

GASTROINTESTINAL CANCER PROGRAM



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA CANCER CENTER

- A National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Personalized treatment by a nationally renowned team of specialists
- Treatment supported with a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant in GI cancer

Multidisciplinary and Personalized Approach to Care

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Weekly prospective patient management meetings covering all gastrointestinal malignancies

- The team consists of medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, gastroenterologists and endoscopists
- Special expertise in treatment focusing on quality of life

Surgical Oncology

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Specializing in minimally invasive surgery, geriatric surgical oncology and regional and metastatic treatment of malignant and benign diseases

- Hand-assisted laparoscopy (including liver, colon, stomach)
- Minimally invasive surgery including robotic techniques
- Improved surgical options including sphincter and nerve preservation for colorectal surgery and resection of liver tumors
- HIPEC - Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy after radical debulking for peritoneal disease
- Special expertise in liver, biliary and pancreatic surgery
- Liver ablation technology including microwave, bipolar and monopolar radiofrequency ablation

Medical Oncology

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Offer anti-cancer treatments with an emphasis on patients' tumor characteristic and individual needs

- Modern preoperative ("neoadjuvant") chemotherapy and postoperative ("adjuvant") chemotherapy in order to increase a cure rate for patients with cancers of esophagus, stomach, colon and rectum
- Use of novel targeted therapeutics based on a patient's cancer characteristics (molecular profile)
- Combined modality approach to common gastrointestinal cancers that include parallel application of chemotherapy and radiation therapy (for esophageal, stomach and colorectal cancers)
- Clinical trials investigating new drugs and treatment approaches for gastrointestinal cancers endorsed by the National Cancer Institute.
- Investigations of new ways to detect and monitor cancer (biomarkers)

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Radiation Oncology

Provide state-of-the art gastrointestinal cancer radiation therapy

- Newly acquired Varian EX Linac, Novalis, TomoTherapy® equipment providing Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) and Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT). These two new technologies (IMRT and IGRT) allow physicians to reduce the amount of normal tissue included in the high dose volume, thus resulting in fewer side effects.

Disease Sites

- Anal
- Bile duct and gallbladder
- Colon
- Esophagus
- Gastric (stomach)
- Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST)
- Liver (primary and metastases)
- Pancreas
- Rectal
- Small bowel

The Team

Medical Oncology

Emad Elquza, MD
Hitendra Patel, MD

Surgical Oncology

Tun Jie, MD
Valentine Nfonsam, MD
Evan Ong, MD
Jitesh Patel, MD
John F. Renz, MD, PhD

Radiation Oncology

Krishna Howell, MD
Baldassarre “Dino” Stea, MD, PhD

Dietician

Michelle Bratton, RD, CSO

Nursing Staff

Debra Isaacs, RN
Carolyn Jones, NP
Connie Klein, OCN
Eric Loveres, RN
Steve Malangone, MSN, FNP-C
Maria Smith, RN

Social Workers

Marsha Drozdoff, MSW
Xochitl Gaxiola, MSW
Linda Jones, MSW
Kathleen Pickerell, LMSW
Jill Winter, MSW

Contact Us

**Appointments: UACC–North Campus (520) 694-CURE (2873)
UACC–Orange Grove (520) 694-8900**

Our Locations:

University of Arizona
Cancer Center
1515 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, Arizona 85724

University of Arizona
Cancer Center–North Campus
3838 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, Arizona 85719

University of Arizona
Cancer Center–Orange Grove
1891 W. Orange Grove Rd.
Tucson, Arizona 85704

University of Arizona Medical
Center–University Campus
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Provider Referral Line: (520) 694-9119

Web: www.arizonacancercenter.org



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