



The ROCRO Quarterly

Vol.4/09.30.2020

**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Radiation Oncology Clinical Research Office (ROCRO) Newsletter

ROCRO's mission is to be a high impact clinical research program focusing on Radiation Therapy and Immunotherapy.

Chair's note:

Welcome to the 4th newsletter of ROCRO!

Despite COVID-19, we have remained extremely productive, with 158 new accruals to our IITs.

Our productivity not only continues as single investigators, but we have evolved to better synergize with our many different skills and specializations and compete for center and consortium grants.

We are extremely grateful to our entire research support group, who has literally made it possible for each of these applications to happen:, particularly Yasmeen Sarfraz, Sharanya Chandrasekhar, Mariela Flambury. Great team work!



Silvia C. Formenti, M.D



#WCMRadOnc

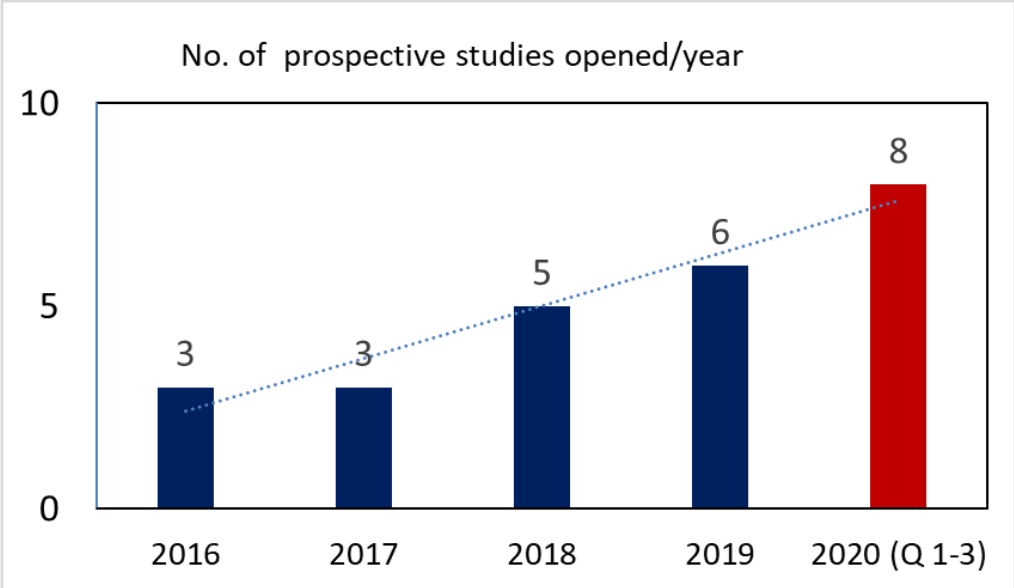
For more information email: pry2003@med.cornell.edu



Short Title	PI	Enrolled (treated)/ target accrual	Enrolled since 01/01/20
PBI	Dr. Formenti	174/200	27
BMH PBI	Dr.Hani Ashmalla	3	2
NYPQ- PBI	Dr. Akkama Ravi	6	6
USC-PBI	Dr.Jason Ye	34/84	10
ART	Dr. Formenti	31/74	6
BMS- NSCLC	Dr. Formenti	9/41	0
VARIAN	Dr. Formenti/Dr. Kang	59/60	18
SRS-Pembro	Dr. Formenti	4/41	1
PREPARE-SBRT	Dr.Nagar	9/40	4
PRART	Dr. Formenti/Dr.Ng	23/400	18
PRAGMA	Drs. Kang/Formenti/Sternberg	6/20	6
PSCBC	Dr.Ng	3/55	3
SHORTER	Dr.Nagar	7/136	7
WELCOME	Drs.Formenti/Ross/Pascual	50/1000	50
		418	158

Please visit us–

<https://radiationoncology.weillcornell.org/research/clinical-trials>





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Faculty & Staff News 

 **CASTLE CONNOLLY
TOP DOCTORS®**



Silvia Formenti, M.D.



Jonathan Knisely, M.D.

We are extremely proud to announce that Dr. Silvia Formenti and Dr. Jonathan Knisely have been named to Castle Connolly's Top Doctors for 2020!

Each year, Castle Connolly releases a list of top doctors from all 50 states and all major specialties, based on nominations from doctors themselves. Once nominated, Castle Connolly's physician-led research team then thoroughly screens each nomination to ensure that every Top Doctor selection meets Castle Connolly's rigorous standards. Please join us in congratulating Drs. Formenti and Knisely on this recognition of excellence!



Weill Cornell Medicine

Faculty Introduction



Fauzia Shaikh, M.D.
Radiation Oncologist

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Fauzia Shaikh to the WCM Radiation Oncology team!

