

2017 NCI Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award (CCITLA) Recipients

Ajjai Alva, M.D.	University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center Focus: genitourinary cancers
Lisa Barroilhet, M.D.	University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center Focus: gynecologic cancers
Ursa Brown-Glaberman, M.D.	University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center Focus: breast cancer
Shira Dinner, M.D.	Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center Northwestern University Focus: leukemia
Jean Hoffman-Censits, M.D.	Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Thomas Jefferson University Focus: bladder and prostate cancers
Kevin Kalinsky, M.D.	Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center Columbia University Focus: breast cancer
Christopher Lieu, M.D.	University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center Focus: colorectal cancer
Rahul Parikh, M.D., Ph.D.	University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Focus: bladder cancer
Eric Roeland, M.D.	Moores Comprehensive Cancer Center University of California, San Diego Focus: symptom intervention / palliative care (all cancers), gastrointestinal cancers
April Salama, M.D.	Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center Focus: melanoma

*For a list of past CCITLA awardees, please visit:
<http://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/ccct/funding/ccitla>*



Ajjai Alva, M.D.

University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center

Focus: Genitourinary cancers

Dr. Ajjai Alva is an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Hematology-Oncology, specializing in urologic cancer clinical research and management. He has extensive experience in conducting prospective clinical trials at the University of Michigan Cancer Center and through the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium. He is currently a global and/or University of Michigan site principal investigator on 16 active clinical trials including several NCI cooperative group trials in advanced genitourinary cancers, combination immunotherapy approaches and genome sequencing-directed therapies. He has had a consistently outstanding record of accrual to clinical studies including involving molecularly selected subjects as EAY131 (MATCH) throughout my career. He serves as the University of Michigan Sponsor Principal Investigator for the P30 Supplement for Access to Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN) Agents. He has leadership positions in multi-site organizations such as the Big Ten Cancer Research Network (Co-chair of the GU working group), SWOG (GU committee member), ASCO TAPUR (Steering Committee and Molecular Tumor Board member) and the NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP) Investigator Steering Committee.

With the CCITLA, Dr. Alva will serve as a mentor and manager overseeing the clinical trials portfolio of the Genitourinary Oncology Clinical Research Team and leading efforts within the team to develop new trials. Dr. Alva will continue to mentor fellows and junior faculty in clinical research and trials. He will also work with research coordinators to streamline institutional clinic processes related to opening new trials and patient accrual.



Lisa Barroilhet, M.D., FACOG

University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center

Focus: Gynecologic cancers

Dr. Barroilhet is an Assistant Professor of Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She is the Director of Clinical Research in Gynecologic Oncology and a Dolores Buchler Endowed Research Fellow. Dr. Barroilhet currently serves as the Director of the Gynecology Disease Oriented Team and is also an active participant in the Protocol Monitoring and Review Committee and her department's Research Advisory Committee. She is very involved at a national level, serving on the NCCN Ovarian Cancer Panel and as a member of the Developmental Therapeutics Committee within the NRG Oncology group.

Dr. Barroilhet plans to promote a successful clinical research culture at her institution by creating an inclusive environment so that any member of the patient care team feels empowered to learn more about clinical research. She would like to formalize trainee education on clinical research, starting with a short lecture series geared toward medical students, residents and fellows. Her team would like to highlight topics such as the responsible conduct of research and how to obtain informed consent. They would also like to provide logistical support for finding a qualified statistician and how to work with an Institutional Review Board. Creating the next generation of clinical researchers is one of the most important missions of this award and is an area of particular interest to her. She would like to see current weekly multi-disciplinary conferences and monthly journal clubs expand in scope to include topics such as grantsmanship, manuscript preparation and critical review of the literature. Having protected time dedicated specifically to augmenting clinical research at the institution will allow her to formalize much of what is done with trainees ad lib. Participating in a mentorship seminar will allow her to become a more effective leader and teacher. National conferences allow for unparalleled opportunities to network and participate in committees whose sole focus is improving access to clinical trials for their patients. The CCITLA will help her move her career forward, but more importantly, will help her Cancer Center fulfill its commitment to leading-edge research to provide better treatment and cures for cancer.



Ursa Brown-Glaberman, M.D.

University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center

Focus: Breast cancer

Dr. Brown-Glaberman holds a Doctor of Medicine from The University of New Mexico School of Medicine where she also completed a research fellowship in the Department of Pathology. She completed her internship, residency and hematology / oncology fellowship at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, where she served as both chief resident and chief fellow. Dr. Brown-Glaberman returned to her home state and to the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center (UNMCCC) in 2013. Dr. Brown-Glaberman's interests are centered on the treatment of solid tumors, particularly breast cancer. Her research focuses on the development of prognostic and predictive biomarkers to guide the use of novel therapies. She co-leads the Breast Cancer Clinical Working Group and leads the Breast Protocol Development Subgroup at the UNMCCC.

