

# The M. D. Anderson Connection

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## Physicians Network helps deliver M. D. Anderson's standard of care

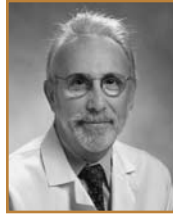
For more than 12 years, the M. D. Anderson Physicians Network has helped the institution deliver quality cancer care closer to where patients live — first locally and now on a more national scale.

Back in 1995, Houston-area physicians Eduardo Diaz, M.D., and Roger Rodgers, M.D., both of whom trained at M. D. Anderson, became the first members of the Physicians Network. Since then, the organization has broadened to include hundreds of credentialed medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and surgeons, and a number of affiliated hospitals and health care systems.

The provider-sponsored Physicians Network delivers an array of cancer management services, primarily through the Cancer Manager program. Cancer Manager was created to coordinate cancer care for patients and to assist with identifying opportunities for quality improvement in any community using M. D. Anderson's evidence-based guidelines.

The program encompasses prevention, early detection and diagnosis through treatment and follow-up, with metrics to evaluate clinical outcomes and quality of life.

Care is provided by local community cancer specialists who are members of the Physicians Network and by credentialed providers through host sites or employer groups. Providers include community-based, board-certified medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and cancer surgeons in addition to medical and surgical faculty on M. D. Anderson's main campus.



Richard Babaian,  
M.D.



Helmuth Goepfert,  
M.D.



David Tubergen,  
M.D.



Moshe Maor, M.D.

Cancer Manager host affiliates include:

- **Covenant Health Systems, Knoxville, Tenn.**
- **Providence Hospital, Mobile, Ala.**
- **Sacred Heart Health Systems, Pensacola, Fla.**
- **Saint Francis Medical Center, Cape Girardeau, Mo.**
- **Southeast Georgia Health System, Brunswick, Ga.**
- **Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Spartanburg, S.C.**

Shell Oil, Lubrizol and Exxon Mobil are Houston-based companies that have Cancer Manager employer agreements, in which all employees and dependents with cancer can receive care at M. D. Anderson's main campus.

Also falling under Physicians Network are M. D. Anderson's Clinical Care Center in the Bay Area and its Radiation Treatment Centers in Bellaire, Fort Bend, The Woodlands and in Albuquerque, N.M. The latest radiation treatment center opened in Katy in October.

The Physicians Network is faculty-driven, with M. D. Anderson faculty members serving on its board of directors. William Murphy, M.D., is the board chair.

Additionally, four former faculty members serve as medical directors/liasons for the Physicians Network: Richard Babaian, M.D. (senior medical director, surgery); Helmuth Goepfert, M.D. (medical director); David Tubergen, M.D., (medical director, Cancer Manager host sites); and Moshe Maor, M.D., (medical director, radiation oncology). In these roles, they interact with community physicians and guide quality improvement efforts for all affiliate sites.

Many other faculty are making valuable contributions to the Physicians Network by providing continuing medical education to community physicians and helping develop Community Clinical Oncology Program relationships for clinical trials. In addition, many clinical faculty assist credentialed physicians by participating in bimonthly, disease-specific multidisciplinary planning conferences via videoconference, telephone consultations and the referral of patients to M. D. Anderson.

To learn more about the M. D. Anderson Physicians Network and Cancer Manager, check the Internet site at <http://www.mdanderson.org/departments/cancermanager/physicians/>

### The M. D. Anderson Connection

M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association information is available on the Internet:  
[www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc](http://www.mdanderson.org/departments/andersonassoc)

**Newsletter staff:** Toya Candelari, Dr.P.H., Sharon Pepper, *Trainee and Alumni Affairs*  
David Berkowitz, Kelley Moore, *Communications Office*

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## Bloom: association will continue to support global vision

As M. D. Anderson continues to extend its reach beyond the borders of the Texas Medical Center, expect the Alumni and Faculty Association to play an increasingly important role in supporting these efforts.

That's the goal of Elizabeth Bloom, M.D., associate professor in Radiation Oncology and the new chair of the association's steering committee. Bloom, who heads the patient care team at the Radiation Treatment Center in Bellaire, became chair Sept. 1.

"One of the key purposes of our organization is to maintain communication among current and former trainees and faculty members. That's as important today, if not more so, as it was when the association was formed in 1983," Bloom says.

"As M. D. Anderson becomes more active globally, the Alumni and Faculty Association can aid and promote collaborations that bring the institution's level of care outside the Texas Medical Center to the rest of Texas, the nation and the world, which will help further our mission."

To that end, Bloom would like to see the association continue to support and build on various new and established programs:

- Online member directory and Alumni Quest, a campaign to identify and locate former M. D. Anderson faculty members and trainees.
- Annual awards, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Mike Hogg Award and Trainee Excellence Awards. Thanks to the suggestion of Ralph Freedman, M.D., Ph.D., a new Distinguished Faculty Alumnus Award will be given to former M. D. Anderson faculty who didn't train at the institution.

