

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Erika Adriana Eksioglu**  
**Post Doc Fellow**

Department: Immunology  
Email: erika.eksioglu@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** MDS

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, DNA Damage, Immunology, Immunotherapy, Metabolism, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** I study the innate tumor microenvironment in MDS. My particular focus has been the understanding of DAMPs that give rise to the inflammaging phenotype in disease that lead to development and evolution of pathology.

- @yikitin
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**Yoga Balagurunathan, PhD**  
**Assistant Member**

Department: Machine Learning  
Email: yoganand.balaguruanthan@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Bioinformatics, Biomarkers, Imaging, Radiomics

**Description of Research Interests:** Non-invasive imaging biomarkers in Prostate, Lung, Lymphoma

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**Gustavo Borjas,**  
**Research associate**

Department: Clinical Science Lab  
Email: gustavo.borjas@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Bladder Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Bioinformatics, Biomarkers, Immunology, Immunotherapy, Epigenetics, Genetics

**Description of Research Interests:** Tumor immune microenvironment in the context of immunotherapy.

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## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

### **Doratha Byrd, PhD**

Department: Cancer Epidemiology  
Email: doratha.byrd@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Colon Cancer, Colorectal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology, Health Disparities

**Description of Research Interests:** Elucidating the interrelationships among modifiable dietary and lifestyle exposures, the microbiome, and cancer risk and progression.

- d\_armen\_byrd
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### **Brian C. Springer, MHA**

**Vice President of Research Administration**  
**Associate Center Director of Administration**

Department: Research Administration  
Email: brian.springer@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Research Administration

**Description of Research Interests:** Research Administration - Budgets and Grants oversight.

- <https://moffitt.org/about-moffitt/executive-leadership/brian-c-springer-mha/>
- 

### **Omar Castaneda Puglianini, MD** **Medical Doctor**

Department: Blood & Marrow Transplant & Cellular Immunotherapy  
Email: omar.castanedapuglianini@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Multiple Myeloma-Plasma Cell Tumor

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology, Immunotherapy, Health Disparities

**Description of Research Interests:** Research focus on cellular immunotherapy for plasma cell neoplasms

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### **Julio Chavez, MD**

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Department: Malignant Hematology

Email: Julio.c.chavez@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy, MYC Cancers

**Description of Research Interests:** Immunotherapy and targeted therapies in lymphomas, Clinical trial design

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**Shannon Christy, PhD**  
**Assistant Member**

Department: Health Outcomes and Behavior

Email: shannon.christy@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Throat Cancer, Tongue Cancer, Vulvar Cancer, Penile Cancer, Anal Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Colon Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Head and Neck Cancer, Liver Cancer, Oral Cavity or Throat Cancer, Rectal Cancer, Vaginal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Clinical Psychology, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Screening

**Description of Research Interests:** Screening, Early Detection, Prevention, Health Disparities

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**John Cleveland, PhD**  
**Center Director and Executive Vice President**

Department: Administration

Email: john.cleveland@moffitt.org

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Dr. Cleveland's research has been broadly focused on the molecular pathogenesis of cancer, where he has been a leader in interrogating the regulation and role of oncogenes and tumor suppressors in controlling cancer cell growth and survival, and in defining new targets that play essential roles in the development and maintenance of cancer.

**Description of Research Interests:** Research interests include cancer cell checkpoints, cancer cell metabolism, cancer prevention and therapeutics, and the regulation and role of apoptosis and autophagy in the development and maintenance of cancer.

- <https://moffitt.org/about-moffitt/executive-leadership/john-cleveland-phd/>
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## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Anna Coghill, PhD**  
**Assistant Member**

Department: Cancer Epidemiology  
Email: [anna.coghill@moffitt.org](mailto:anna.coghill@moffitt.org)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology

**Description of Research Interests:** HIV oncology

- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/anna-coghill/>
- 

**Jose Conejo-Garcia, MD, PhD**  
**Chair, Department of Immunology**

Department: Immunology  
Email: [jose.conejo-garcia@moffitt.org](mailto:jose.conejo-garcia@moffitt.org)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Endometrial (Uterine) Cancer, Head and Neck Cancer, Lung Cancer, Ovarian Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Immunology, Immunotherapy, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** Immuno-Oncology, Basic Immunology

- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/jose-conejo-garcia/>
- 

**Cherell Cottrell-Daniels, PhD**  
**Postdoctoral Fellow**

Department: Health Outcomes and Behavior  
Email: [cherell.cottrell-daniels@moffitt.org](mailto:cherell.cottrell-daniels@moffitt.org)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Smoking Cessation

**Description of Research Interests:** Minority health; tobacco and substance use; health disparities

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**Lauren Crump, MD**  
**Director, Divisions of Population and Quantitative Science**

Department: Pop/Quant Sci Division Leadership  
Email: [lauren.crump@moffitt.org](mailto:lauren.crump@moffitt.org)

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**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer and Aging

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**Fawn D. Vigneau, JD, MPH**  
**Protocol Writer II**

Department: Office of Scientific Publishing/Biomedical Library  
Email: fawn.vigneau@moffitt.org

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology, Health Disparities

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer Disparities in African-Americans and other underrepresented populations, Cancer Epidemiology of Pancreas Cancer, Cancer Surveillance Methods

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**Marco Davila, MD, PhD**  
**Senior Member, Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Immunotherapy**  
**Department Medical Director, Cell Therapy Facility**

Department: BMT CI  
Email: marco.davila@moffitt.org

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**Zeynep Eroglu, MD**  
**Associate Member**

Department: Cutaneous Oncology  
Email: zeynep.eroglu@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Melanoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Drug Resistance, Immunology

**Description of Research Interests:** translational/clinical research in melanoma and other advanced skin cancers

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**Isis Escandon, MPH**  
**Infection Preventionist**

Department: Infection Prevention & Control  
Email: isis.escandon@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Infection control

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology

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**Description of Research Interests:** Infection control and prevention

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**Nancy Gillis, PhD**  
**Assistant Member**

Department: Cancer Epidemiology, Malignant Hematology  
Email: Nancy.Gillis@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia, Multiple Myeloma-Plasma Cell Tumor, Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Epidemiology, Genetics, Mutation Research

**Description of Research Interests:** Clonal Hematopoiesis, Pharmacogenomics, Molecular Epidemiology

- @nancykgillis
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**Maria Gonzalez, MD**

Department: Molecular oncology  
Email: Maria.gonzalez@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Neurofibromatosis

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Cell Signaling

**Description of Research Interests:** Developing targeted drugs for nf2

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**B Lee Green, PhD**  
**Vice President of Diversity, Public Relations and Strategic Communications**

Department: Health Outcomes and Behavior  
Email: lee.green@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes

**Description of Research Interests:** Prostate Cancer disparities focused on underserved minority men. Minority clinical trials participation. Use of technology to address disparities.

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- <https://moffitt.org/about-moffitt/executive-leadership/b-lee-green-phd/>
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**Eric Haura, MD**  
**Associate Center Director, Clinical Science**

Department: Thoracic  
Email: eric.haura@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling, Drug Discovery, K-RAS Cancers, Oncogenes, Proteomics

**Description of Research Interests:** Cell signaling, drug discovery, KRAS, Oncogenes, Proteomics

- <https://moffitt.org/providers/eric-haura/>
- 

**Evita Henderson Jackson, MD**  
**Assistant Member**

Department: Pathology  
Email: evita.henderson@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Osteosarcoma, Sarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cancer Histopathology, Emerging entities with new molecular alterations, quality improvement

**Description of Research Interests:** Sarcoma (histopathology/cytopathology), biomarkers, immune environment, new molecular alterations

- <https://moffitt.org/for-healthcare-professionals/clinical-programs-and-services/pathology/>
  - @EHJPathDiva
- 

**Aasha Hoogland, PhD**

Department: Health Outcomes and Behavior  
Email: aasha.hoogland@moffitt.org

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Health Outcomes

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**Description of Research Interests:** Improving and maintaining quality of life in individuals with cancer.

