



Mays Cancer Center

UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center

# FUTURE FOCUS

SHARING CANCER CENTER NEWS AS WE CHAMPION HEALTH TOGETHER.

NEWSLETTER 6.13.2019



## MEET THE EXPERT

JAVIER  
HERNANDEZ, M.D.

*“My priority is maintaining a focus on what can be done. Fortunately, with many male reproductive and urinary tract cancers, there’s quite a lot we can do.”*

*When Javier Hernandez, M.D., was a young doctor serving in the U.S. Army, he gained a passion for the early diagnosis and treatment of testicular cancer.* Now one of the only dedicated experts on urological oncology in South Central Texas, the UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center physician recalls with gratitude the formative lessons he gained while serving at Brooke Army Medical Center.

“With all these young men in the service, you see [testicular cancer] more often,” says Dr. Hernandez. In the service, Dr. Hernandez says he gained a keen appreciation for the fear and stigma associated with male reproductive and urological cancers. He also learned how key early detection is to ensure the young men eventually lived long and satisfying lives.

While relatively rare, testicular cancer is the most common form of cancer among

men aged 15-34. Highly treatable if detected early, the fast-moving cancer can be debilitating or deadly if untreated. Testicular cancer is usually discovered when a patient notices an unusual growth, firmness or discomfort in the scrotum or on the testicle during a self-exam. That’s the time to have it checked by a doctor, Dr. Hernandez says, rather than later.

“If we catch it at stage 1 (before it has moved to other areas of the body), the cure rate for testicular cancer is well over 90 percent,” he says. “Unfortunately, it’s still not uncommon to meet a patient who tells us it’s been weeks, months and, sometimes, a couple of years since they first noticed a lump or discomfort. By then, the problem has usually become much more threatening than it had to be.”

He shares the story of Malachi Fischer, an active, athletic, recently married 31-year-

old patient from Del Rio. “Malachi did everything right. He checked himself, he paid attention to his body, and he sought medical advice only a few days later. Less than a week later, his right testicle and a small tumor were removed. His quick action saved his life, but, even then, the cancer had already spread to his lymph nodes and required chemotherapy.”

The good news, in Fischer’s case, is that he experienced a full recovery only a few months after initial diagnosis. “Patients who wait,” says Dr. Hernandez, “aren’t usually so lucky.” But, he stresses, there are still plenty of options even in those more advanced cases.

“My priority is maintaining a focus on what can be done. Fortunately, with many male reproductive and urinary tract cancers, there’s quite a lot we can do,” Dr. Hernandez insists.

He points to another patient, a teenaged boy whose cancer had migrated throughout his abdomen and into his heart by the time it was detected and diagnosed. Through rapid, aggressive chemotherapy, a succession of surgical interventions, and what Dr. Hernandez calls “a heroic team effort,” the team at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center was able to reach a successful outcome. Currently, the patient is almost three years cancer-free and is living a healthy, active life.

*“This story really illustrates that there’s a lot that can be done,” says Dr. Hernandez. “It also really underscores the importance of seeking out the right specialist, the right team, and the right facility.”*

[Click Here to Read More.](#)

To learn more about the family of experts at UT Health San Antonio, or to schedule an appointment, visit, [click here](#) or call 210-450-1000.



## LAURA LANIER TENNER, M.D., M.P.H.

### NAMED AN ASCO HEALTH POLICY LEADERSHIP FELLOW

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has named Laura LaNiel Tenner, M.D., M.P.H. a Health Policy Leadership Development Program Fellow for 2019-2020. Dr. Tenner is a medical oncologist and assistant professor at the Mays Cancer Center, home to UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center.

During her fellowship, Dr. Tenner will participate in ASCO efforts to shape cancer-related policies that directly affect individuals with cancer and the oncology practice environment.

ASCO's Health Policy Leadership Development Program launched in

2016 to build policy and leadership expertise among the society's members and volunteers. Fellows receive practical experience working with ASCO policy and advocacy staff and policy counsel in crafting policy positions and statements; training in communication, leadership, and advocacy; and a mentored project that advances an ASCO policy initiative. Fellows will also be full members of the ASCO Leadership Development Program.

