



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.



Silvia C. Formenti, M.D

Chair's note:

Based on the progress in containing the COVID-19 pandemic in NYC and NY State, we were able to re-start the accrual to most of our clinical trials. In addition we have opened NYP-WELCOME trial (Weill Cornell Medicine Employees), a prospective asymptomatic Health Care Workers Study to generate an annotated repository of specimens and clinical data during COVID-19 pandemic. Another important initiative at WCM and NYP is a global commitment to protect Diversity and fight racism: I am delighted to announce that our first Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is Dr. Onyinye Balogun. Dr. Balogun will lead us to improve our department, in appreciating and protecting diversity, in its many forms. ROCRO continues to remain very engaged in supporting our NCI-SPORE grant proposal in Radiation and Immunotherapy, by leveraging the many talents of its membership to prepare a competitive application.



#WCMRadOnc



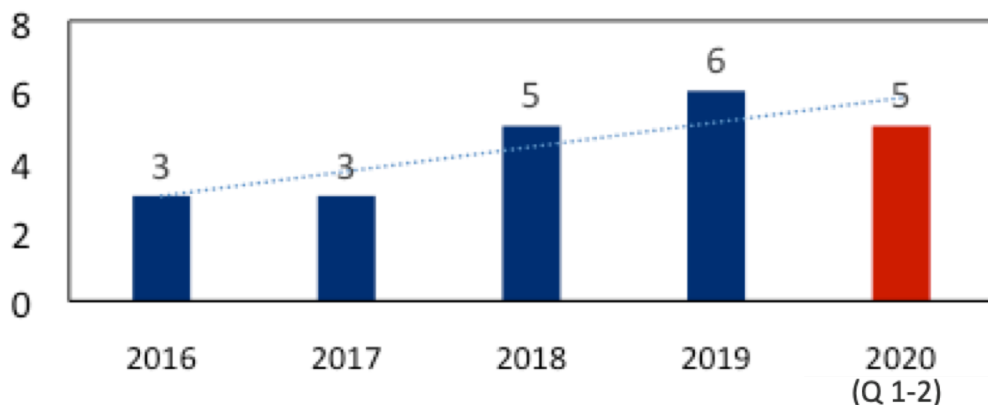
Weill Cornell Medicine



New Protocols opened this quarter (April- June 2020):

NYP - Welcome (NYP - Weill Cornell Medicine Employees). This study is a COVID-19 database and biorepository to investigate the natural history of COVID-19. WELCOME is supported by Dean along with a collaborative commitment from NIAID. You can be a part of solution for this global pandemic by participating in this study. **Sign up here:** [NYP - Welcome](#); Contact: email pap9083@med.cornell.edu or call 212-746-4762

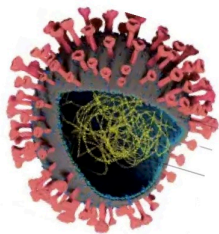
No. of interventional studies opened/year





**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Clinical Trial Updates 



NYP - WELCOME Study

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

WCMC IRB
Approval Date: 06-03-2020
Expiration Date: 05-11-2021



You, can be part of the solution,

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.

Contact : pap9083@med.cornell.edu (with email subject: NYP-WELCOME Study) or call (212) 746-4762 for an appointment, to meet our research associates at CTSC (Clinical Translational Science Center), Weill Cornell Medicine, 525 East 68th street, Payson 2.



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



SCAN ME



Weill Cornell Medicine

Clinical Trial Enrollments



We are excited to restart enrollment on all our clinical trials post COVID-19 peak incidence. We are working hard to provide high-quality care while ensuring the safety of our patients.