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**Jessica Islam, PhD**  
**Assistant Member**

Department: Cancer Epidemiology  
Email: jessica.islam@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** MDS, Cervical Cancer, Endometrial (Uterine) Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Screening, Virology

**Description of Research Interests:** prevention of oncogenic infections, disparities in care and outcomes among gynecological cancer patients, and disparities in cancer care and outcomes among HIV positive adults.

- @jessicayislam
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**Morgan Lael, BA**  
**Research Partnerships Program Manager**

Department: Office of Research Strategic Partnerships  
Email: morgan.lael@moffitt.org

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**Nicholas Lawrence, PhD**  
**Professor of Medicinal Chemistry**

Department: Drug Discovery  
Email: nicholas.lawrence@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia, Lung Cancer, Melanoma, Pancreatic Cancer, Skin Cancer (Nonmelanoma), Triple Negative Breast Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Discovery

**Description of Research Interests:** Medical Chemistry

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**Justin Lopchuk, MD**  
**Assistant Member**



## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Department: Drug Discovery  
Email: justin.lopchuk@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Discovery

**Description of Research Interests:** Organic synthesis, medicinal chemistry, drug discovery

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**Yi Luo, PhD**  
**Assistant Member**

Department: Department of Machine Learning  
Email: yi.luo@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes

**Description of Research Interests:** FAIR and explainable machine learning, systems informatics and their application in precision medicine, health equity, and healthcare quality.

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**Deborah M. Moore, MS**

Department: Biomedical Library  
Email: deborah.m.moore@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Oncology-Clinical Trial Protocol Writing

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**Lucia Mazzacurati, MD**  
**Research Scientist**

Department: Molecular Oncology  
Email: lucia.mazzacurati@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Drug Resistance, K-RAS Cancers, Microenvironment, Tumor Suppressors, Virology

**Description of Research Interests:** Development of new strategies to overcome Jak2 inhibitor resistance in Myeloproliferative Neoplasms.

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- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/gary-reuther/>

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### **Blair McCarthy**

Department: Clinical Pathways  
Email: [blair.mccarthy@moffitt.org](mailto:blair.mccarthy@moffitt.org)

**Description of Research Interests:** Clinical Pathways

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### **Patricia McDonald, PhD** Associate member

Department: Cancer Physiology  
Email: [patsy.mcdonald@moffitt.org](mailto:patsy.mcdonald@moffitt.org)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colorectal Cancer, Melanoma, Pancreatic Cancer, Spinal Tumor, Triple Negative Breast Cancer, GPCR-focused drug discovery

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Drug Discovery, Screening

**Description of Research Interests:** G protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) signaling and function, and their role in Metabolic Disorders and Cancer.

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### **John Michael Bryant, MD**

Department: GME/Radiation Oncology  
Email: [john.bryant@moffitt.org](mailto:john.bryant@moffitt.org)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Immunotherapy, Evolution

**Description of Research Interests:** MRgRT, High BED RT, Nanomedicine

- @JMBryantMD

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### **Lindsey Montgomery, MD** Registered Dietitian

Department: Nutrition Services  
Email: [lindsey.montgomery@moffitt.org](mailto:lindsey.montgomery@moffitt.org)

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Samantha Montoya, MPH, CHES, CPH**  
**Research Coordinator**

Department: NTRO  
Email: samantha.montoya@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Health Disparities, Health Outcomes

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer Health Disparities

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**Sandra Moore, BA**  
**Executive Assistant**

Department: Research Administration  
Email: sandra.moore@moffitt.org

**Description of Research Interests:** Research Administration

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**James Mule', PhD**  
**Associate Center Director, Translational Science**

Department: Translational Research  
Email: james.mule@moffitt.org

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Immunotherapy

- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/senior-leadership/james-j-mul%C3%A9-phd/>
- 

**Barbara Nassif Rausseo**  
**Graduate Student**

Department: Clinical Science Laboratories  
Email: barbara.nassifrausseo@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Melanoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology, Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Tumor Microenvironment Immunosuppression and T cell exhaustion

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## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Taiga Nishihori, MD**  
**Associate Member**

Department: Blood & Marrow Transplant and Cellular Immunotherapy  
Email: taiga.nishihori@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Hodgkin Lymphoma, Leukemia, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), Multiple Myeloma-Plasma Cell Tumor, Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS), Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, Testicular Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy, Health Outcomes

**Description of Research Interests:** Cellular Immunotherapy

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**Christine OConnell, MMSc**  
**Senior Director- Laboratory Research Operations**

Department: Research Administration  
Email: christine.oconnell@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Shared Resources

**Description of Research Interests:** Shared Resource Management, Research Administration.

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**Krupal Patel, MD**  
**MD**

Department: Head and Neck - endocrine oncology  
Email: krupal.patel@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Throat Cancer, Tongue Cancer, Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Head and Neck Cancer, Oral Cavity or Throat Cancer, Skin Cancer (Nonmelanoma), Thyroid Cancer, Pituitary Microadenoma, Pituitary Macroadenoma, Thyroid Nodule/Mass, Pituitary Neoplasm

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Bioinformatics, Biomarkers, Immunotherapy, Epigenetics, Evolution, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Imaging, Microenvironment, P53 Cancers, Proteomics

**Description of Research Interests:** Translational Research

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## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Jenny Permuth, PhD**  
**Vice Chair of Research, Department of Gastrointestinal Oncology**

Department: Cancer Epidemiology and Gastrointestinal Oncology  
Email: jenny.permuth@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Pancreatic Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology

**Description of Research Interests:** Developing early detection and prevention strategies for pancreatic cancer; understanding and targeting biological reasons for the higher pancreatic cancer incidence and mortality rates observed among African Americans; and studying inherited and acquired markers of cancer susceptibility, prognosis, and response to therapy.

- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/jennifer-permuth/>

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**Kim Polacek, MD**  
**Senior PR Account Services Coordinator**

Department: Public Relations  
Email: Kimberly.Polacek@moffitt.org

**Description of Research Interests:** Public Relations Research

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**Sandhya Prabhakaran**  
**Research Scientist**

Department: IMO  
Email: Sandhya.Prabhakaran@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Bioinformatics, Biomarkers, Microenvironment, Statistics, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** identifying clinical biomarkers for lung cancer

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**Natarajan Raghunand, PhD**  
**Director of Radiology Research**

Department: Cancer Physiology  
Email: natarajan.raghunand@moffitt.org

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer, Glioblastoma, Kidney (Renal Cell) Cancer, Meningioma, Pancreatic Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Imaging, Radiomics

**Description of Research Interests:** Imaging in early-phase clinical trials of new therapeutics, machine learning on radiologic images for diagnosis & prognostication.

- <http://lab.moffitt.org/raghunand/>

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**Rae Reuille**  
Manager, Alliance Relations

Department: Alliance Relations  
Email: rae.reuille@moffitt.org

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**Milene Rivas**  
Executive Assistant

Department: Office of Research Strategic Partnerships  
Email: milene.rivas@moffitt.org

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**Jessica Rivera, PhD**  
Applied postdoctoral fellow

Department: Health Outcomes and Behavior  
Email: jessica.riverarivera@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Head and Neck Cancer, Lung Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Skin Cancer (Nonmelanoma)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes

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**Paulo Rodriguez, PhD**  
Senior member

Department: Immunology  
Email: paulo.rodriguez@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer, Ovarian Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology, Immunotherapy

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**Research Interests:** Immunobiology of T and myeloid cells in tumors

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**Stephanie Rodriguez,  
Surgery Scheduling Specialist**

Department: Perioperative Services  
Email: stephanie.rodriquez.321@gmail.com

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Oncology and anesthesia.