- Continuing education through the Current Topics in Cancer Medicine and Research: A Community Seminar Series, distribution of the M. D. Anderson Cancer Care Series of books, and discounted registration fees for alumni members to the M. D. Anderson Physicians Network's annual cancer symposium.

- Annual Houston Anderson Alumni Dinner, which this year featured a community theme with the Houston Food Bank (see related article, page 3).

"With increased attendance and participation of alumni and faculty in these educational venues, more integrated programs can be developed for patient care, research and prevention worldwide," Bloom says. "We also hope to add international chapters, which will further ongoing collaborations with alumni."

Bloom completed her radiation oncology training at M. D. Anderson. After carrying out her U.S. Air Force scholarship commitment as a staff radiation oncologist at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, she returned to M. D. Anderson to help open the institution's first radiation oncology satellite center in 1999 in Bellaire.

Bloom has been a member of the Alumni and Faculty Association Steering Committee since 2001 and has participated in several subcommittees.



Elizabeth Bloom, M.D.

## Perez-Soler receives Distinguished Alumnus Award

That Roman Perez-Soler, M.D., would become an international leader in translational cancer research was predicted during his three-year medical oncology fellowship at M. D. Anderson in the 1980s. Since then, he's made numerous contributions to develop and evaluate promising agents to treat lung cancer and related diseases.

Perez-Soler presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award lecture Nov. 1 in conjunction with the annual M. D. Anderson Faculty Honors Convocation.

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Perez-Soler received his medical degree from the

Universidad Autonoma in Barcelona, then completed an internship and internal medicine residency there before coming to M. D. Anderson in 1982 for a fellowship that included one year working in an immunobiology laboratory.

Upon completing the fellowship, he joined the faculty in the Department of Clinical Immunology and Biologic Therapy. In 1991, he was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology, for which he was chief of the Section of Experimental Therapy for four years and deputy chair for more than two years.

Perez-Soler was a full professor when he left M. D. Anderson in mid-1998 to become associate director of clinical and translational research at the Kaplan Comprehensive Cancer Center at New York University Medical Center.

Since July 2001, he's been the Gutman Professor of Medicine and chair of the Department of Oncology at Montefiore Medical Center, as well as director of the Division of Medical Oncology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and associate director for clinical research at Albert Einstein Cancer Center.



Roman Perez-Soler, M.D.

## Eight Trainee Excellence Awards Presented

The M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association recently gave trainee Excellence Awards to eight trainees who made presentations during medical or scientific meetings of professional societies between March 1 and July 31.

### Each receiving \$500 awards were:

- **Elenir Avritscher, M.D.**  
Graduate research assistant, Biostatistics  
Mentor: Linda Elting, Dr.P.H.
- **Lisa Chen, Ph.D.**  
Postdoctoral fellow, Experimental Therapeutics  
Mentor: Varsha Gandhi, Ph.D.
- **Yun Shin Chun, M.D.**  
Fellow, Surgical Oncology  
Mentor: Jeffrey Lee, M.D.
- **Helena Deus**  
Graduate student, Biostatistics  
Mentor: Jonas Almeida, Ph.D.
- **Yun Fan, Ph.D.**  
Postdoctoral fellow, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Mentor: Andreas Bergmann, Ph.D.
- **Brian Grabiner**  
Graduate research assistant, Molecular and Cellular Oncology  
Mentor: Xin Lin, Ph.D.
- **Liz Han, M.D.**  
Fellow, Gynecologic Oncology  
Mentor: Anil Sood, M.D.
- **Kate Newberry, Ph.D.**  
Postdoctoral fellow, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Mentor: Richard Brennan, Ph.D.

The Alumni and Faculty Association's Education Fund, which is composed of personal contributions from association members, makes the awards possible.

For questions about the Trainee Excellence Awards or for details on how to donate to the Education Fund, call Alma Hernandez in the association office at 713-794-1955.

## Survey coming in spring 2008

What new offerings would you like to see from the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association?

Are you interested in posting or reviewing job opportunities on a job board? Would you like for us to pursue the organization of local alumni chapters in your area?

Start your wish list, because a membership survey will be mailed in spring 2008. Until then, you can send your thoughts via e-mail to [alumni@mdanderson.org](mailto:alumni@mdanderson.org). If the demand is there, the association will address it.

## Steering committee seeks members

Would you like to serve on the steering committee of the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association? If you're interested and would like more information, call Alma Hernandez in the association office at 713-794-1955.

## Alma Hernandez new alumni services liaison

In response to the success of the Alumni Quest campaign and a growing number of alumni members, the M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association has added an alumni services liaison.

In this new role, Alma Hernandez is the key point of contact for phone calls and e-mail requests related to association issues. She's available to provide help with user IDs and passwords for the online directory, answer questions about alumni benefits, and to handle orders for the M. D. Anderson Cancer Care Series of books.

Hernandez can be reached at 713-794-1955 or via e-mail at [alumni@mdanderson.org](mailto:alumni@mdanderson.org).