Protocol #	Short Title	PI	Enrolled/Treated	Enrolled in 2019	Enrolled since 01/01/20
1505016201	PBI	Dr. Formenti	198/200	75	26
1602017017	ART	Dr. Formenti	28/74	12	2
1607017434	BMS- NSCLC	Dr. Formenti	9/41	6	0
1708018471	VARIAN	Dr. Formenti/Dr. Kang	55/60	25	14
1710018694	SRS-Pembro	Dr. Formenti	3/41	2	0
1712018849	PREPARE-SBRT	Dr.Nagar	5/40	4	0
19-07020533	PRART	Dr. Formenti/Dr.Ng	13/400	4	9
19-04020263	PRAGMA	Drs. Kang/Formenti/Sternberg	5/20	0	5
19-07020531	PSCBC	Dr.Ng	2/55	0	2
20-04021831	WELCOME	Drs.Formenti/Ross/Pascual	3/1000	0	3
1802019010	ViewRay	Dr. Formenti/Dr. Kang	30/30	26	0
1612017834	EISAI - Rectal Cancer	Dr. Ng	2/10	1	0
1708018460	NRG GU003	Dr. Nagar	3/10	0	0
1606017369	Met. GU	Dr. Nagar	6/112	0	0
			362	155	61



Weill Cornell
Medicine

Staff Introduction



Victoria Winogora, NP
Radiation Oncology

Victoria joins our department as a Nurse Practitioner. She completed her undergraduate degree at The University of Chicago, where she majored in history, philosophy, and social studies of science and medicine. During her time there she worked in a laboratory conducting research on neuroblastoma. She wrote her senior thesis on the history and development of clinical research guidelines within the United States, with an emphasis on the ethical principles of clinical research involving human subjects. Victoria went on to work as a research assistant here at Weill Cornell for a year before returning to school to obtain her BSN at the University of Rochester. She then went on to work as an oncology nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She was inspired by the practitioners she worked with there and went on to obtain her MSN at the University of Pennsylvania. She is very excited to be returning to Weill Cornell, the institution that inspired her to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner.



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Residency Graduation



CONGRATULATIONS!!!
Dr. Diana Julie, M.D., MPH on
her graduation from medical
residency program. We wish
her good luck in the next phase
of her career.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!
Dr. Oksana Villa, PhD on her
graduation from physics
residency program. We wish
her good luck in the next phase
of her career.



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Faculty & Staff News



Congratulations to Dr. Onyinye Balogun, M.D for her new role as Director of Diversity and Inclusion in Radiation Oncology department. We wish her good luck for this new position!

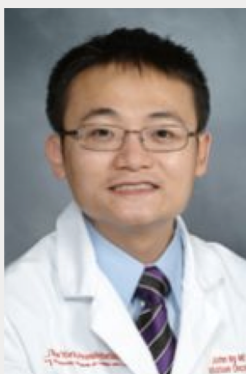


Farewell wishes to Dr. Vijayalaxmi Nagaraj, PhD. We want to thank her for all the hard work in her role as Data Manager on the Clinical Research team. Good luck to her in all her future endeavors!



Weill Cornell Medicine

Research News ★

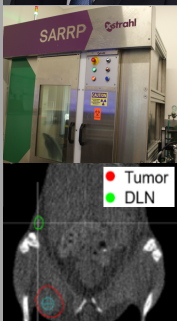


Making Progress in Pancreatic Cancer!

- Dr. John Ng is serving (along with Dr. Rohit Chandwani) as the organizing leaders of the Pancreas Cancer Working Group.
- It's a NYP network of clinicians focused in pancreatic cancer care with the goals of developing a standardized framework across the institution to care for pancreas cancer patients and advancing research and clinical care in this malignancy.

Recognition from the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN)!

- Brooklyn Methodist Hospital (NY075) received a \$50,000 NCTN High Performance Site Initiative payment.
- Key personnel: Dr. Hani Ashamalla and Dr. Adel Guirguis.



Updates from the Radiation Therapy Preclinical Core (RTPC)

- Preclinical radiation experiments have resumed with the reopening of WCM research
- RTPC has revamped its organizational structure and submitted a full application to be recognized as an official WCM core facility. Wish us luck!
- RTPC is developing a unique model for animal housing to extend our services to collaborators outside of WCM
- 1st annual RTPC symposium (postponed due to COVID-19) – looking to reschedule late 2020 or early 2021!
- Visit the RTPC website for more info:
<https://radiationoncology.weillcornell.org/radiobiology-core>



Weill Cornell Medicine

Research News ★



Dr. Lorenzo Galluzzi has been awarded a 12-month FGI RRA grant on the project “Impact of apoptotic proficiency on immune tumor infiltration and patient survival”.

