Center of Excellence for Cancer Risk, Prevention, and Control (CoE-RPC)

Co-Directors:
Veda N. Giri, MD - Clinical/Translational Director
Ann Klassen, PhD - Scientific Director
Focus Areas – “Themes of Promise”

Focus Area #1: Translational Cancer Risk and Assessment

Focus Area #2: Global Primary Prevention Strategies

Focus Area #3: Survivorship Issues Across the Lifecourse; (Cancer Control)

Thematic Organization

Center of Excellence for Cancer Risk, Prevention, and Control

Research

Training

Community Education and Programs

Strengthen RPC research training for:
- high school students
- undergraduate students
- graduate/medical students
- post-doctoral fellows
- residents/fellows

Disseminate knowledge and raise awareness of RPC issues and research to the community;
Address needs of the SKCC catchment area
Center of Excellence for Cancer Risk, Prevention, and Control

Goals:
- Foster population science integration into basic and clinical programs of SKCC (Programmatic Integration).
- Articulate Focus Areas (“Themes of Promise”) for research, leveraging expertise across population, clinical, and basic sciences to create capacity in cancer risk, prevention, and control (RPC) research and garner funding (Scientific Integration).
- Provide education and internship opportunities to students and trainees in cancer RPC (Training Goal).
- Highlight and expand cancer education and awareness programs in the community to translate knowledge and research for community benefit (Service Goal).
- Address cancer-related needs of the SKCC catchment area (Center-wide Goal).

Research
- Create dynamic working groups to foster collaboration, catapult novel initiatives, and maximize external grant funding.
- Promote collaborative, high-impact publications.
- Prioritize discoveries that address cancer needs of SKCC catchment area.

Training
- Provide educational and internship opportunities to students and trainees.
- Provide long-term mentorship.
- Foster underrepresented minority student interest in science, medicine, and health policy.
- Engage in research and community efforts.

Community/Patient Education and Programs
- Disseminate knowledge and raise awareness of cancer RPC to the community.
- Address needs of the SKCC catchment area.
- Engage public relations and media to highlight contributions.
- Engage stakeholders.
Associate Director for Population Science: Grace Lu-Yao, PhD

Co-Directors: Veda Giri, MD and Ann Klassen, PhD
Program Coordinators: (Laura Gross - TJU; TBN - Drexel)

Advisory Committee

Research

Training

Community/Patient Education and Programs

Members drawn from diverse departments, schools, and programs at both Jefferson and Drexel:
- Division of Population Science
- Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Scientific Programs
- Jefferson Medical College
- College of Population Health
- Drexel Schools of Public Health, Arts and Sciences, Colleges of Nursing and Health Professions, and Medicine

Collaboration

Members from:
- Teaching and training programs
- Jefferson College of Population Health
- Dornsife School of Public Health
- Oncology Support Services
- Jefferson and Cancer Network
- Public Relations/Media
Co-Directors

• **Veda N. Giri, MD** (Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center - TJU)
  - Associate Professor, Medical Oncology and Cancer Biology
  - Medical oncologist with advanced training in cancer genetics
  - Director of Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics at SKCC
  - Research interests: genetic testing for inherited prostate cancer risk; cancer risk assessment in minority populations; translational clinical cancer genetics
  - Education of students and trainees in cancer research

• **Ann Klassen, PhD** (Drexel University - SKCC Consortium)
  - Professor of Community Health and Prevention, Dornsife School of Public Health
  - Social and Behavioral Scientist with 25 years of funded cancer control research
  - Recently completed service as Associate Dean for Research and Department Chair at Drexel SPH, as well as Co-Associate Director for Population Science, SKCC
  - Research interests: global non-communicable disease prevention, nutrition, tobacco control, health communication, spatial analysis of cancer patterns, health disparities
Internal Advisory Committee

• Provide guidance and feedback to the Co-Directors regarding CoE-RPC activities for enhanced funding, publications, and growth.
• Interact monthly with Co-Directors for CoE-RPC updates and strategic planning.
• Represent interests and leverage strengths of TJU and Drexel for CoE-RPC