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Oncology and anesthesia.

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**Biswarup Saha,  
Research Scientist 2**

Department: Tumor Biology  
Email: biswarup.saha@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Drug Discovery, K-RAS Cancers, Metastasis, Oncogenes, RNA Biology

**Description of Research Interests:**

- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/biswarup-saha-65882066/>
- 

**Matt Schabath, PhD**

Department: Cancer Epidemiology  
Email: matthew.schabath@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Epidemiology, Radiomics, Screening

**Description of Research Interests:** quantitative imaging/radiomics, molecular epidemiology, cardiovascular/cardiotoxicity epidemiology, and health disparities among LGBTQ/SGM populations

- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/matthew-schabath/>
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## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**John Schatzle, PhD**  
**Director, Basic and Population Science Shared Resources**

Department: Director Basic, Population, and Quantitative Science Shared Resources  
Email: john.schatzle@moffitt.org

**Description of Research Interests:** Shared Resources

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**Kristen Scott, PhD**  
**Manager, Office of Scientific Development**

Department: Office of Scientific Development  
Email: Kristen.Scott@moffitt.org

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Metabolism

**Description of Research Interests:** Dr. Scott is a trained cancer biologist turned research administrator with scientific expertise in cancer metabolism and administrative expertise in project management, scientific writing and editing, and development and administration of large complex grant applications and teams.

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**Ed Seijo**  
**Director, Translational Sciences & Biorepository Shared Resources**

Department: Shared Resources Management  
Email: edward.seijo@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:**

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cellular Therapies, Biobanking, Research Administration, Shared Resources Management

**Description of Research Interests:** Shared Resources Management, Biobanking and Cellular Therapies Operations, Policy, Regulations and Best Practices

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**Erin Siegel, PhD**  
**Associate Member**

Department: Department of Cancer Epidemiology  
Email: erin.siegel@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colorectal Cancer



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**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Epidemiology

**Description of Research Interests:** Research focus is colorectal cancer and identifying novel biomarkers for cancer diagnosis, monitoring treatment response and predicting patient outcomes.

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**Vani Simmons, PhD**  
**Senior Member**

Department: Health Outcomes and Behavior  
Email: [vani.simmons@moffitt.org](mailto:vani.simmons@moffitt.org)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research

**Description of Research Interests:** Development of smoking cessation and relapse prevention interventions for special populations, including cancer patients

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**Tracess Smalley, PhD**  
**Post Doctoral Fellow**

Department: Molecular Oncology  
Email: [tracess.smalley@moffitt.org](mailto:tracess.smalley@moffitt.org)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Cervical Cancer, Oral Cavity or Throat Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology, Virology

**Description of Research Interests:** Antibody based inhibitors and tools to study viral pathogenesis that leads to malignancy

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**Brooke Smedley**  
**Research Specialist**

Department: Analytic Microscopy Core  
Email: [brooke.smedley@moffitt.org](mailto:brooke.smedley@moffitt.org)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Microscopy

**Description of Research Interests:** Imaging of cancer research with use of microscopes.

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## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Lowell Smith, MA, MA**  
**Sr. Director, Research Business Office**

Department: Research Administration  
Email: Lowell.smith@moffitt.org

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer Center Core Grant, Complex Grants, Office of Sponsored Research

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**Jayne Spadaccini**

Department: Perioperative Services  
Email: jaynespaddy@gmail.com

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Perioperative Services

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Health Outcomes

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer Care/ Treatment, Surgical Interventions

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**Emmanuel Stimphil, PhD**  
**Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

Department: Clinical Science  
Email: emmanuel.stimphil@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer, Lung Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Immunology, Immunotherapy, Evolution, Imaging, Metastasis, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** Research interest is focused on the development of nanotechnology capable of tapping into the complex physics of intracellular organelles to regulate cell signaling at the sub-cellular level using multiferroic nanostructures and externally controlled magnetic fields.

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**Kelsey Titus, BD, PhD**  
**External Research Quality Manager**

Department: CTO Department; ESC Partnerships  
Email: kelsey.titus@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Sarcoma

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**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Evolution, Survivorship, RNA Biology

**Description of Research Interests:** I am a monitor for Phase 1/2 non-industry sponsored consortium and am interested to hear in the research being performed at other FL facilities.

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**Shelley Tworoger, PhD**  
**Associate Center Director of Population Science**

Department: Population Science  
Email: shelley.tworoger@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Ovarian Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology

**Description of Research Interests:** Identification of novel lifestyle and biologic factors associated with ovarian cancer risk and survival and how they intersect with the tumor microenvironment.

- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/shelley-tworoger/>
- 

**Susan Vadaparampil, PhD**  
**Associate Center Director of Community Outreach, Engagement and Equity**

Department: Community Outreach, Engagement and Equity  
Email: susan.vadaparampil@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Outreach HPV Health Disparities

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Genetics, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Screening

**Description of Research Interests:** Outreach, HPV, Health Disparities

- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/susan-vadaparampil/>
- 

**Damon Vidrine, PhD**  
**Senior Member**

Department: Health Outcomes and Behavior  
Email: damon.vidrine@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer, Cancer Prevention

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**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research

**Description of Research Interests:** Tobacco research; cessation treatment

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**Jennifer Vidrine, PhD**

**Assistant Center Director for Strategic Research Partnerships**

Department: Research Strategic Partnerships

Email: [jennifer.vidrine@moffitt.org](mailto:jennifer.vidrine@moffitt.org)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Tobacco cessation research

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Smoking Cessation

**Description of Research Interests:** Dr. Jennifer Vidrine's research program focuses broadly on tobacco cessation interventions for underserved populations and health care systems-level approaches to cessation.

- <https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/jenny-vidrine/>
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**Christine Vinci, PhD**

**Assistant Member**

Department: Health Outcomes and Behavior

Email: [christine.vinci@moffitt.org](mailto:christine.vinci@moffitt.org)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Tobacco research

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Health Outcomes, Smoking Cessation

**Description of Research Interests:** Development and testing of smoking cessation interventions

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**Lixin Wan, MD**

**Associate Member**

Department: Molecular Oncology

Email: [lixin.wan@moffitt.org](mailto:lixin.wan@moffitt.org)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Colon Cancer, Inflammatory Breast Cancer, Melanoma, Ovarian Cancer

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, B-RAF Cancers, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, DNA Damage, Immunology, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** The ubiquitin pathway in cancer

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**Liang Wang, PhD**  
**Senior Member**

Department: Tumor Biology  
Email: liang.wang@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colon Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Kidney (Renal Cell) Cancer, Lung Cancer, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Genetics

**Description of Research Interests:** Genetic risk factors and liquid biopsy-based biomarkers for cancer early detection, treatment response and outcome prediction.