Dr. Tenner's clinical focus is gastrointestinal cancers, predominantly liver, gastric and colorectal cancers. She also has specialized training in

ethics in oncology and population sciences research, with a specific focus in health care systems and cancer care improvement.

"The populations research we continue to do at the cancer center allows us to identify areas of system breakdown and disparities," said Dr. Tenner.

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**"THROUGH ASCO'S HEALTH POLICY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, I LOOK FORWARD TO DEVELOPING THE SKILLS I NEED TO START TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO THESE DEFICIENCIES AND BECOME A MORE EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM." – DR. TENNER**

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Dr. Tenner obtained her medical degree at Texas A&M College of Medicine and completed her fellowship in medical oncology at Indiana University. She spent much of her early career studying health care systems and policy, not just in the United States, but also in Canada and England. She obtained a Master of Public Health with a focus in policy. She now directs two pharmacy and therapeutics committees for two major health systems in San Antonio, and is extensively involved in the populations work at her cancer center on disparities in care and health systems barriers.

# ASCO Direct™ Highlights

## 2019 Official Annual Meeting Review

June 22, 2019 | Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk

### CAN'T MAKE IT TO ASCO®?

Attend the UT Health San Antonio ASCO Direct™ Highlights.

This meeting will showcase the most recent advances in the treatment of cancer presented at the 2019 American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO®) Annual Meeting.

This year's topics include:

- Cancer Survivorship Care
- Central Nervous System
- Gastrointestinal Cancers
- Genitourinary Cancer
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Hematology Malignancies
- Hepatobiliary and Pancreas
- Lung Cancer
- Metastatic Breast Cancer
- New Therapeutics
- Translational Breast Cancer Research

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CLICK [HERE](#) TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND REGISTER TODAY!



**WATCH:**

## CANCER IS A THIEF

DR. MESA'S PERSPECTIVE  
AS THE BATTLE TO END  
CANCER CONTINUES



**After witnessing a history of cancer in his family,** Ruben Mesa, M.D., believes that cancer is a thief, not because it may kill you. After all, each of us will die. It's because it steals life early.

Dr. Mesa, the director of the Mays Cancer Center, home to the UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center, brings that perspective to his work as both a physician and scientist treating patients and as the leader of a comprehensive cancer center.

Find out more about what drives Dr. Mesa's work as cancer research, care and treatment evolves.

To learn more about UT Health San Antonio's missions highlighted at the annual President's Luncheon in May, watch the full presentation.

The annual President's Luncheon was held March 5 at the Pearl Stable. President William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, invited four exceptional faculty members to share a glimpse into the important work they accomplish each day. Attendees are community supporters of UT Health San Antonio.

In addition to Dr. Mesa, the other presenters were Lisa Cleveland Ph.D., RN, Gregory Aune, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP, and Jennifer Sharpe Potter, Ph.D., M.P.H. Their presentations are also featured on Newsroom.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO.](#)



## SAVE THE DATE

**UT Rio Grande Valley Research Symposium – Health Disparities: Community Engagement**

**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and UT Health San Antonio Department of Urology are hosting the 3rd Annual Research Symposium on Health Disparities and Community Engagement on Sept. 13-14.** This year's symposium will showcase research and programs promoting health equity and highlight best practices for researchers and medical providers to engage with community organizations toward eliminating health disparities.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 13, 2019**

UT Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine Building  
1210 W. Schunior St.  
Edinburg, Texas 78541

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 14, 2019**

McAllen Convention Center  
700 Convention Center Blvd.  
McAllen, Texas 78501



# Grand Rounds



**Robert Quinn, M.D. has no relevant financial relationships with commercial interests to disclose.**

The Cancer Grand Rounds Planning Committee (Ruben Mesa, MD) has no relevant financial relationships with commercial interests to disclose.

The Joe R. & Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Joe R. & Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine designates this live activity up to a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

## Robert Quinn, M.D.

Department Chair and Professor  
John J. Hinchey MD and Kathryn Hinchey  
Chair in Orthopaedics  
Department of Orthopaedics

### TOPIC

## “Evolving Options With Bone Mets”

### WHEN & WHERE

Thursday, July 25, 2019  
12:00-1:00 p.m.

UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Mabee Conference Room G406



Mays Cancer Center

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