Dr. Brown-Glaberman actively participates in NCI-sponsored clinical trials and is the Institutional Principal Investigator for numerous NCI cooperative group studies. Since her arrival in 2013, Dr. Brown-Glaberman has also driven the UNMCCC Breast Clinical Working Group investigator initiated clinical trial efforts. She led the development of three highly collaborative investigator-initiated trials and served as co-investigator on several others. Four of these studies merited internal pilot funding, demonstrating potential for future expansion/external funding. As an example, the study "Patient Perceptions Regarding Radiation Mode as Part of Breast Conserving Therapy in the Context of Cancer Care Delivery", for which Dr. Brown-Glaberman is PI, will enhance our understanding of the breast cancer care experiences and barriers to radiation therapy in New Mexico women. Our patient population stands to benefit significantly, with the potential to improve the quality of cancer care delivery and patient outcomes in New Mexico and in other similarly underserved patient populations.

Support from the CCITLA will allow Dr. Brown-Glaberman to pursue the following goals. 1) To work with community oncology sites throughout the New Mexico Cancer Care Alliance to enhance enrollment on breast cancer clinical trials, thus promoting one of our key missions as an NCORP site; 2) To expand her participation in the breast cancer and NCORP working groups at ECOG; 3) To further develop her individual research skills in health outcomes leading to continued investigator-initiated trials with emphasis on breast cancer disparities; 4) To serve as the breast cancer lead for patient enrollment on Phase I trials at the UNMCCC.



Shira Dinner, M.D.

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, Northwestern University

Focus: Leukemia

Dr. Dinner is a clinical researcher with an interest in novel molecularly targeted therapies for leukemia, in particular acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). She completed undergraduate, medical, and internal medicine residency training at the University of Chicago. During her residency, she studied biomarkers as predictors of outcomes for stem cell transplant, as well as anemia and MDS in elderly patients, under the mentorship of Dr. Andrew Artz. As a postdoctoral fellow in Hematology/Oncology at Stanford University she worked under the direction of Dr. Michaela Liedtke on an investigator initiated phase II trial in relapsed ALL and two phase I trials in relapsed multiple myeloma. Under Dr. Liedtke's mentorship, Dr. Dinner also wrote a manuscript reporting results of an investigator initiated trial of melphalan, dexamethasone and lenalidomide in immunoglobulin light chain amyloidosis. With these trials, she learned skills in study development, protocol writing, patient monitoring, data collection and analysis, which she has applied to her development as an independent investigator. As well, during her fellowship she received an NIH Loan Repayment Award that remains active.

Since joining the faculty at Northwestern University in 2013 Dr. Dinner chose to focus her research interests in acute leukemia and was awarded research funding to support an investigator initiated trial of volasertib in relapsed/refractory ALL by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). (Unfortunately, the sponsor of volasertib suspended further development of the drug, so this trial will not be pursued further during the Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award (CCITLA) award period as initially planned.) She has also received funding for an investigator initiated trial of dasatinib and nivolumab in relapsed/refractory Philadelphia chromosome positive ALL, which is currently open to enrollment and will be her primary focus during the CCITLA award. She is developing 2 studies with tyrosine kinase inhibitors for the newly identified molecular entity Philadelphia-*like* ALL that she aims to open during the award period. As well, she is collaborating with basic science colleagues to investigate other cellular pathways that may be effectively targeted in Ph-*like* ALL with BCL2 and/or bromodomain inhibitors that could lead to future clinical trials. Dr. Dinner is opening a trial of metformin and azacitidine in AML and high risk MDS that is based on translational research conducted at Northwestern University by Drs. Leonidas Plataniias and Jessica Altman.

In addition to trial development, Dr. Dinner established the infrastructure to support her institution's participation in clinical trials of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy and to serve as the principal investigator (PI) for a phase II trial of CAR T cells in ALL, which will be reporting results shortly. She will plan to open and lead the next ALL CAR T trial at Northwestern University (NU) within the coming 6-12 months. She is a member of the ECOG leukemia core committee and the PI for a phase III cooperative group study of blinatumomab in newly diagnosed ALL. She also serves on the NCCN myeloid growth factor committee and the adolescent and young adult committee, which is highly relevant to a large age group represented in adult ALL. Within the Northwestern University Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, she participates in the IRB, scientific review committee, and trial audit committee. She will continue to organize and lead the NU Division of Hematology/Oncology grand round lecture series, which features speakers from leading peer academic institutions.



Jean Hoffman-Censits, M.D.