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**Xuefeng Wang, PhD**  
**Associate Member**

Department: Biostatistics and Bioinformatics  
Email: xuefeng.wang@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Head and Neck Cancer, Lung Cancer, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), Melanoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Bioinformatics, Biomarkers, Immunotherapy, Epigenetics, Statistics

**Description of Research Interests:** Statistical Genomics; Biomarker discovery; Machine learning; Immuno-Oncology

- <https://lab.moffitt.org/wang/>
- 

**Vonetta Williams, PhD, MPH**  
**Staff Scientist**

Department: Collaborative Data Services Core  
Email: vonetta.williams@moffitt.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology, Health Disparities

**Description of Research Interests:** Health Disparities

2022 FACCA ATTENDEES



**Hassan A. Ali, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Neurological Surgery  
Email: halali@med.miami.edu

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Bioinformatics, Cell Signaling, Drug Discovery, Screening

**Description of Research Interests:** Drug discovery, cell based assays, phenotypic screening, hit to lead, preclinical development

- [www.alilab-um.com](http://www.alilab-um.com)

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**Alvaro Alencar, MD**  
**Associate Professor Clinical Medicine**

Department: Medicine - Division of Hematology  
Email: aalencar@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Discovery, Immunotherapy, Health Disparities

**Description of Research Interests:** Lymphomas in minorities, elderly

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**Philip Arlen, PhD**  
**Executive Director**

Department: Clinical Research Services  
Email: parlen@med.miami.edu

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Clinical trials

**Description of Research Interests:** Clinical Research

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

### **Bonnie B. Blomberg, PhD**

Department: Microbiology and Immunology  
Email: bblomber@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Behavioral Research, Immunology, Metabolism

**Description of Research Interests:** Aging, chronic inflammation, obesity, metabolism links to cancer

- <https://umiamihealth.org/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/faculty/bonnie-blomberg-phd>
- 

### **Zinzi Bailey, MPH** **Assistant Professor**

Department: Medical oncology  
Email: zbailey@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Colon Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Endometrial (Uterine) Cancer, Inflammatory Breast Cancer, Liver Cancer, Lung Cancer, Ovarian Cancer, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Epidemiology, Health Disparities, Screening, Smoking Cessation, Statistics

**Description of Research Interests:** Social epidemiology

- Zinzinator
- 

### **Aylin Barrios,** **Senior Administrative Assistant**

Department: Medical Oncology  
Email: abarrios6@med.miami.edu

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer Research

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### **Marijo Bilusic, MD, PhD**



## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Department: Medical Oncology  
Email: mxb2305@med.miami.edu

**Description of Research Interests:** Medical Oncology

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**Shaun Brothers, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
Email: sbrothers@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Behavioral Research, Cell Biology, Drug Discovery, Epigenetics, Microenvironment, Screening

**Description of Research Interests:** Molecular Therapeutics Shared resource

---

**Kerry Burnstein, MD**  
**Professor and Chair, Associate Director for Education & Training**

Department: Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology  
Email: kburnstein@med.miami.edu

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Resistance

**Description of Research Interests:** androgen receptor signaling, castration-resistant prostate cancer

- <https://umiamihealth.org/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/labs/burnstein-lab/research>
  - @BurnsteinKerry
- 

**Diane C. Lim, MD**  
**Associate Professor, Medicine**

Department: University of Miami, Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep  
Email: limdiane@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Artificial Intelligence, Biomarkers,

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Cell Biology, Drug Resistance, Immunology, Imaging, K-RAS Cancers, Mathematical Modeling, Metabolism, Metabolomics, Metastasis, Microenvironment, P53 Cancers, Radiomics

**Description of Research Interests:** Immunometabolism of Lung Cancer, using a translational approach with collaborators.

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**Ravindran Caspa Gokulan, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Surgery  
Email: rxc988@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Esophageal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling, DNA Damage, P53 Cancers, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** Regulation of tumor suppressor mechanisms in cancer

---

**Zheng Chen, MD, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Surgery  
Email: zheng.chen@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Esophageal Cancer, Stomach (Gastric) Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Resistance, Epigenetics, Genetics, Oncogenes

**Description of Research Interests:** Esophageal and gastric cancer

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**Luisa Cimmino, MD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Biochemistry and molecular biology  
Email: luisa.cimmino@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epigenetics

**Description of Research Interests:** leukemia, hematopoietic stem cells, epigenetics, metabolism

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## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Emiliano Cocco, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Biochemistry  
Email: exc2752@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Appendiceal (Appendix) Cancer, Cholangiocarcinoma (Bile Duct Cancer), Colorectal Cancer, Lung Cancer, Ovarian Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Drug Resistance, Epigenetics, Oncogenes

**Description of Research Interests:** Interest in the biology of tumors harboring rare oncogenic drivers (i.e. gene fusions) and in understanding the role that transcriptional regulators have in drug resistance

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**Tracy Crane, PhD, RDN**

Department: Medical Oncology  
Email: tecrane@med.miami.edu

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer Control

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**Rajinder Dawra, PhD**  
**Research Associate Professor**

Department: Surgery  
Email: rajinder.dawra@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Pancreatic Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Biology, Drug Discovery, Microenvironment, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** Inflammation and pancreatic Cancer

---

**Ben Diamond, MD**

Department: Medicine  
Email: bxd500@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Multiple Myeloma-Plasma Cell Tumor

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** DNA Damage, Genetics

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Description of Research Interests:** Clonal Hematopoiesis, minimal residual disease, secondary malignancies

---

**Wael El-Rifai, MD, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Cancer Center  
Email: welrifai@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Esophageal Cancer, GIST (Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling

**Description of Research Interests:** Gastrointestinal Cáncer, Tumor Biology, AURKA and ER stress\Cancer Research

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**Zelde Espinel, MD**

Department: Psychiatry  
Email: z.espinel@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Psycho-oncology

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Psychiatry

**Description of Research Interests:** Geriatric psycho-oncology

---

**Yangbo Feng, PhD**  
**Research Associate Professor**

Department: Pharmacology  
Email: yangbof@gmail.com

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** MDS, Brain Cancer, Glioblastoma, Leukemia, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Discovery

**Description of Research Interests:** Drug Discovery/Medicinal Chemistry

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**Lynn Feun, MD**  
**Professor of Medicine**

Department: Medicine

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Email: lfeun@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Liver Cancer, Melanoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Drug Resistance, Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** clinical trials in skin cancer including melanoma, liver cancer

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**Maria Figueroa, MD**  
**Associate Professor, Co-Leader Cancer Epigenetics Program**

Department: Human Genetics  
Email: mef162@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** MDS, Leukemia

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Bioinformatics, Biomarkers, Epigenetics

**Description of Research Interests:** epigenetic regulation during normal and malignant hematopoiesis

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**Daniela Frasca, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Microbiology and Immunology  
Email: dfrasca@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Aging, humoral immunity and immunometabolism

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology, Metabolism

**Description of Research Interests:** Age-driven defects in humoral immunity to infections and vaccines. Role of the metabolic status of the individual.

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**Daniel G. Isom, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology  
Email: disom@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Bioinformatics, Cell Biology,

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Cell Signaling, Drug Discovery, Metabolism

**Description of Research Interests:** molecular basis of proton sensing, synBio for health/energy and drug discovery, novel data science for protein structure-function informatics

- <http://www.isomlab.com>
- <https://twitter.com/danIsomLab>

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**Sophia George, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Email: [sophia.george@med.miami.edu](mailto:sophia.george@med.miami.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Ovarian Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** DNA Damage, Epidemiology, Mutation Research, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** Hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome

- [www.hboclab.com](http://www.hboclab.com)
- @sophiahlg

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**Francis J. Hornicek, PhD**  
**Professor and Chair**

Department: Orthopaedic  
Email: [fjh21@med.miami.edu](mailto:fjh21@med.miami.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Osteosarcoma, Sarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Chordoma Osteosarcoma

**Description of Research Interests:** Chordoma, Osteosarcoma, Sarcoma

---

**Patricia Jones, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Medicine  
Email: [pdjones@med.miami.edu](mailto:pdjones@med.miami.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Liver Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Health Disparities

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Description of Research Interests:** My research focuses on health disparities in liver disease and liver cancer.

