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Women Faculty in the Spotlight

Alyssa Rieber, MD, appointed Chair of General Oncology



Join us in congratulating **Alyssa Rieber, MD**, on her well-deserved new role as chair of the General Oncology department, effective March 1. Rieber is passionate about serving all in need of cancer care, especially the at-risk and underserved population, as well as preparing future generations of oncologists. She has a proven track record of collaborative and effective leadership through her roles as Chief of Medical Oncology and Center Medical Director at the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, and she has established herself as a caring and involved mentor through her role as Associate Program Director of the Hematology/Medical Oncology Fellowship Program. [Read the story.](#)

More: [Employee Notes](#) / [Conquest](#) / [CNN](#)

Elizabeth Shpall, MD, earns ASCO's Women Who Conquer Cancer Mentorship Award

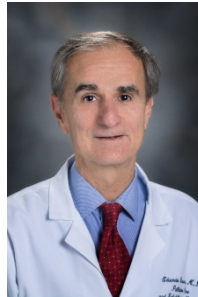


Elizabeth Shpall, MD, professor of Stem Cell Transplantation & Cellular Therapy, earned the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Women Who Conquer Cancer Mentorship Award. She is the director of the Cell Therapy Laboratory and Cord Blood Bank, and deputy chair of the Stem Cell Transplantation &

Cellular Therapy department. Having served as the founding president for the Foundation of Accreditation of Cellular Therapy and as past president of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation, Shpall has successfully mentored residents, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty over the last 25 years, and has ensured that mentees are able to establish their own clinical and/or research niches. The award will be presented during the ASCO annual meeting in June.

[Read the announcement.](#)

Faculty Awards & Accolades **Honorary Doctorate**



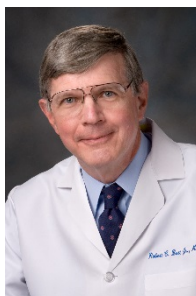
Eduardo Bruera, MD, chair of Palliative, Rehabilitation and Integrative Medicine, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Université de Montréal, which will be presented at the Forum du RUIS de l'UdeM June 8 in Montreal, Canada.

DoD Team Science Award



Juan Fueyo-Margareto, MD, professor of Neuro-Oncology, and **Candelaria Gomez-Manzano, MD**, associate professor of Neuro-Oncology, along with Dr. Marta Alonso from Universidad de Navarra, Spain, won a \$1 million Translational Team Science Award from the Department of Defense to study "Oncolytic Immunotherapy for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas."

ASCO 2017 Awards



Robert Bast, MD, vice president for Translational Research and professor of Experimental Therapeutics, is now a Fellow of ASCO. He will receive this honor during the ASCO annual meeting in June.

[Read the announcement.](#)



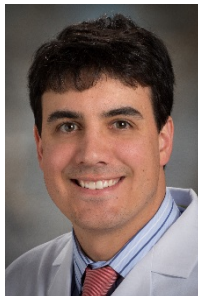
Limo Chen, PhD, instructor of Thoracic/Head & Neck Medical Oncology, received a Merit Award at the ASCO-SITC Clinical Immunology Symposium in February for “CD38 as a novel immune checkpoint and a mechanism of resistance to the blockade of the PD-1/PD-L1 axis.”

[Read the abstract.](#)



Jonathan Loree, MD, postdoctoral fellow in Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology, received a Merit Award at the ASCO Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium in January for “RAS heterogeneity as a prognostic marker in metastatic colorectal cancer.”

[Read the abstract.](#)



Andrew Shaw, MD, a Hematology/Medical Oncology fellow, received a Merit Award at the ASCO Quality Care Symposium in March for “Improving patient care through implementation of a QOPI-focused interactive patient note template.”

[Read the abstract.](#)

Staff Awards & Accolades **Heart of MD Anderson**



Join us in congratulating our Heart of MD Anderson for March, **Lore Lagrone, CCRC, CCRP, RN**, Lymphoma/Myeloma Protocol Research Administrative Director. The veteran oncology nurse has been with MD Anderson for almost 15 years, but she has worked in cancer

research her entire career. “Research nursing is about putting the best interests of the patients first, but also maintaining the integrity of the trials,” she explains. “I particularly like working with young faculty. It’s a very energizing environment.”

[Story](#) / [Video](#) / [Nominate a coworker.](#)

Leadership Roles in National Association Committees



Kent Walters, FACHE, FHFMA, CMPE, department administrator of Stem Cell Transplantation & Cellular Therapy, was elected chair of the Administrative Directors Special Interest Group Steering Committee for the American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation

(ASBMT) in February for a two-year term. Walters has served as ASBMT Annual Meeting program chair for the past two years on the steering committee, and is co-chair of the Committee on Request for Information, which sets policy for reporting outcomes. Walters was also appointed to the National Marrow Donor Program/BeTheMatch Advisory Group on Financial Barriers to Transplant. Walters achieved Fellow status in the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) in November 2016.

Read more: [ASBMT](#) / [BeTheMatch](#) / [HFMA](#)

Grand Rounds

In addition to our own faculty, we recently hosted two visiting speakers:

- Cliona Rooney, MD, from Baylor College of Medicine presented “[Enhancing T-cell Immunotherapy for Cancer](#)” on March 7.
- John Marshall, MD, from Georgetown University Medical Center presented “[Finding Value in Colon Cancer Care](#)” on March 28.

View videos and read synopses [here](#).

DoCM Grand Rounds are held at 8 a.m. each Tuesday in Hickey Auditorium. Upcoming speakers:

April 04: Cancelled due to AACR

April 11: Jeffrey Engelman, MD, PhD, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, “Targeted Therapies and Resistance: Where Are We Going?”

April 18: 3rd Annual T32 Symposium

April 25: Lorraine Gudas, MD, Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, “Nuclear Receptor Selective Agonists for the Prevention and Treatment of Cancer and Diabetes”

Read our [recent patient stories](#). Got news? Email [DoCMessages](#). View past publications [here](#).