• Candidate Committee Members (** invited):
  • Ronald Myers, PhD - Decision Support Research; Division Chief of Population Science, TJU
  • Ana Diez-Roux, MD, PhD, MPH - Dean, Distinguished Professor Epidemiology, Drexel Dornsife SPH
  • Craig Newschaffer, PhD - Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Epidemiology, Drexel Dornsife SPH
  • David Nash, MD, MBA - Dean of School of Population Health, TJU
  • Jen Kolker, MPH - Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, Drexel SPH
  • **Cheryl Bettigole, MD, MPH - Director, Chronic Disease Prevention, Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Research

- **Focus Area #1: Translational Cancer Risk and Assessment**
  - Cancer risk factors
  - Cancer genetics and genomics
  - Basic scientific mechanisms
  - Risk communication and decision-making
  - Translation to populations

- **Working Group Leader:** Veda N. Giri, MD

- **Examples of research efforts:**
  - **Yang:** Small RNA sequencing and prospective evaluation of HCC risk in HBV patients (Funding: ACS)
  - **Giri:** Addressing prostate cancer disparities in Asian Indians (Funded: SKCC Pilot Grant); Genetic Evaluation of Men - GEM study (Funded: PADOH)
  - **Myers:** Reducing cancer disparities by engaging stakeholders (RCADES) as a learning community (Funding: PCORI)
Research

• **Focus Area #2: Global Primary Prevention Strategies**
  • Nutrition
  • Tobacco control
  • Built environment
  • Local and regional focus, informed by a global cancer prevention approach
  • Emerging models of primary care and prevention
  • New immigrant populations
  • Lifecourse perspective for cancer prevention

• **Working Group Leader:** Ann Klassen, PhD

• **Examples of research efforts:**
  • Zeigler-Johnson and Leader: A neighborhood-based intervention to reduce prostate cancer disparities (Funding: DOD)
  • Klassen and Lee: Implementation of Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing in Philadelphia (Funding: State of PA Grant to Philadelphia Dept of Public Health)
  • Lee: Reducing Youth Access to Tobacco (Funding: State of LA)
  • Forman: Reducing cancer risk by training response inhibition to obesogenic foods (Funding: NCI)
  • Juon: Lay Health Worker Model to Reduce Liver Cancer Disparities in Asian Americans (Funding: NCI)
Research

• **Focus Area #3: Survivorship Issues Across the Lifecourse**
  • Geriatric oncology
  • Psychosocial oncology
  • Young adult survivors
  • Family and community needs
  • Cancer control

• **Working Group Leader:** Andrea Barsevick, PhD

• **Examples of research efforts:**
  • **Bradt and Barsevick:** Music Therapy Intervention for Cancer Survivors
  • **Klassen:** Eating for Life- Improving Dietary Behaviors in Long term Cancer Survivors (NCI)
  • **Milliron:** Cook for Your Life! At Hope Lodge
  • **Barsevick:** Problems and Resources of African American Breast Cancer Survivors (ACS)
Training

• **Elements of Training:**
  - Education and hands-on research experience for high school and college students, with attention to underrepresented minority students.
  - Providing medical students with opportunities to engage in cancer RPC research and clinical observation.
  - Engaging residents, fellows, graduate students, and post-graduates in cancer RPC research and clinical care observations.

• **Examples of current grant-funded programs:**
  - **Giri**: Student Training in Academics and Research - the STAR program between Thomas Jefferson University and Lincoln University (Funding: DOD)
  - **Giri**: Cancer Research and Education (Funding: P30 CURE Supplement)
  - **Arana**: F31 from AHRQ on Racial Differences in Cancer Prevention for Women with Disabilities (Klassen: Co-Mentor)
Community/Patient Programs and Education

- **Contributors:**
  - Oncology Support Services: Patient Education Forums
  - Jefferson Cancer and Network Hospitals: Education and clinical engagement
  - Expanded cancer education programs in minority communities

- **Examples of current efforts:**
  - **Presentations:**
    - (Giri) Genetic Counseling and Genetic Testing for Prostate Cancer - an evolving field. SKCC Patient Forum - April 18, 2016.

- **Community Hospital Collaborations:**
  - Clinical Cancer Genetics collaboration with Abington Hospital → joint case conference
  - Clinical Cancer Genetics Program at Network hospitals

- **News articles**
  - Survivorship article for social media outlets for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
  - Press release on Problems of African American breast cancer survivors: uptake by 8 online publications and ABC news