Dr. Fauzia Shaikh is joining our department as a radiation oncologist specializing in the treatment of hematological malignancies. She received her undergraduate degree at Harvard College, and her MD at Columbia University, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, with an additional research year funded by the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and Alex's Lemonade Stand Pediatric Oncology Student Training Program. Her laboratory work was dedicated to studying changes in tumor vasculature and the tumor microenvironment in response to radiation in a human derived xenograft model of neuroblastoma. She completed her residency in radiation oncology at NYU Langone Health, which included three years of clinical radiation oncology training, and one year of dedicated research. During her research time in residency, she completed a number of clinical studies on radiation techniques utilizing institutional clinical databases as well as national databases such as the National Cancer Data Base (NCDB), leading to several first author publications. She additionally worked with her clinical mentors in the design and execution of clinical trials. She's excited to join the faculty in Radiation Oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, she will be partnering with the laboratories of Dr. Monica Guzman, Dr. Silvia Formenti, and Dr. Lorenzo Galluzzi to study the potentiating effects of Total Body Irradiation on CAR-T cell therapy for patients with Myeloid Leukemias and Multiple Myeloma.

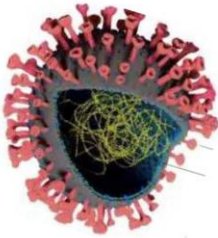


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Staff Introduction



Please join us in welcoming Hannah Silk as a Research Coordinator for WELCOME study. Hannah graduated from Northeastern University with a degree in Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience. Then she went on to work as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Mount Sinai Hospital for the departments of Neurosurgery and Psychiatric Genomics. We wish her good luck in her current role!



NYP - WELCOME Study

SARS-COV-2, THE VIRUS OF COVID-19, HAS CREATED
A GLOBAL PROBLEM



You, can be part of the solution,

WCMC IRB
Approval Date: 08-11-2020
Expiration Date: 05-11-2021

by participating in the NYP-Weill Cornell Medicine Employees cohort (WELCOME), and undergoing Covid-19 testing and donation of specimens for research on this disease.

The results of the COVID-19 Antibody test and the Nasopharyngeal Swab test will be available within 24 hours.

Contact : NYPWELCOME@med.cornell.edu (with email subject: NYP-WELCOME Study) for an appointment, to meet our research associates at CTSC (Clinical Translational Science Center), Weill Cornell Medicine, 525 East 68th street, F-260.

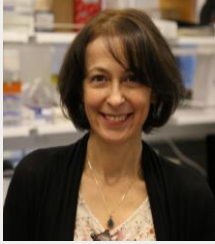


Sign up here: [NYP - Welcome](#)



Weill Cornell Medicine

Research News ★



Sandra Demaria, M.D.



Nils Rudqvist, PhD

We are pleased to announce that for a second year in a row, Dr. Sandra Demaria's lab will have the spot light at the annual SITC meeting. Dr. Nils Rudqvist's abstract "*Radiotherapy and CTLA-4 blockade expand anti-tumor T cell differentiation states and cooperate with CD40 agonists to induce tumor rejection*" was chosen for oral presentation in the Presidential symposium. This is the highest recognition for an abstract submitted by a junior investigator. Claire Lhuillier, PhD, Maud Charpentier PhD, and Erik Wennerberg, PhD also contributed to this work.

Dr. Rudqvist recently started his own lab with a tenure-track position at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas.

Congratulations to Nils and the Demaria's team!



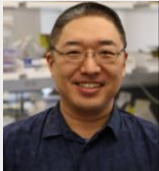
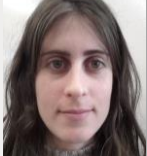
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Recent Publications



Immunoprophylactic and immunotherapeutic control of hormone receptor-positive breast cancer

Aitziber Buqué, Norma Bloy, Lorenzo Galluzzi
Nature Communications. 2020;11:3819



Mitochondrial DNA drives abscopal responses to radiation that are inhibited by autophagy

Takahiro Yamazaki, Alexander Kirchmair, Ai Sato, Aitziber Buqué, Lorenzo Galluzzi
Nature Immunology. 2020;21:1160–1171



Trends in Diagnosis and Disparities in Initial Management of High-Risk Prostate Cancer in the US

Vishesh Agrawal, Xiaoyue Ma, Jim C. Hu, Christopher E. Barbieri, Himanshu Nagar
JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(8):e2014674.





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Recent Publications



Radiation and In-Situ Tumor Vaccination

Encouse Golden, M.D., PhD, Ariel Marciscano, M.D, Silvia Formenti, M.D.
Int J Radiat Oncol Oncol Phys 2020 Aug 12; S0360- 3016(20)34112-2

Updates from the Radiation Therapy Preclinical Core (RTPC)

- Exciting collaboration with CUMC RARAF, led by Dr. Brenner, to develop a preclinical FLASH irradiation program.
- Pilot studies on comparative immunogenicity of FLASH-RT vs conventional-RT will be presented at RRS 2020 – WCM RadOnc authors include Drs. Pilonis, Marciscano, Demaria & Formenti.
- Drs. Marciscano and Brenner are proposed as RTPC Co-Directors for the recently submitted WCM SPORE in RT/IT – this growing partnership will allow RTPC users access to RARAF facilities, for both FLASH and high LET studies.
- The SARRP passed the annual external dosimetric “audit” with flying colors, scoring well within the acceptable tolerance for both preclinical and clinical orthovoltage units – Kudos to RTPC lead Jeff Kraynak and our wonderful physicists, Drs. Jozsef and Trichter for their help with annual calibration ! Special thanks to NCI RRB + Radiation Dosimetry Services/RDS @ MDACC.