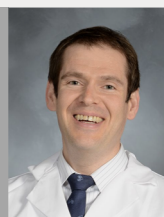
It’s a fully in silico study (as per the FGI mission) that will analyze various gene signatures in multiple patient datasets for impact on immune infiltration and/or survival.

Dr. Giulia Petroni, PhD presented a poster titled “Radiation therapy as a tool to sensitize HR+ breast cancer and mantle cell lymphoma to CDK4/6 inhibitors” in AACR Annual Meeting 2020. Authors: Petroni, G., Di Liberto, M., Buqué, A., Chen-Kiang, S., Galluzzi, L. and Formenti, S.C.



Dr. Vishesh Agrawal, M.D. has been accepted for the Silverman Fellowship Program. This is a NYP based cross-campus program designed for the development of innovations in healthcare.

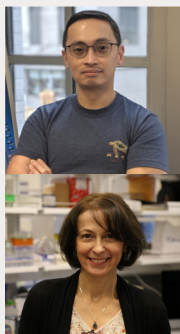
Dr. Daniel Vanderbilt, M.D. has been accepted into the Holman Pathway Program. This is a special program of the American Board of Radiology which will facilitate him to pursue his research in a more structured and dedicated setting.





**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Recent Publications



Radiotherapy cooperates with IL15 to induce antitumor immune responses.

Pilon KA, Charpentier M, Garcia-Martinez E, Daviaud C, Kraynak J, Aryankalayil J, Formenti SC, Demaria S.
Cancer Immunol Res. 2020 Jun 12;canimm.0338.2019. doi: 10.1158/2326-6066.CIR-19-0338.



Immunomodulation by anticancer cell cycle inhibitors

Petroni G, Formenti SC, Cheng-Kiang S, Galluzzi L.
Nature Review Immunology , April 28, 2020



Ca²⁺ Fluxes and Cancer

Marchi S, Giorgi C, Galluzzi L, Pinton P
Molecular Cell, Volume 78, Issue 6, Page 1055-69, June 18, 2020



CDK12 Gene Alterations in Prostate Cancer: Present, but Clinically Actionable?

Marciscano A and Barbieri C
European Urology, Published online May 4, 2020



Weill Cornell
Medicine

Recent Publications



Cancer and COVID-19 — potentially deleterious effects of delaying radiotherapy.

Himanshu Nagar, M.D. & Silvia C. Formenti, M.D

Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology 17, 332-324, 2020



Challenging the Norm: What Level of Evidence Is Necessary to Adopt Post Prostatectomy Hypofractionated Radiation Therapy?

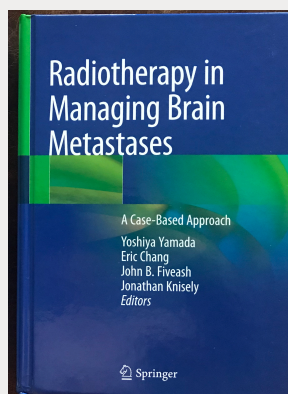
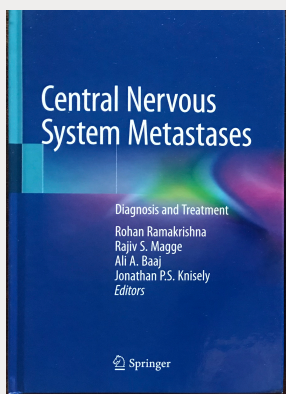
Himanshu Nagar M.D. & Daniel E Spratt M.D.

IJROBP, Volume 107, Issue 2, P297-298, June 01,2020.



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

New Books



Dr. Jonathan Knisely M.D. served as an editor on two textbooks recently published by Springer. *Central Nervous System Metastases* is a multi specialty book on diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of CNS metastases of brain and spine. *Radiotherapy in Managing Brain Metastases* provides radiotherapy perspective on management of brain metastases with case-based discussion.

Dr. Sean Mahase M.D. and Dr. Diana Julie M.D contributed to the writing of a chapter in 'Radiotherapy in Managing Brain Metastases' (<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030437398>) , and Diana Julie M.D. contributed to the writing of a chapter in 'Central Nervous System Metastases' (<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030429577>). If you connect with these links from a medical center computer, you should be able to access the content (free of charge) through the Weill Cornell Medical Library.