- <https://umiamihealth.org/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/labs/jones-lab>
- @DrLiverPatty

---

**Samuel Kareff, MD, MPH**  
**Hematology/Oncology Fellow**

Department: Hematology/Oncology  
Email: samuel.kareff1@jhsmiami.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Epidemiology, screening, immunotherapy

- SamuelKareffMD

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**Diko Kazandjian, MD**  
**Professor of Medicine**

Department: medicine  
Email: dkazandjian@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Multiple Myeloma-Plasma Cell Tumor

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Treatment

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**Sakhrat Khizroev, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Email: skhizroev@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer, Gastrointestinal Carcinoid Tumor, Glioblastoma, Ovarian Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** targeted drug delivery, imaging, targeted cell stimulation

**Description of Research Interests:** nanotechnology for untreatable or hardly treatable cancers

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

- <https://people.miami.edu/profile/sxk445@miami.edu>

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**Youngmee Kim, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Psychology  
Email: ykim@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colorectal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Survivorship

**Description of Research Interests:** quality of life and dyadic processes of adult cancer patients/survivors and their family caregivers

---

**Ralf Landgraf, PhD**  
**Assoc. Prof of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

Department: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Email: rlandgraf@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling, Proteomics

**Description of Research Interests:** Cell surface receptors and their integration into the larger signaling environment and cellular metabolism to modulate signaling outcomes (RTKs, GPCR). Molecular assemblies.

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**Robert Levy, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Dept of Microbiology and Immunology  
Email: rlevy@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Biomarkers, Immunology, Immunotherapy, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, anti-tumor responses, T cell biology



## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**David Lombard, MD, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Pathology  
Email: dbl7@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Biology

**Description of Research Interests:** Roles for sirtuin proteins in cancer.

- <https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/cancer-biology/david-lombard-md-phd>
- 

**Lunthita M.Duthely, EdD**  
**Research Assistant Professor**

Department: Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences  
Email: lduthely@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Vulvar Cancer, Anal Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Vaginal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes

**Description of Research Interests:** Racial/Ethnic Minority Women with HIV

- <https://umiamihealth.org/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/faculty/lunthita-duthely>
- 

**Francesco Maura, MD**

Department: Medicine  
Email: fxm557@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Hodgkin Lymphoma, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), Multiple Myeloma-Plasma Cell Tumor

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Bioinformatics, Biomarkers

**Description of Research Interests:** Computational genomics and AI in hematological cancers.

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**Jaime Rafael Merchan, MD**

Department: Medicine

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Email: jmerchan2@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Bladder Cancer, Kidney (Renal Cell) Cancer, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy, Microenvironment, Oncolytic viro-immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Oncolytic virotherapies, Renal Cell Carcinoma, Phase 1/Experimental therapeutics

- @JaimeMerchan10

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### Jose Monteiro, MD

Department: Hematology/Oncology  
Email: jose.monteirodeoli@jhsmiami.org

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Throat Cancer, Tongue Cancer, Squamous Cell Carcinoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models

**Description of Research Interests:** Oral Premalignant lesions

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### Craig Moskowitz, MD Chief Physician

Department: Oncology  
Email: chm78@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Hodgkin Lymphoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Lymphoma

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### Nancy Nahmias, BA Executive Director, Clinical Research Services

Department: Clinical Research Services  
Email: nxn319@miami.edu

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Health Disparities

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Description of Research Interests:** Research Leader focusing on Health Disparities in Oncology

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**Stephen Nimer, MD**

**Director, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center; Professor of Medicine, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Oscar de la Renta Endowed Chair in Cancer Research; Executive Dean for Research, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**

Department: Director's Office  
Email: snimer@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** MDS, Leukemia

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Drug Discovery

**Description of Research Interests:** studying the transcriptional regulation of normal and malignant hematopoiesis for decades, with the aim of understanding how the normal processes of stem cell self-renewal and differentiation are regulated and how these processes are aberrant in the myeloid malignancies. Overall, his lab has focused on defining genes that contribute to the development and progression of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) and on identifying novel ways to target hematologic cancers and make them more responsive to treatment

- <https://umiamihealth.org/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/faculty/stephen-d-nimer-md>
- 

**Kodisundaram Paulrasu, MD**  
**Post-doctoral fellow**

Department: Surgery  
Email: kxp641@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Esophageal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, DNA Damage, P53 Cancers

**Description of Research Interests:** Molecular mechanism of tumor development; signaling pathways; tumor suppressor mechanisms

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**Frank Penedo, PhD**

**Professor, Psychology and Medicine/AD Cancer Survivorship & Translational Beh Sciences**

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Department: Psychology  
Email: frank.penedo@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Colon Cancer, Leukemia, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Clinical Psychology, Epidemiology, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Survivorship

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer survivorship; sociocultural and biobehavioral mechanisms of symptom burden and HRQoL; e/mHealth applications and EHR integration; psychosocial interventions to promote adjustment; cancer and aging

- <https://umiamihealth.org/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/faculty/frank-j-penedo>
- @DrFrankJPenedo

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**Dunfa Peng, MD, PhD**  
**Research Assistant Professor**

Department: Surgery  
Email: dxp737@miami.edu

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling, DNA Damage, Epigenetics

**Description of Research Interests:** Barrett's related esophageal adenocarcinoma

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**Sundaram Ramakrishnan, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Surgery  
Email: sramakrishnan@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Ovarian Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Immunotherapy, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** Tumor microenvironment, hypoxia, angiogenesis inhibition, cancer vaccines

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**Monica Rodriguez, Jozic, PhD**

Department: Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology  
Email: mxr2568@med.miami.edu

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Liver Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Metabolism

**Description of Research Interests:** Liver and Lung cancer metabolism

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**Joseph Rosenblatt, MD**  
**Professor of Medicine**

Department: Medicine  
Email: jrosenblatt@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Hodgkin Lymphoma, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Immunology, Immunotherapy, Metastasis, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** B reg activity in human malignancy, Antibody engineering, Angiogenesis and vasculogenic mimicry

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**Sabita Roy, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Surgery  
Email: sabita.roy@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Pain Management

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models

**Description of Research Interests:** Limitations of Opioids as pain management therapy

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**George S. Grills, Grills**  
**Associate Director, Shared Resources**

Department: Shared Resources  
Email: gxg766@med.miami.edu

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epigenetics, Genetics

**Description of Research Interests:** surveillance and predictive modeling of infectious diseases, applications of spatial multi-omics technologies, and aging and cancer.

---

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Ashok Saluja, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Surgery  
Email: asaluja@miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Pancreatic Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling, Drug Discovery, Immunology, Epigenetics, Health Disparities, Metabolomics, Metastasis, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** Pancreatic Cancer

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**Wassim Samra, PhD**  
**Postdoctoral Fellow**

Department: Hematology Oncology  
Email: wassim.samra@jhsmiami.org

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**Viraj Sanghvi, MD**  
**Asst. Professor**

Department: Tumor Biology Program  
Email: vxs542@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Liver Cancer, Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Drug Discovery, Drug Resistance, Immunotherapy, Genetics, Metabolism, Metabolomics, Microenvironment, Proteomics

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer genetics and metabolism, glucose metabolism, redox biology, glycation

- @SanghviLab
- 

**Jonathan Schatz, MD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Medicine  
Email: jschatz@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Hodgkin Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, Cutaneous Lymphoma (CTCL)

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Signaling, Drug Discovery, Drug Resistance, Immunotherapy, Oncogenes

**Description of Research Interests:** Mechanisms of lymphomagenesis and drug resistance in non-Hodgkin lymphoma, with focus on DLBCL. CAP-dependent translation initiation inhibitors -- mechanisms and activities.