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University

Focus: Bladder and prostate cancers

Dr. Hoffman-Censits is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson in Philadelphia. She graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, CT with a degree in neuroscience. She received her medical degree from the Jefferson Medical College, and completed residency and chief residency in internal medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. She completed fellowship training in Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. Dr. Hoffman-Censits is the Director of the Genitourinary Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinic, and the Chair of the Data Safety and Monitoring Committee at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC). Dr. Hoffman-Censits is a member of the core Genitourinary Committee of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, is a member of the NCI Bladder Cancer Task Force, and is on the scientific advisory board for BCAN, the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network. Her clinical research focus is in the development of novel therapies for locally advanced and metastatic bladder and prostate cancers. She has developed a robust clinical trials portfolio for bladder cancer at Jefferson.

As a recipient of a 2017 Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award, Dr. Hoffman-Censits will continue work in identification and resolution of barriers to clinical trials enrollment at the SKCC. Dr. Hoffman-Censits plans to implement modern use of technology such as a searchable smartphone application, utilization of EMR, and of the telemedicine program at Jefferson to facilitate clinical trials referrals and patient recruitment from community practices. She will lead the charge of the patient education program in clinical trials for the SKCC, including in the recently opened resource center where all new patients will touchdown prior to first clinical encounter. An updated education program in clinical trials for SKCC clinicians, nursing and clinical support staff will be designed and implemented. Dr. Hoffman-Censits will open an investigator initiated trial in newly diagnosed oligometastatic prostate cancer and plans an intergroup trial in upper tract urothelial cancer.



Kevin Kalinsky, M.D.

**Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center
Columbia University**

Focus: Breast cancer

Dr. Kevin Kalinsky is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center and faculty member at the Herbert Irving Cancer Center (HICCC) at Columbia University.

His clinical practice and research interests focus on patients with breast cancer. His career has concentrated on designing and conducting early-phase trials in breast cancer based upon tumor biology, including genomics. As leader of the developmental therapeutics for the HICCC breast cancer program, Dr. Kalinsky has successfully been able to integrate multiple academic disciplines, including laboratory scientists, systems biologists, pathologists, and clinicians, into a framework to address fundamental questions of applying mutation and non-oncogene master regulator dependencies to breast cancer care. In addition to his leadership role in the HICCC, Dr. Kalinsky has developed a national presence by leading trials in early therapeutics and breast cancer within several National Cancer Institute (NCI)-sponsored programs, including the NCTN (SWOG), New York Phase II Consortium (U01), NCI MATCH and the Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN).

As a recipient of the Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award, he will develop a program at the HICCC that looks beyond mutation dependency in breast cancer and incorporates computational biology to identify targets and novel therapeutics and combinations in breast cancer patients. His goal is to translate these findings into larger studies within the NCI network programs.



Christopher Lieu, M.D.

University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center

Focus: Colorectal cancer

Dr. Lieu joined the University of Colorado School of Medicine faculty as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in July 2011. He trained in internal medicine at the University of Colorado, where he also served as a Chief Medical Resident. He completed his fellowship training in medical oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and served as the Chief Medical Oncology Fellow in 2010. He currently serves as the Director of Colorectal Medical Oncology at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and is a member of the National Cancer Institute Colon Cancer Task Force. Dr. Lieu is interested in resistance mechanisms to targeted therapy in GI cancers, and he was awarded the Conquer Cancer Foundation Career Development Award and a NIH K23 grant to study targeted therapies in colorectal cancer. Dr. Lieu is also investigating novel therapeutic strategies to more effectively treat and prevent colorectal cancer in young adults.

Development of an Investigator-Initiated Trial (IIT) Program and Cancer Center Wide Principal Investigator Education Program

Investigator-Initiated Trials (IITs) are a high priority for advancing cancer care, as they address important scientific questions generated by the cancer center investigators and may lay the groundwork for larger, multi-center and later-stage studies. Barriers to the efficient opening of high-priority IITs include inconsistent protocol development, complex budgetary needs due to the high frequency of correlative studies, complex regulatory issues including the need for IND submission, and the lack of complete funding to conduct the trial. One of Dr. Lieu's primary tasks in his new role as the Deputy Associate Director for Clinical Research is the continuing development of the new Investigator-Initiated Trials Program with the overall goal of streamlining the process for investigator-initiated trial concept development, protocol development, and approval. The goal of this program is to improve the preclinical studies conducted to support the clinical trial rationale, improve the speed and efficiency of protocol development and regulatory submission, and to provide financial support to concepts approved for development.

Dr. Lieu will also establish a system-wide principal investigator education program. This process will include formalizing the coursework and certifications needed for all investigators in the cancer center. This process is critical to the cancer center mission, as this will ensure that all cancer center investigators across all specialties have completed the required coursework and will ensure that all investigators have received the same training critical to the conduct of responsible clinical trial research.