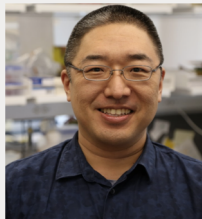


**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

ASTRO 2020

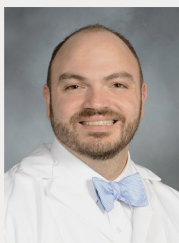


Forthcoming: Quick Pitch Oral Presentations



Takahiro Yamazaki, PhD Lorenzo Galluzzi, PhD Silvia C Formenti, MD

Boosting CAR T cell expansion and therapeutic activity with low-dose radiation therapy.



Ryan Fecteau, MD PhD

Himanshu Nagar, MD

Deletion of the Tumor Suppressor Gene PTEN in ETS-Fusion Positive Prostate Cancer Identifies Patients with High Risk Pathology that may Benefit from Adjuvant Radiation



Vishesh Agrawal, MD

Silvia C Formenti, MD

Prone Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation (PBI) Comparing Five versus Three Fractions for Early Stage Breast Cancer: A Multi-Institutional Prospective Randomized Trial



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

ASTRO 2020 

Forthcoming: Poster Presentations

Phase I Trial of MRI-Linac based Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy with Simultaneous Integrated Boost for Localized Prostate Cancer.

Presenter: Vishesh Agrawal, M.D. Mentor: Josephine Kang, M.D. PhD

* Dr. Agrawal received Resident Recognition Award for this poster. This award is based on a score and only 12 residents were selected for this award for ASTRO 2020.

A Pilot Curriculum for the Implementation of 3-D Conformal Prone Breast Radiation Therapy (3D-CRT)

Presenter: Mohammad Hissourou, M.D. Mentor: Onyinye Balogun, M.D.

Feasibility of Hypo-fractionated Radiation Therapy to the Breast and Nodal Stations after Neo-Adjuvant Systemic Therapy and Surgery.

Presenter: Vishesh Agrawal, M.D. Mentor: Silvia C Formenti, M.D.

Trends and Disparities in the Diagnosis and Initial Management of High-Risk Prostate Cancer in the United States.

Presenter: Vishesh Agrawal, M.D. Mentor: Himanshu Nagar M.D.

Cervical Cancer: The Gabonese Experience

Presenter: Mohammad Hissourou, M.D. Mentor: Onyinye Balogun, M.D.

Effect of Timing of Adjuvant Radiosurgery on Local Control for Brain Metastases

Presenter: Daniel Vanderbilt, M.D. Mentors: Jonathan Knisely and Theodore Schwartz, M.D.

Radiation and immune checkpoint blockade in metastatic NSCLC

Presenter: Sean Mahase, M.D. Mentor: Silvia Formenti, M.D.



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

ASTRO 2020 

Forthcoming: Poster Presentations

Radiation and immune checkpoints blockade in metastatic NSCLC

Presenter: Sean Mahase, M.D. Mentor: Nicholas Sanfilippo, M.D.

68Ga-DOTATATE PET/MRI as an adjunct imaging modality for radiation treatment planning of meningiomas

Presenter: Sean Mahase, M.D. Mentors: Jonathan Kniseley, M.D. and Jana Ivanidze

Timing of osimertinib impacts RT-induced tumor immunogenicity

Presenter: Encouse Golden, M.D. PhD Collaborator: Silvia Formenti, M.D.

Concurrent stereotactic body radiotherapy and immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy for recurrent high-grade gliomas

Presenter: Sean Mahase, M.D. Mentor: Jonathan Knisely, M.D.

Effect of Radiotherapy variables on circulating effectors of immune response

Presenter: Josephine Kang, M.D. PhD Mentor: Silvia C. Formenti, M.D.

Intratumoral anti-CTLA-4 blockade can potentiate radiation-induced anti-tumor immunity in breast cancer

Presenter: Karsten Pilonis Mentor: Silvia C Formenti M.D.

Ablative radiation confers broad protective immunity to tumorigenic implants.

Presenter: Encouse Golden, M.D. PhD Collaborator: Silvia Formenti, M.D.

Initial outcomes and treatment-associated toxicities using stereotactic MRI-guided adaptive radiation therapy for pancreatic cancer patients treated at a single institution

Presenter: Kiara Kaylor Mentor: John Ng, M.D.

Congratulations!!!