## Alumni, faculty reach out to the community during annual dinner



Brian Greene,  
president and chief  
executive officer of  
the Houston Food  
Bank,

While alumni, faculty and guests at the Sixth Houston M. D. Anderson Alumni Dinner Oct. 27 were enjoying a nice meal, they learned how many people in the community rely on the kindness of others to provide for them.

Brian Greene, president and chief executive officer of the Houston Food Bank, was the keynote speaker during the annual event at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. He described how the non-profit organization and its 400 partner agencies in 18 southeast Texas counties work together to feed nearly 80,000 hungry individuals each week.

A silent auction held during the dinner raised funds for the Houston Food Bank.

Other speakers included John Mendelsohn, M.D., president of M. D. Anderson; cancer survivor Ann Arnold, president of the Texas Association of Broadcasters; and Elizabeth Bloom, M.D., chair of the Alumni and Faculty Association's steering committee.

Cuban band Havana Energy provided music during the event, which brought together several hundred M. D. Anderson faculty and Houston-area alumni for dinner, dancing and camaraderie.

*Alumni Dinner*  
Sixth Annual Houston Anderson Alumni Dinner

# Milestones

**Christopher Amos, Ph.D.**, professor in Epidemiology, was appointed to the Foundation Jean Dausset-CEPH Scientific Advisory Board in recognition of his expertise in genetics and genomics.



Christopher Amos, Ph.D.

**Robert Bast Jr., M.D.**, vice president for translational research, received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the National Cancer Institute for fostering interactions among Specialized Programs of Research Excellence investigators.

**Melissa Bondy, Ph.D.**, professor in Epidemiology, was appointed to a two-year term on the Susan G. Komen Scientific Advisory Board.



Melissa Bondy, Ph.D.

**Eduardo Bruera, M.D.**, chair of Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Medicine, received the 2007 Academy of Pain Medicine/Pfizer Visiting Professorship in Pain Medicine.

**Sandy Chang, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor in Cancer Genetics, received the 2007 Ellis S. Benson Award from the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists for meritorious accomplishments in laboratory medicine.



Sandy Chang, Ph.D.

**Aarif Khakoo, M.D.**, assistant professor in Cardiology, received a Physician-Scientist Early Career Award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The Early Career Award



Aarif Khakoo, M.D.

program provides \$375,000 over five years to promising physician-scientists launching careers at academic medical centers.

**Zhongxing Liao, M.D.**, associate professor in Radiation Oncology, was selected to receive the 2007 Research and Education Foundation Professional Leadership Award from the American Association for Women Radiologists.



Zhongxing Liao, M.D.

M. D. Anderson President **John Mendelsohn, M.D.**, was selected to receive the 2007 Prize for Scientific Excellence in Medicine, Nov. 19, from the American-Italian Cancer Foundation. He'll share the prize with a former colleague, Jose Baselga, M.D., chair of the Medical Oncology Service and director of Medical Oncology, Hematology and Radiation Oncology at the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital.

**Lajos Puzstai, M.D., D.Phil.**, associate professor in Breast Medical Oncology, received the Cancer Medicine Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program's Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2007.



Lajos Puzstai, M.D., D.Phil.

**Adan Rios, M.D.**, president of OnCol Therapeutics, P.A., Oncology and Internal Medicine and an oncologist at Park Plaza Hospital and Medical Center, recently was the subject of the Physician Spotlight feature in Medical Journal-Houston. He was recognized for many contributions to helping patients with cancer and AIDS.

Four M. D. Anderson faculty members were selected for induction as American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology fellows: **K. Kian Ang, M.D., Ph.D., Patricia Eifel, M.D., Deborah Kuban, M.D., and Elizabeth Travis, Ph.D.**

## Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 3-6: 29th Annual Pharmacy Symposium on Cancer Chemotherapy**  
J.W. Marriott Hotel, Houston
- **Dec. 6-8: 5th M. D. Anderson Surgical Pathology Update**  
Asheville, N.C.
- **Jan. 11-13: Advances in Transgenic Animal Research**  
Onstead Auditorium,  
M. D. Anderson
- **Jan. 19-23: 8th Annual Oncology Update: Advances and Controversies**  
Park City, Utah
- **Jan. 24-26: Mechanisms and Treatment of Cancer-Related Symptoms**  
Renaissance Hotel, Houston

For more information, go to <http://www.mdanderson.org/conferences>.

## Send us your milestones

Your achievements are important to us. Send recent news we can share with your fellow alumni to:

M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association  
Department of Trainee and Alumni Affairs, Unit 165  
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center  
1515 Holcombe Blvd.  
Houston TX 77030

E-mail items to [alumni@mdanderson.org](mailto:alumni@mdanderson.org) or call Alma Hernandez at 713-794-1955.

Along with details about your news item, include your name, degree(s), years when you were at M. D. Anderson, current title and affiliation, city, state, country, and a telephone number and e-mail address so we can contact you if we need additional information.

Contact us with your change of address.