ONE YEAR AT HOAG'S MOLECULAR IMAGING & THERAPY PROGRAM

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Hospital

Gary Ulaner, MD, PhD, FACNM

James & Pamela Muzzy Endowed Chair in Molecular Imaging and Therapy

You came to Hoag in September 2020. What inspired you to join Hoag?

The major attraction was the vision of the cancer center—specifically that of Dr. Burt Eisenberg. When I told him what we would need to establish a molecular imaging and therapy program at Hoag, he made it happen. Before joining Hoag, I was an associate professor at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and looking for the opportunity to lead and grow my own program. The executive, administrative and philanthropic support I have at Hoag made it the perfect fit to do just that.

What is your vision for building a comprehensive molecular imaging and therapy program at Hoag?

Our ultimate vision is to develop targeted diagnostic and therapeutic agents for every type of cancer. To start, we must select what's most likely to be successful and invest our resources there. Right now, we have molecular imaging and therapy projects for patients with prostate cancer, breast cancer and myeloma. We're constantly collaborating across Hoag and with other institutions to open new trials with novel agents. We're also expanding the program into one that educates physicians through a fellowship program and a continuing education course that will help grow Hoag as a center of excellence.

You were recently named the James & Pamela Muzzy Endowed Chair in Molecular Imaging and Therapy. Can you share with us the role philanthropy plays in your work?

The Muzzy family has been remarkably supportive of Hoag's Molecular Imaging & Therapy Program and of me. They recently committed to funding a molecular imaging and therapy fellowship program as well. To create that opportunity for fellows as they grow in their careers is incredible. Each year, we will graduate one to two trainees who will go on to academic institutions or private practices where they will exponentially improve the care patients receive. I am incredibly grateful to have Hoag's philanthropic community behind me. They add to the success of Hoag in general and molecular imaging and therapy specifically, which is a huge advantage over other institutions that don't have the pilot funding or grants to run the same kind of projects. Through philanthropy, Hoag can bring the most promising agents into clinical trials.

Visit the Hoag Hospital Foundation website to read the full interview.

Breaking News: Dr. Gary Ulaner elected 2022-2023 president of the American College of Nuclear Medicine

2021 PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Awarded Hoag's first National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant with a Hoag physician as principal investigator

Received industry/pharma sponsorship for four trials, establishing Hoag as a major partner in molecular imaging and therapy development

Received the James & Pamela Muzzy Endowed Chair in Molecular Imaging and Therapy

Received endowment funding to develop the Muzzy Family Endowed Fellowship in Molecular Imaging and Therapy, which anticipates its first fellow in June 2023

Enrolled over 220 patients in new clinical trials at Hoag, over a third of whom have trial findings that improved clinical care

LEADING THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE



For breast cancer patient Kimberly Reinika and many others like her, Dr. Ulaner's work makes all the difference in determining the best course of treatment. Kimberly was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer after finding a lump in her right breast. Now, she's managing her cancer with just two pills a day that deliver targeted radiation directly to her cancer cells. Visit the Hoag Hospital Foundation's website to watch Kimberly's full story.

SEVEN TRIALS OPENED WITHIN FIRST YEAR:

Clinical Trial	Malignancy/Science	Highlights/Results
CD38-targeted imaging with [®] Zr-DFO-daratumumab	 Myeloma Phase II trial to evaluate possible clinical applications of immunoPET imaging for patients with myeloma 	 First NIH-funded trial with principal investigator at Hoag Included first patient in the United States to undergo this type of advanced imaging
PyL PET imaging	 Prostate cancer Phase II trial of molecularly targeted imaging for patients with prostate cancer 	 Completed the entire 184-patient trial in 2021 Demonstrates value of PyL PET/CT for patients with newly diagnosed and biochemically recurrent prostate cancer Manuscript in preparation
ARROW trial	 Prostate cancer Phase II trial of molecularly targeted radiotherapy for patients with prostate cancer 	 Hoag has the second highest number of patients enrolled among 40 hospitals worldwide
Estrogen receptor (ER) imaging	 Breast cancer Phase II trial of ER-targeted PET for detecting extent of disease in patients with ER-positive breast cancer 	 Results show FES PET outperforms current standard of care imaging Presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, the largest breast cancer conference in the world
⁸⁹ Zr-pertuzumab imaging	 Breast cancer Phase I trial of human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-targeted imaging for patients with HER2-targeted breast cancer 	 NIH-funded Performed in collaboration with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York Preliminary results suggest a successful new method for imaging breast cancer metastases
FACBC and PSMA imaging	 Breast cancer Phase II trial of novel imaging agents for breast cancer 	 NIH-funded Performed in collaboration with Emory University in Georgia
FDG imaging of histiocytosis	Histiocytosis	 NIH-funded Performed in collaboration with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York

UPCOMING TRIALS AT HOAG IN 2022:

Clinical Trial	Malignancy/Science	
iPREDICT ImaginAB	 Lung cancer, melanoma, renal cell carcinoma Novel imaging agent to help determine which patients will respond to immunotherapies 	
FES phase IV	 Breast cancer Phase IV (post FDA approval) trial to determine how often estrogen receptor (ER)-targeted imaging alters treatment strategies in ER-positive breast cancer 	
POINT PSMA-targeted therapy	Prostate cancerHigh-energy radiotherapy of metastatic prostate cancer	
Curium PSMA-targeted therapy	Prostate cancerHigh-energy radiotherapy of metastatic prostate cancer	
Fibroblast associated protein inhibitor (FAPI) imaging	 Pancreatic cancer Compare FAPI imaging to current standards of care for evaluation of pancreatic cancer 	
SPARC and BriaCell trials In collaboration with Dr. Chaitali Nangia of Hoag	 Breast cancer Novel therapy agent for breast cancer FES PET/CT will be used to determine the optimal dose of the novel drug 	

HOW MOLECULAR IMAGING WORKS

USING A LOCK-AND-KEY DESIGN, NEW AGENTS CAN BE DEVELOPED TO IMAGE AND TREAT DIFFERENT CANCERS



"Dr. Ulaner is a true physician-scientist. He has been a tremendous asset in continuing to advance research and engage Hoag physicians and the community at large."

 Burton Eisenberg, MD, Grace E. Hoag Executive Medical Director Endowed Chair, Hoag Family Cancer Institute