Rahul Parikh, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute

Focus: Bladder cancer

Dr. Rahul A. Parikh is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI), where he is the Director of the Bladder Cancer Clinical Investigation. He completed his medical school training at the Seth G.S. Medical College and King Edward Memorial (K.E.M) Hospital, Mumbai, India. He subsequently trained in cancer cytogenetics and DNA repair for his doctoral program in Human Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently evaluating the role of an upregulated ATR-CHK1 pathway in the development of resistance to chemotherapy and radiation therapy in bladder cancer. This research is funded by the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) Young Investigator Award (2015-2017). He is the institutional principal investigator (PI) for the California Cancer Consortium (CCC) and the recently formed Pennsylvania Cancer Consortium (PCC) for their studies involving urothelial malignancies. He also works closely with our Hematology-Oncology fellowship and internal medicine residency program to encourage their participation in our clinical research program.

Over the course of the award period, Dr. Parikh will establish a multi-disciplinary Bladder Cancer Clinic and initiate a registry of patients referred to the Bladder Cancer Clinic, with data, which will include tumor variables, molecular findings and treatment history. He will focus the Urological Clinical Translation Research Group (UCTRG) a multidisciplinary effort composed of Urology, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Pathology on the prioritization of bladder cancer clinical trials across disciplines, organization of tissue collection efforts, and planning of retrospective studies using large databases. He will continue to develop and lead early phase clinical studies through the NCI Experimental Therapeutics-Clinical Trials Network with Phase 1 Emphasis (ET-CTN) UM1 grant for early-phase clinical trials at UPCI.



Eric Roeland, M.D.

**Moore's Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of California, San Diego**

**Focus: Symptom intervention / palliative care (all cancers),
gastrointestinal cancers**

As an oncologist and palliative medicine physician, Dr. Roeland is committed to discovering and developing effective solutions for improving the quality of care for cancer patients with advanced disease. He is uniquely positioned as a faculty member at the UC San Diego Moore's Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center, where he directs the only outpatient palliative medicine clinic with an embedded clinical trials program in the region. He is committed to building symptom intervention evidence-based clinical practices and promoting rigorous scientific validation of novel approaches. His current research is primarily focused on cancer symptom intervention clinical trials.

Dr. Roeland's strengths include his clinical experience in managing complex symptoms, developing research ideas from clinical insights, and collaborating with industry sponsors to evaluate novel agents. However, to achieve his goal to become a leader in symptom intervention clinical trials, he will acquire new and complementary skills. With the support of the Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award (CCITLA), he will designate protected time to develop the essential competencies necessary to transition to independence. His academic research career development requires completion of the following two key objectives: (1) advance his understanding of statistical analysis and trial design, and (2) enhance his networking within institutional and national organizations and effectively engage in leadership opportunities. The information obtained during the proposed project will yield important data that will serve as the basis of a R01 award and a future interventional phase III multisite trial.



April Salama, M.D.

Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University Medical Center

Focus: Melanoma

Dr. Salama is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and serves as the Interim Director of the Melanoma Program at Duke University. She received her medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and completed her residency and fellowship training at The University of Chicago. Her research interests focus on the development of novel therapeutics for patients with advanced melanoma. She has advanced the melanoma clinical research program at Duke, where her goal has been to continue to expand the breadth of collaborations both within and outside of the institution. Dr. Salama has successfully developed a number of investigator initiated clinical protocols, with a focus on multi-modality care. In her current role, Dr. Salama has worked to successfully build a comprehensive melanoma clinical trials program. Under her leadership, the program has often been recognized as a leading site for patient accrual in a number of landmark melanoma trials.

As a recipient of the Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award, Dr. Salama will continue to oversee all clinical research within the Melanoma Program, where she is PI of numerous studies, including 2 investigator initiated projects. She additionally supports the work of other investigators, and recently secured funding for a translational project examining the development of resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitors in patients with advanced melanoma. She has also been selected to serve as the national co-PI of the dabrafenib/trametinib arm (EAY-131H) of the NCI-MATCH trial. Additionally, she is the site PI for the NCI-MATCH trial at Duke, which expands her role across the Duke Cancer Institute for this important trial. As NCI-MATCH is available as part of the Duke Oncology Network, Dr. Salama has a direct role in ensuring patients across North Carolina have improved access to clinical trial options. In addition to her work within the Melanoma Program, Dr. Salama also serves in numerous roles within the Duke Cancer Institute and Duke University School of Medicine. She is a member of the Immunotherapy Working Group, Cancer Protocol Committee, as well as the IRB. She is additionally recognized as an outstanding teacher, and is invited to give lectures on therapeutic options for advanced melanoma at the local, regional and national level. Most recently she was selected by the Duke Hematology/Oncology Fellows as the recipient of the William H. Kane Junior Faculty Teaching Award.

Dr. Salama plans to continue to work to expand clinical trial options for patients with advanced melanoma, as well as focus on community outreach and education for patients and caregivers.