- <https://umiamihealth.org/en/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/labs/schatz-lab>
- @DrJonSchatzMD

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**Tulay Sengul, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Public Health Sciences  
Email: [tsengul@med.miami.edu](mailto:tsengul@med.miami.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Epidemiology, Health Disparities, Statistics

**Description of Research Interests:** Population-based cancer epidemiology

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**Paolo Serafini, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Microbiology and immunology  
Email: [pserafini@miami.edu](mailto:pserafini@miami.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Throat Cancer, Tongue Cancer, Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Breast Cancer, Esophageal Cancer, Head and Neck Cancer, Inflammatory Breast Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology

**Description of Research Interests:** Myeloid cells and targeted delivery of therapeutics

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**Janaki Sharma, MD**

Department: Medical Oncology  
Email: [jsharma@miami.edu](mailto:jsharma@miami.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Prostate Cancer

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Microenvironment

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**Justin Taylor, MD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Medicine  
Email: [jxt1091@miami.edu](mailto:jxt1091@miami.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** MDS, Leukemia, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Biology, Drug Discovery, Drug Resistance, Epigenetics, P53 Cancers, Tumor Suppressors, RNA Biology

**Description of Research Interests:** recurrent mutations in hematologic malignancies and how to target these with novel therapeutics

- <https://umiamihealth.org/en/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/labs/taylor-lab>
  - [https://twitter.com/TaylorJ\\_MD](https://twitter.com/TaylorJ_MD)
- 

**Emmanuel Thomas, MD, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Pathology  
Email: [ethomas1@med.miami.edu](mailto:ethomas1@med.miami.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Cholangiocarcinoma (Bile Duct Cancer), Liver Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Immunology, Health Disparities, Screening, Virology

**Description of Research Interests:** viral hepatitis, hepatocellular carcinoma and innate immunity/host defense against viral pathogens

- <http://emmanuelthomasmdphd.com/>
  - [https://twitter.com/Emmanuel\\_Thomas](https://twitter.com/Emmanuel_Thomas)
- 

**Michal Toborek, MD, PhD**  
**Professor and Vice-Chair for Research**



## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Department: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Email: mtoborek@yahoo.com

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling, Metastasis, Microenvironment, Virology

**Description of Research Interests:** Impact of microenvironment and environmental toxicants on tumor formation and metastasis.

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**Asaad Trabolsi,  
Postdoctoral Fellow**

Department: Department of Hematology Oncology  
Email: as3ad1990@hotmail.com

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** DNA Damage, Drug Discovery, Drug Resistance, Immunotherapy, Genetics, K-RAS Cancers, Oncogenes

**Description of Research Interests:** genomic landscape of lung cancer, Drug discovery and early phase drug development

---

**Jonathan Trent, MD, PhD**

Department: Medical Oncology  
Email: jtrent@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Sarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Molecular characterization and application of clinical therapies for sarcomas, with a focus on gastrointestinal stromal tumors.

**Description of Research Interests:** Ras Signaling is Required for TNF-Induced Apoptosis, Importance of Cell Death Pathways in the Mechanism of Action and Resistance to Imatinib in GIST, Design and Execution of Clinical Studies for Patients with GIST, Discovery of Novel Epidemiologic Associations with Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors, Clinical Trials and Observations in Chondrosarcoma

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**Ramiro Verdun, PhD**

Department: Medicine

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Email: rverdun@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** DNA Damage, Epigenetics, Genetics

**Description of Research Interests:** Regulation of DNA repair mechanisms

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**Gaofeng Wang, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Human Genetics  
Email: gwang@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Melanoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Resistance, Epigenetics

**Description of Research Interests:** Study how extracellular signals change the epigenome in cancer

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**Scott Welford, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Radiation Oncology  
Email: scott.welford@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Glioblastoma, Kidney (Renal Cell) Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Biomarkers, DNA Damage, Metabolism, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** My lab works on tumor microenvironmental factors that regulate tumor growth. Hypoxia, nutrient deprivation, metabolic stress, etc. We also are interested in radiobiology from the perspective of how to sensitize cells to radiation, particularly in the context of the microenvironment.

- <https://umiamihealth.org/en/sylvester-comprehensive-cancer-center/research/labs/welford-lab>
- 

**Eric Wieder, PhD**  
**Director, Flow Cytometry Shared Resource; Assistant Director Shared Resources**

Department: Medicine/Transplantation and Cell Therapy

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Email: ewieder@med.miami.edu

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology

**Description of Research Interests:** Stem cell transplant/ GVHD Immune reconstitution

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**Xiangxi Xu, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Radiation Oncology  
Email: xxu2@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Ovarian Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Biomarkers, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Drug Resistance, Metastasis, Oncogenes, P53 Cancers, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer stem cell, pre-neoplastic lesion, chemotherapy, paclitaxel, cell biology

---

**Alexander Zaika, PhD**

Department: Surgery  
Email: axz353@med.miami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Esophageal Cancer, Stomach (Gastric) Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** P53 Cancers

**Description of Research Interests:** Esophageal and gastric carcinogenesis. Cancers caused by infection agents.

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University of Florida Health

**Kara Anazia**  
**Graduate Student**

Department: Chemistry  
Email: [karaanazia@ufl.edu](mailto:karaanazia@ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:**

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling

**Description of Research Interests:** I am currently a student in Dr. Matthew Eddy's lab studying the effects that cancer-causing mutations have on the GTPase's ability to bind its nucleotide GDP and GTP using NMR spectroscopy.

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**Rich Bennett, PhD**  
**Research Assistant Professor**

Department: Medicine  
Email: [bennettr@ufl.edu](mailto:bennettr@ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia, Lung Cancer, Melanoma, Multiple Myeloma-Plasma Cell Tumor

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Bioinformatics, B-RAF Cancers, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, DNA Damage, Epigenetics, Genetics, K-RAS Cancers, Mutation Research, Oncogenes, Tumor Suppressors, RNA Biology

**Description of Research Interests:** research focus is to determine how deranged epigenetic mechanisms contribute to cancer

- <https://licht.cancer.ufl.edu>
  - @Richwants2know
-

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

### **Wesley Bolch, MD, PhD**

Department: College of Engineering  
Email: wbolch@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Radiology

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Medical physics, computational human phantoms, internal radiation dosimetry, external radiation dosimetry, medical imaging, radiation cancer therapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Internal radiation dosimetry, radiation damage to DNA, NMR microscopy of bone, organ dose assessment in diagnostic radiology, radiation bioeffects.

- <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=dADRKU8AAAAJ&hl=en>
- 

### **Roniel Cabrera, MD** **Associate Professor of Medicine**

Department: Medicine, Div of Gastro and Hepatology  
Email: roniel.cabrera@medicine.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Liver Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Drug Discovery, Immunotherapy, Health Outcomes

**Description of Research Interests:** Biomarker and clinical trial drug development for hepatocellular carcinoma.

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### **Ozlem Calbay** **Research Assistant**

Department: Anatomy and Cell Biology  
Email: ozlem@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Ovarian Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling

**Description of Research Interests:** Cell signaling pathways

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## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

### **Paul Castillo, MD**

Department: Pediatrics  
Email: castilopa@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), Osteosarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Our group develops novel immunotherapy, RNA vaccine and CAR T therapy, for liquid and solid tumors.

