional boundaries. It is a difficult task to learn how to navigate your career, family life and cultivate an environment of respect and authenticity while maintaining some degree of sanity. My experience has taught me that you can continue to achieve your professional goals while staying true to who you are. It continues to be a work in progress but what I have learned, I am happy to share.

Joanie Mayer Hope, MD

Joanie Mayer Hope is one of two gynecologic oncologists in the State of Alaska. She is founding partner of Alaska Women’s Cancer Care & director of Gynecologic Oncology at Providence Alaska Cancer Center and Native Alaska Medical Center. She is also a single mother, singer in the rock band NED, founder of the women’s cancer non-profit Let Every Woman Know, and dedicated athlete. Nevertheless, Joanie takes 12 weeks of vacation a year with a four-day work week (sometimes). How is this possible? Is there simply no cancer in Alaska? Does she lack a decent work ethic? Did she figure out how to make the day last 30 hours? Is she FOS? Come find out and discuss work-life balance.
Scott E. Lentz, MD

A graduate of the Penn State University College of Medicine in 1994, Dr. Lentz then completed residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Hershey Medical Center, Hershey PA. He then completed fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA in 2001. Since completing fellowship, Dr. Lentz joined the Southern California Permanente Medical Group (Kaiser Permanente) at the Los Angeles Medical Center in Hollywood, CA. He has been with Kaiser since 2001, and currently practices at three of the southern California hospitals. Dr. Lentz currently serves as the Regional Director for Gynecologic Oncology in Southern California, and serves as co-PI for cooperative group trials in Kaiser Permanente. His practice is focused on surgical innovation, minimally invasive surgical options and resident and fellow education. Since 2003, the Kaiser Los Angeles facility has been an equal partner in the Cedars Sinai-Kaiser Gyn Oncology fellowship, offering the opportunity to train the next generation of gynecologic oncologists. In addition to clinical practice responsibilities, Dr. Lentz also maintains regular surgical mission activities in the Philippines. For the past 14 years, he has introduced residents and fellows to the challenges of third-world medicine at locations across the Philippine Islands.

Outside of medicine, Dr. Lentz is active in his local AYSO branch, is an avid wine enthusiast and is learning to embrace the value of physical fitness!

So, you want to be a clinical trialist:
Pathways to achieve success

John H. Farley, MD, COL(ret), FACOG, FACS

I am a board-certified gynecologic oncologist in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the United States Military Academy, I went on to earn his medical degree from Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where I later served as a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. I completed both my residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and his fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. My expertise includes clinical trial design, and drug development. Medical research has been my passion since I was first exposed to the field as a freshman in college. I have published over 65 scientific articles and 10 book chapters and has delivered over 50 presentations. I have served on numerous cooperative group committees, NCI sponsored grant committees, and am an active member of both the Gynecologic Oncology Group and Society of Gynecologic Oncology. I also sit on the grant committee for the US Army Congressionally Directed Ovarian Cancer Research Program. I have been principal investigator on clinical trial developed within the cooperative group setting to include Phase I trial. Additionally, I have served on advisory boards for a variety of pharmaceutic companies and assisted in the development of their portfolio of medications in the Gynecologic Oncology space.
Joyce Liu, MD

Joyce Liu, MD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Director of Clinical Research for the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Liu completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and her fellowship in Medical Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Liu has been the study chair of multicenter NCI-sponsored trials of cediranib and olaparib through CTEP and the ETCTN, and is the study chair of NRG-GY004. Additionally, she has developed multiple investigator-initiated trials with industry collaborators and has been the lead investigator on a number of industry-sponsored trials.

BJ Rimel, MD

Gynecologic Oncologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Institutional PI on all sponsored trials since 2012. PI on GY012 and NRG corpus committee member.

Shannon N. Westin, MD, MPH

Associate Professor, Director, Early Drug Development and Phase I Trials, Department of Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine, The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Westin received her doctorate of Medicine from the University of Florida College of Medicine. She completed Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. During fellowship, she received an MPH with a concentration in epidemiology from the University of Texas, School of Public Health. In addition to her training in Gynecologic Oncology, she also completed a short fellowship in Investigational Cancer Therapeutics. She joined the faculty at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2010. She has been honored as a K12 scholar as well as an Andrew Sabin Family Fellow. Dr. Westin focuses on developmental therapeutics and the use of biomarkers to predict response and recurrence in gynecologic malignancies. She currently serves as the Director of Early Drug Development and Phase I trials in her department and is a Co-Director of the Ovarian Cancer Moonshot. Dr. Westin is a member of the NRG Oncology – GOG Developmental Therapeutics, Phase I, and Early Phase Protocol Oversight committees. She is the co-PI for major projects in her institution’s SPORE in Uterine Cancer and SPORE in Ovarian Cancer. In addition, she is currently the PI or co-PI for greater than 20 novel treatment trials in gynecologic malignancies. Dr. Westin has authored or co-authored greater than 100 scientific publications, book chapters and invited articles. She has been invited to lecture as an expert on clinical trials, genomic testing and targeted therapy in gynecologic malignancies in national and international venues. She was selected for the competitive American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Leadership Development program and serves on four ASCO committees including the Communications Committee and Gynecologic Cancer Guidelines Group. She is an active member of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) and will serve on the Program Committee for the 2020 SGO Annual Meeting on Women’s Cancer.