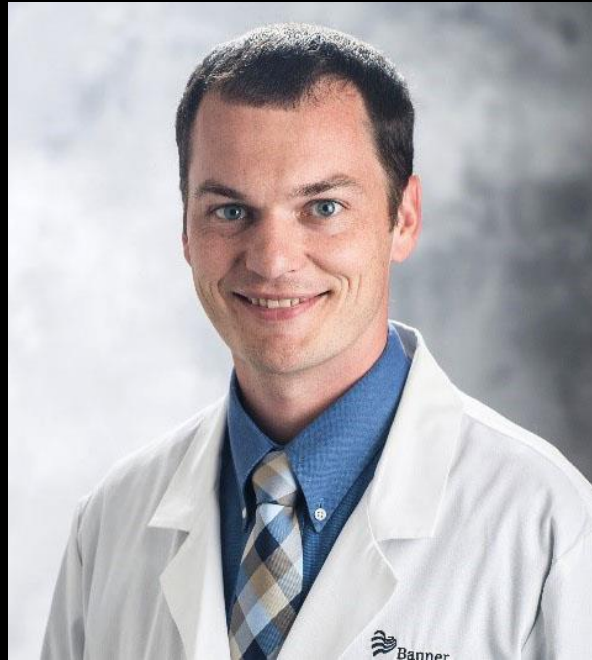


ALUMNI STORIES



Gary Walker, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.

Radiation Oncologist
Regional Section Chief of Southeast Division
Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center
Gilbert, AZ

Adjunct Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®

A child medical prodigy?

When Gary Walker, M.D. was 3 years old his parents asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. “A doctor,” he replied. And he has never wavered.

Although he had no immediate familial influence that led him in the direction of pursuing a medical career, he remembers when the father of a friend talked to his Kindergarten class about what it was like to be a doctor. And losing a close friend to cancer in high school continued to fuel his interest in medicine. Throughout his youth he had positive interactions with physicians which developed a great respect and admiration for the trust patients have with their physicians. Just like the physicians that influenced him, he wanted to help and serve people in a way that improved their lives.

Today Dr. Walker is the Section Chief of Radiation Oncology for Southeast Arizona at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Gilbert, Arizona, where he supervises two clinics with eight full-time radiation oncologists. He also serves as Associate Director of Banner MD Anderson’s multi-disciplinary head and neck program and is the service line lead for gastrointestinal radiation oncology. He is an adjunct faculty member at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, as well as The University of Arizona.

While a resident at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, Dr. Walker switched gears from his original interest in becoming a surgeon. After having completed multiple clinical rotations at MD Anderson, including surgery, he felt the pull toward radiation oncology because of the increased opportunity for patient interactions. The radiation oncology patients he encountered in his residency were fearful and worried about their future health condition. Dr. Walker became passionate about creating a relationship with each patient and over time, helping them to understand their diagnosis which lessened the patient’s fear and worry about their outcome.

Dr. Walker’s interest in overall health runs deep with a focus on outcomes. He has earned master’s degrees in public health and clinical informatics in support of today’s increasing focus on population health. His interest in informatics also led to his board certification in Clinical Informatics. He also leads the oncology rotation for University of Arizona Phoenix Informatics fellows. Always looking for ways to make improvements, Dr. Walker has redesigned multiple work processes to improve workflows, physician efficiency and accuracy. Dr. Walker is mindful of the impact that disease has on all parts of a patient’s life, beyond just the physical aspects of treatment. With this knowledge he responds by creating a well-rounded treatment plan that supports patients through all phases of their disease.

Also, Dr. Walker continues to be active in research, primarily cooperative group and other multi-institutional trials, looking at the effectiveness of different treatments and their associated health outcomes.

What originally attracted Dr. Walker to MD Anderson Cancer Center as a resident is the same reason he chose to continue his affiliation with MD Anderson once he went into full-time practice at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, a partner of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He has always been amazed by MD Anderson's patient-focused delivery of quality, collaborative care. In his leadership role at Banner MD Anderson in Phoenix, he continues to meet with representatives of MD Anderson once a week for chart review and consultation. He built his practice based on MD Anderson standards of care and continues to remain connected to MD Anderson mentors and colleagues.

MD Anderson program(s) in which I trained

Clinical Residency, Radiation Oncology, 2010-2015

Academic area of specialization

Radiation Oncology, Head and Neck and Gastrointestinal Malignancies

Current Employer

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center

Current City

Gilbert, AZ

Board Certifications

- Radiation Oncologist, American Board of Radiology
- Clinical Informatics, American Board of Preventive Medicine

Current Position

- Associate Director, Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Program
 - Radiation Oncology Regional Medical Director
 - Health System Service Line Lead for Head and Neck Radiation Oncology
 - Health System Service Line Lead for Gastrointestinal Radiation Oncology

- Adjunct Associate Professor, MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Adjunct Associate Professor, The University of Arizona
 - Phoenix Clinical Informatics Fellowship faculty member, 2018-present
 - Phoenix Radiation Oncology Medical Student Rotation faculty member, 2015-present
 - Phoenix scholarly project mentor, 2016-present

Honors and awards

- Resident Travel Grant Award, American Brachytherapy Society Annual Meeting, 2015
- American Radium Society Travel Grant, 2014
- Oncura Fellowship for Prostate Brachytherapy, Seattle Prostate Cancer Institute, 2013
- Conquer Cancer Foundation of ASCO Merit Award, 2013
- Zeta Tau Alpha Houston Alumnae Association Fellowship in Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research, 2012
- Texas Radiological Society Meeting Travel Grant, 2012
- James K. Alexander Research Symposium, 2nd place for clinical posters, 2010
- American Radium Society Travel Grant, 2010
- Eagle Scout, 1996

Works of interest

- [Declining utilization of prostate brachytherapy](#)
- [Palliation or Prolongation? The Impact of a Peer-Review Intervention on Shortening Radiotherapy Schedules for Bone Metastases](#)
- [Provider Variability in Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy Utilization among Medicare Beneficiaries in the United States](#)
- [Prospective Randomized Double-Blind Study of Atlas-Based Organ-at-Risk Autosegmentation-Assisted Radiation Treatment Planning in Head and Neck Cancer](#)
- [Muddy water? Variation in reporting receipt of breast cancer radiation therapy by population-based tumor registries](#)
- [Link to all published studies by Gary V. Walker – Current thru March 2022](#)

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

Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX
MD – 2010

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Houston, TX
MS, Health Informatics – 2014

The University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT
MPH – 2006

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

Brigham Young University
Provo, UT
BS, Neuroscience – 2005

High school from which I graduated

Westview High School
Portland, OR
1999

Want your story to be featured?

[Click here](#) to complete the questionnaire.

Not a member of the MD Anderson Alumni portal?

[Click here](#) to join.