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### **Demetra Chrisotu, PhD** **Associate Professor**

Department: Applied Physiology and Kinesiology  
Email: ddchristou@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research

**Description of Research Interests:** Exercise Oncology, cardiovascular effects of cancer therapy, cancer and aging

---

### **Eric Cooks, PhD**

Department: T32  
Email: ecooks@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colorectal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Health Disparities, Screening

**Description of Research Interests:** Applying Communication Science to improve health outcomes.

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### **Lakeshia Cousin, PhD, APRN** **Assistant Professor**

Department: Cancer Control and Population Sciences  
Email: lakeshiacousin@ufl.edu

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Survivorship

**Description of Research Interests:** Breast cancer disparities, cardio-oncology

- <https://nursing.ufl.edu/profile/cousin-lakeshia/>
- [https://twitter.com/Lakeshia\\_APRN](https://twitter.com/Lakeshia_APRN)

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**Paul Crispen, MD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Urology  
Email: paul.crispen@urology.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Bladder Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Urologic malignancies with focus on bladder cancer

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**Kellie Curry, RN, CCRP**

Department: CRO  
Email: kelli Curry@ufl.edu

**Description of Research Interests:** Solid Tumors

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**Christopher D. Batich, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Materials Science and Engineering  
Email: cbatich@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Squamous Cell Carcinoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** Drug delivery

- [https://twitter.com/UF\\_HE\\_LAB](https://twitter.com/UF_HE_LAB)

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Melody Dove**  
**Clinical Research Coordinator**

Department: Clinical Trials  
Email: dove.melody@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colorectal Cancer, Esophageal Cancer, Neuroendocrine Tumor, Pancreatic Cancer, Rectal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Health Disparities, screening

**Description of Research Interests:** I am interested in how health disparities influence cancer treatment

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**Bently Doonan, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Medicine  
Email: bently.doonan@medicine.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Melanoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology, Immunotherapy, Metastasis

**Description of Research Interests:** Understanding and selectively manipulating the immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment of advanced metastatic solid tumors specifically melanoma brain metastases

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**Leighton Elliott, MD**  
**Hematology/Oncology Fellow**

Department: Hematology/Oncology  
Email: leightonelliott@medicine.ufl.edu

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**Jennina Garde,**  
**Clinical Research Assistant/Intern**

Department: Department of Medicine  
Email: jenninalgarde@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** MDS, Hodgkin Lymphoma, Leukemia, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), Multiple Myeloma-Plasma Cell Tumor, Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)



## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** N/A

**Description of Research Interests:** Hematologic Malignancies

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**Timothy Garrett, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Pathology, Immunology, and Laboratory Medicine  
Email: tgarret@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:**

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Lipidomics, Mass Spectrometry, Metabolomics

**Description of Research Interests:** The application of direct tissue analysis approaches such as MALDI, DESI, and LMJSSP as well as the use of high-resolution mass spectrometry in metabolomics and routine diagnostics.

- <https://pathology.ufl.edu/profile/garrett-timothy/#about-timothy-j-garrett>
- 

**Shasha Gao,**  
**Graduate student**

Department: Department of Mathematics  
Email: shashagao@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Cervical Cancer, Head and Neck Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology

**Description of Research Interests:** Epidemiology, especially HPV

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**Thomas George, MD**  
**Professor and Associate Director for Clinical Research**

Department: Medicine  
Email: thom.george@medicine.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colon Cancer, Esophageal Cancer, Gallbladder Cancer, Gastrointestinal Carcinoid Tumor, Pancreatic Cancer, Rectal Cancer, Small Intestine Cancer, Stomach (Gastric) Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Discovery, Drug Resistance, Immunotherapy, K-RAS Cancers, Drug Development; Precision Oncology

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Description of Research Interests:** Clinical research in gastrointestinal malignancies

- <https://hemonc.medicine.ufl.edu/profile/george-thomas/>
  - <https://twitter.com/TGeorgeMD>
- 

**Tongjun Gu, PhD**  
**Assistant Scientist**

Department: ICBR  
Email: [tgu@ufl.edu](mailto:tgu@ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Kidney (Renal Cell) Cancer, Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Bioinformatics

**Description of Research Interests:** Apply AI approaches to identify cancer biomarkers and understand the biological mechanisms

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**Olga Guryanova, MD, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Pharmacology & Therapeutics  
Email: [oguryanova@ufl.edu](mailto:oguryanova@ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Signaling, DNA Damage, Drug Resistance, Epigenetics, Oncogenes, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** My NIH-funded lab studies epigenetic regulation of myeloid development in normal and malignant hematopoiesis, especially in the setting of mutant DNMT3A. Using genetic animal models, we investigate molecular networks that regulate HSC differentiation, clonal expansion, propensity for malignant transformation, and response to therapies.

- <https://pharmacology.med.ufl.edu/profile/guryanova-olga/>
  - @gur\_ola
- 

**Jacob Harmer**  
**CCSG Administrator**

Department: UF Health Cancer Center

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Email: jacob.harmer@ufl.edu

**Description of Research Interests:** Research Administration

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**Mei He, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Pharmaceutics  
Email: mhe@cop.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Bladder Cancer, Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Drug Discovery, Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Extracellular vesicles-based drug delivery and cancer immunotherapy

- <https://he.pharmacy.ufl.edu/>
  - [https://twitter.com/UF\\_HE\\_LAB](https://twitter.com/UF_HE_LAB)
- 

**Young-Rock Hong, PhD MPH**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Health Services Research, Management and Policy  
Email: youngrock.h@phhp.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colorectal Cancer, Head and Neck Cancer, Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Screening

**Description of Research Interests:** Disparities in access to cancer screening and supportive care

- <https://hsrmp.phhp.ufl.edu/profile/hong-young-rock/>
  - @youngrock\_h
- 

**Alicia Hou**  
**Medical Student**

Department: College of Medicine  
Email: ahou1@ufl.edu

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer, Glioblastoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** CAR T cell therapy for glioblastoma. Interested in exploring other cancers and approaches as well.

**Robert H. Houlihan, DHA, MBA, FACHE, CCRP, CRA**  
**Associate Director for Administration**

Department: Administration  
Email: rhoulihan@ufl.edu

**Description of Research Interests:** Clinical Research and accrual barriers

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**Jianping Huang, MD, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Neurosurgery  
Email: jianping.huang@neurosurgery.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer, Glioblastoma, Head and Neck Cancer, Lung Cancer, Melanoma, Osteosarcoma, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Develop Novel Cancer Immunotherapy Approaches

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**Luisel J Ricks-Santi, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research  
Email: lrickssanti@cop.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers, Cell Biology, DNA Damage, Epidemiology, Genetics, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Mutation Research, Radiomics, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** Genetic basis of cancer disparities.

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**Janice Krieger, PhD**  
**Professor; Co-Program Leader CCPS**

Department: STEM Translational Communication Center

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Email: [janicekrieger@ufl.edu](mailto:janicekrieger@ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research

**Description of Research Interests:** Recruitment and Retention to Cancer Research, Cancer Communication, Dissemination and Implementation

- <https://www.jou.ufl.edu/stem/>
- DrJaniceKrieger

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**Lidia Kulemina, MD**  
**Administrative Director for Research Administration**

Department: UFHCC  
Email: [kulemina@ufl.edu](mailto:kulemina@ufl.edu)

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Resistance

**Description of Research Interests:** Drug Resistance

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**Nghi Lam,**  
**Clinical Research Coordinator**

Department: Experimental Therapeutics Group  
Email: [nghi.lam@cancer.ufl.edu](mailto:nghi.lam@cancer.ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Phase 1 Trials / Disease agnostic

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**John Ligon, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Email: [john.ligon@ufl.edu](mailto:john.ligon@ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Sarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** I am a translational researcher committed to advancing novel cellular therapies and immunotherapies to treat children and young adults with cancer and

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blood disorders. I will collaborate with other researchers to open cutting-edge clinical trials and offer new therapies to patients who have exhausted standard treatment approaches.

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**Jianrong Lu, PhD**  
**Associate Prof**

Department: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Email: jrlu@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Signaling, Epigenetics

**Description of Research Interests:** cancer epigenetics and metabolism

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**Steven Madore, PhD**  
**Associate Director for Shared Resources**

Department: ICBR  
Email: smadore@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Biotechnology

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Genomics & Biotechnology

**Description of Research Interests:** Gene Expression

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**Vanessa Z. McGaughey, BSc**

Department: Biology  
Email: v.mcgaughey@umiami.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Osteosarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Biology, Immunology

**Description of Research Interests:** Various types of cancer and their interactions with the immune system

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**Matthew Merritt, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Email: matthewmerritt@ufl.edu

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Imaging, Metabolism, Metabolomics

**Description of Research Interests:** I develop isotope methods for precisely estimating metabolic flux, using mass spectrometry, NMR, and MRI.

