

Institute for Data Science in Oncology Committee

Dec. 17, 2025 | Meeting Summary

The Institute for Data Science in Oncology (IDSO) Signature Priority Committee meeting provided a compelling update on the Institute’s activities, beginning with an overview of its mission to embed data science into every aspect of cancer care and research across MD Anderson. Leaders highlighted significant progress, including MD Anderson’s leading position for the development of patient-specific digital twins to inform and improve treatment decisions and patient care, development of AI models to identify and measure tumors across multiple body sites, new methods to detect lung tissue pollutants and understand their molecular impact and advances in digital pathology designed to extract richer insights from tissue sample images. The team also emphasized workforce development — recruiting data scientists, clinicians and computational experts — and strengthening ecosystem partnerships across UT System and with industry collaborators. A major portion of the meeting focused on community building and philanthropy efforts, celebrating recent Day of Science events and successful salon gatherings in California that sparked strong engagement among lay audiences, tech leaders and potential donors. Committee members discussed the need for scalable outreach tools, such as a “giving registry” and fellow-training playbook, which helps IDSO fellows build critical skills when engaging lay audiences in discussing cancer data science. Throughout the session, participants underscored growing excitement around AI, the importance of responsible data stewardship and the need for sustained philanthropic investment to maintain the IDSO’s momentum and accelerate MD Anderson’s mission to end cancer.