

ALUMNI STORIES



Mark A. Healy, M.D., M.Sc.
Surgical Oncologist
Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center
Gilbert, AZ

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®

A scientific trifecta

In high school, Mark A. Healy, M.D., M.Sc., wanted to be a computer scientist. He changed his mind after being by his mother's side as she battled with cancer. At the hospital, his intrigue in watching physicians and other clinical staff interact shifted his career thoughts to becoming either a medical research scientist or a physician. In the end, he hit the scientific trifecta. He became all three – a physician, researcher, and a computer scientist.

Other influences contributed toward Mark's career decisions. One of his college mentors was a professor of computer science whose career focused on radiation oncology research. Through his mentor, Mark learned how his love of computer science could be integrated with an interest in advancing medicine. He completed his computer science undergraduate degree and applied to medical school. Today, Mark uses his programming skills to write algorithms and perform advanced statistical analyses in his research work.

His appreciation of the impact oncologists have with patients drew him to pursue a specialty in surgical oncology. Knowing personally how vulnerable patients are when they first receive a cancer diagnosis, Mark focuses on developing a relationship of trust and support with his patients, to help them maneuver their treatment plan. Mark believes his experience with his mother, who died from her cancer when Mark was a college freshman, helps him empathize with each patient and drives him to optimize his patients' quality of life and experience.

After Mark completed his studies in the MD Anderson Graduate Medical Education program in 2020, he moved almost 1,200 miles away, but MD Anderson was still with him. He joined the staff of an [MD Anderson Cancer Network](#) partner hospital – Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Gilbert, Arizona – as a surgical oncologist.

For Mark, the best part of working with MD Anderson in Arizona is the ability to have cases discussed at multi-disciplinary tumor boards, which are led by physicians from MD Anderson's primary campus in Houston, who possess a strong knowledge of the entire cancer care continuum. Neither the patient nor the physician need to physically be in Houston to benefit from MD Anderson's knowledge, treatment protocols and overall expertise. Additionally, his patients have opportunities to participate in selected clinical trials. The Cancer Network extends MD Anderson's knowledge and expertise far beyond Houston, Texas.

In addition to patient care, Mark continues to participate in research and to use his computer science skills to elevate his research. He feels confident that he is providing patients with exceptional care because of his continued affiliation with MD Anderson through the Cancer Network.

[Click here](#) for more information on the MD Anderson Cancer Network.

MD Anderson program(s) in which I trained

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Graduate Medical Education Program, 2020

Academic area of specialization

Surgical Oncology, Health Services Research

Current Employer

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center

Current City

Gilbert, AZ

Current Position

Surgical Oncology

Website

<https://www.bannerhealth.com/services/cancer>

Who are your mentors?

Two people were real standouts for me as mentors, while I trained at MD Anderson. Dr. Nancy You was very supportive of my development as a fellow. She was always there to check in with me to see how things were going. It was a learning experience every time I operated with her. Dr. Jeffrey E. Lee always made himself available to discuss anything I needed to talk about, including career advice. He has outstanding technical skills and is left-handed like me. Every time I operated with him, I learned something new to incorporate into my own surgeries. I remain in contact with both today.

Yi-Qian Nancy You, MD, MHSc, FACS, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Colon & Rectal Surgery, Division of Surgery, MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Jeffrey E. Lee, MD, is Vice President of Medical and Academic Affairs, Cancer Network and Professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology, Division of Surgery, MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Works of interest

- [Screening high-risk populations for colon and rectal cancers.](#)
- [Hospital and Payer Costs Associated With Surgical Complications.](#)
- [Intraoperative Fluid Resuscitation Strategies in Pancreatectomy: Results from 38 Hospitals in Michigan.](#)
- [Analysis of Prognostic Factors from 9387 Merkel Cell Carcinoma Cases Forms the Basis for the New 8th Edition AJCC Staging System.](#)
- [Variation in Medicare Expenditures for Treating Perioperative Complications: The Cost of Rescue.](#)

Graduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s)

University of Michigan
Master of Science in Health and Healthcare Research – 2016

Pritzker School of Medicine
University of Chicago – M.D. – 2001

Undergraduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s)

University of Notre Dame
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science – 2007

High school from which I graduated

Edgewater High School, Orlando, FL – 2003

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