- <https://biochem.med.ufl.edu/research/primary-faculty/matthew-e-merritt/>
- 

**Erin Mobley, PhD, MPH**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Department of Surgery

Email: [erin.mobley@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:erin.mobley@jax.ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colorectal Cancer, Esophageal Cancer, Leukemia, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), Pancreatic Cancer, Sarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Epidemiology, Health Disparities, Health Outcomes, Survivorship

**Description of Research Interests:** access to care, insurance coverage, financial toxicity, employment and educational attainment, clinical trials, fertility concerns and other disparities experienced by cancer survivors.

- <https://med.jax.ufl.edu/directory/bio/3667/erin-mobley/>
  - <https://twitter.com/ErinMMobley>
- 

**Erin Monari, PhD**

Department: Clinical Research Office

Email: [clh1230@ufl.edu](mailto:clh1230@ufl.edu)

**Description of Research Interests:** Managing clinical trials and our research network

---

**Bernadett Papp, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Oral Biology

Email: [bpapp@dental.ufl.edu](mailto:bpapp@dental.ufl.edu)

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Sarcoma, Mechanisms of

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Oncogenesis, Epigenetics, Oncogenic viruses

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Bioinformatics, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Epigenetics, Virology

**Description of Research Interests:** Mechanisms of Oncogenesis, Epigenetics, Oncogenic viruses

- <https://dental.ufl.edu/profile/papp-bernadett/>

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**Gabriella Peguero Kushner**  
**McKnight Fellow Graduate Student**

Department: Oral Biology  
Email: gabriela.peguero@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Cell Signaling

**Description of Research Interests:** Mechanisms of Oncogenesis; Breast cancer

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**Deidre Pereira, PhD**  
**Associate Professor & Associate Chair**

Department: Clinical & Health Psychology  
Email: dpereira@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Psycho-Oncology

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Health Outcomes, Survivorship

**Description of Research Interests:** Psycho-Oncology, Psychoneuroimmunology, Women's Health, Clinical Trials

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**Fernanda Pohl Guimaraes, PhD**  
**Postdoctoral Associate**

Department: Neurological surgery  
Email: fpgfarmacia@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer



## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** RNA-modified T cells, stem cell

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**Lori Rice, PhD**  
**Research Assistant Professor**

Department: Radiation Oncology  
Email: lrice@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Biomarkers, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Metastasis, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** Role of tumor microenvironment in metastasis. Role of FGF2 in mitigation of normal tissue radiation injury.

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**Ramzi Salloum, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics  
Email: rsalloum@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Behavioral Research, Health Outcomes

**Description of Research Interests:** implementation science, tobacco control, economic evaluation

- <https://hobi.med.ufl.edu/profile/salloum-ramzi/>
  - @ramzi\_salloum
- 

**Marlene Sarmiento, RN**

Department: Medicine Oncology  
Email: msarmien@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Colon Cancer, Colorectal Cancer, Gallbladder Cancer, Head and Neck Cancer, Lung Cancer, Ovarian Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy, Imaging

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**Description of Research Interests:** Phase 1 & 2 clinical trials for solid tumors

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**W. Gregory Sawyer, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Email: wgsawyer@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Colorectal Cancer, Glioblastoma, Head and Neck Cancer, Melanoma, Osteosarcoma, Pancreatic Cancer, Sarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Drug Discovery, Immunology, Immunotherapy, Imaging, Mathematical Modeling, Metastasis, Microenvironment

**Description of Research Interests:** iVITA: in Vitro Immuno-Therapy Assays

- sawyer.mae.ufl.edu
- 

**Elias Sayour, MD, PhD**  
**Associate Professor**

Department: Neurosurgery  
Email: esayour@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunology

**Description of Research Interests:** cancer immunotherapy, mRNA vaccines

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**Nathan Seligson, PharmD**  
**Assistant Professor**

Department: Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research  
Email: nseligson@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Sarcoma

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Bioinformatics, Biomarkers, Genetics

**Description of Research Interests:**

- <https://pharmacy.ufl.edu/profile/seligson-nathan/>

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

- @nathanseligson
- 

### **Vivek Shastri, PhD**

Department: Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research  
Email: vivekshastri@cop.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, DNA Damage, Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** Immunotherapy

- <https://lamba.pharmacy.ufl.edu/>
- 

### **Xin Tang, PhD** **Assistant Professor**

Department: MAE  
Email: xin.tang@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A, Breast Cancer, Colon Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Cell Signaling

**Description of Research Interests:** Cancer Biophysics

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### **Dennis Viet Le** **Clinical Research Assistant**

Department: Solid Tumor Division  
Email: ledennis@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Basal Cell Carcinoma, Bladder Cancer, Breast Cancer, Colon Cancer, Leukemia, Lymphomas (Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin), Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, Pancreatic Cancer, Rectal Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Epigenetics, Genetics

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### **Christina Von Roemeling, PhD** **Post Doc**

## 2022 FACCA ATTENDEES

Department: Neurosurgery  
Email: c.vonroemeling@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Immunotherapy, Imaging

**Description of Research Interests:** Targeted reprogramming of tumor associated macrophages to enable immune rejection of cancer

- <https://twitter.com/TGeorgeMD>

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**Natalie Wasykowski**  
**Research Administration Manager**

Department: Cancer Center  
Email: natalie.roman@ufl.edu

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**John Wingard, MD**  
**Professor**

Department: Medicine  
Email: wingajr@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Leukemia

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Immunotherapy

**Description of Research Interests:** clinical trials

---

**Chengguo Xing, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Medical Chemistry  
Email: chengguoxing@cop.ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Biomarkers

**Description of Research Interests:** Biomarker-based cancer risk and treatment outcome and cancer prevention

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- <https://mc.pharmacy.ufl.edu/research/faculty-research-areas/xing-laboratory/>
- 

**Maria Zajac-Kaye, PhD**  
**Professor, Interim Chair**

Department: Anatomy and Cell Biology  
Email: mzajackaye@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Lung Cancer, Neuroendocrine Tumor, Pancreatic Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Cell Biology, Cell Signaling, Drug Discovery, Genetics, K-RAS Cancers, Oncogenes, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** Development of an animal model to study the effect of thymidylate synthase expression on the biology of exocrine pancreatic cancer, Cooperation of CDKN2A/p16 gene inactivation, Kras mutation and thymidylate synthase overexpression in tumor development, Multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 (MEN1) gene inactivation and thymidylate synthase overexpression in the development of islet cell carcinoma, Targeted drugs and siRNA delivery for pancreatic and lung cancer in an in vitro and in vivo animal models

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**Lei (Lee) Zhou, PhD**  
**Professor**

Department: Mol. Genetics and Microbiology  
Email: leizhou@ufl.edu

**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** N/A

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Animal Models, Bioinformatics, Immunology, Epigenetics, Genetics, P53 Cancers, Tumor Suppressors

**Description of Research Interests:** Innate immune response to tumor and metastatic cancer; Epigenetic regulation of P53 mediated pro-apoptotic response.

- <http://mgm.ufl.edu/profile/zhou-lei/>
- 

**University of Ilorin:**

**Deborah Obadofin**

Department: Molecular Diagnostic and Research Laboratory  
Email: obadofindeborah@gmail.com

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**Clinical Field(s) of Practice or Research:** Brain Cancer, Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer

**Scientific Area(s) of Research Expertise:** Artificial Intelligence, Bioinformatics, Cell Biology, Drug Discovery, Genetics

**Description of Research Interests:** I'm a Research student undergoing training in a Molecular laboratory in order to build scientific and research skills