

SAN ANTONIO BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM LEADS WAY TO NEW CANCER TREATMENTS



More than 7,000 physicians and researchers from around the world will converge on the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 900 E. Market St., Dec. 10-14, to attend the [San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium® \(SABCS®\)](#).

Founded, owned and operated by UT Health San Antonio, SABCS began in 1977 as a one-day regional conference. Over the past 42 years, the meeting has grown to a five-day international conference with more than 7,500 total attendees from over 85 countries. About half of those who attend are from countries outside the U.S.

“SABCS is one of the largest breast cancer conferences in the world,” said **Virginia Kaklamani, M.D.**, professor of medicine and leader of the UT Health San Antonio breast cancer program. She serves as one of three co-leaders of the SABCS.

“What is discussed at the SABCS truly guides what is studied in the field of breast cancer all over the world. The physicians and scientists take what they learn here back to their practices or labs the following Monday morning to improve care for patients,” she added.

Ruben Mesa, M.D., FACP, director of UT Health San Antonio’s cancer center, added, “The science presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium and the discussions they generate help advance the standard of care for cancer patients around the world.”

UT Health San Antonio researchers are presenting 17 posters. One poster examines

a group of studies showing that imipramine, an FDA-approved drug used to treat chronic depression, may be effective in preventing the growth and progression of triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC). In preliminary studies conducted by a team of UT Health San Antonio researchers, the drug reduced cell viability, the spread of breast cancer to other parts of the body, the invasion of breast cancer cells in general and specifically TNBC cells. In the studies, imipramine stopped human TNBC tumors grown in mice and interfered with cell signaling pathways that promote the formation of TNBC tumors and their spread to other areas of the body.

THE RESEARCHERS ON THIS POSTER INCLUDE

Subapriya Rajamanickam, Ph.D.; Santosh Timilsina, Ph.D.; Ismail Jatoi, M.D.; Dr. Kaklamani, Ratna Vadlamudi, Ph.D.; and Manjeet Rao, Ph.D., **all from UT Health San Antonio.**

Another poster shows the results of a Phase 1, multi-institutional study of elacestrant (RAD1901). Most patients with advanced estrogen receptor-positive (ER-positive) breast cancer eventually become resistant to hormone-based treatment. Researchers had

NEWSLETTER 12.12.19

previously shown that elacestrant successfully treated human tumors that were grown in mice, including tumors that previously had not responded to other medications. The Phase 1 trial being discussed at this year’s SABCS is the first study of elacestrant in humans and was designed to determine what a safe dose of the medication might be and to learn about the severity of possible side effects.

RESEARCHERS ON THIS STUDY INCLUDE

Dr. Kaklamani, UT Health San Antonio; Aditya Bardia, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Harvard Medical School; Sharon Wilks, Texas Oncology – San Antonio; Amy Weise, Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center, Detroit, MI; Donald Richards, Texas Oncology – Tyler, TX; Wael Harb, Horizon Oncology Center, Lafayette, IN; Cynthia Osborne, Texas Oncology – Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center, Dallas; Robert Wesolowski, Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH; Meghan Karuturi, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston; Paul Conkling, Virginia Oncology Associates, Norfolk, VA; Rebecca Bagley, JungAh Jung, Teeru Bihani and Maureen Conlan, all from Radius Health Inc., Waltham, MA; and Peter Kabos, University of Colorado, Aurora.

In addition to UT Health San Antonio, the two other SABCS institutional co-sponsors are Baylor College of Medicine and the American Association of Cancer Research.



RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY TOP WAYS TO STOP PROJECTED 142% RISE IN LATINO CANCER

As U.S. Latinos face a staggering 142% projected rise in cancer cases by 2030, UT Health San Antonio leaders gathered international cancer experts to publish a new book with innovative research and recommendations to reduce Latino cancer.

The book, [*Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos*](#) in Springer Open Books, showcases results of the [same-name conference](#) that brought 300 researchers to San Antonio in 2018.

A follow-up conference, set for **Feb. 26-28, 2020**, in San Antonio, is [open for registration](#).

Included in the new book are promising research findings on Latino cancer and strategies for new research covering the entire cancer continuum, from advances in risk assessment, prevention, screening, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and policy.

“Our book, *Advancing the Science of Cancer in Latinos*, takes an unprecedented look at Latino cancer from many disciplines to encourage the kind of collaboration among diverse professionals that we need to move the field forward,” said Amelie Ramirez, Dr.P.H., co-editor of the book. She is professor and chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences and director of the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR)

at UT Health San Antonio. The IHPR co-hosted the 2018 conference along with the university’s Mays Cancer Center, home to UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center.

“We believe the recommendations here can spark dialog and collaboration for new solutions to eliminate cancer health disparities among Latino populations,” she said.

The book, and the conference, are a call to action to address Latino cancer health disparities.



CANCER IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN LATINOS

Latinos face a higher risk for certain cancers, such as stomach and liver cancer, compared to whites. This stems from cultural barriers to care, low screening rates, underrepresentation in clinical studies and data that fails to reflect the diversity within the U.S. Latino population.

The authors urge researchers, population health clinicians, communities and policymakers to see the Latino population as composed of many subgroups. For example, a family’s country of origin can affect genetics, environment, culture, food preferences and lifestyle.

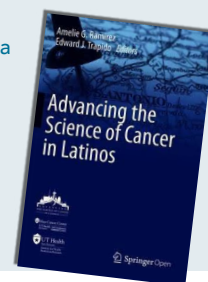
The book recommends that researchers create studies based on subgroups to provide more meaningful results, as health care moves to a customized approach through precision medicine.

LATINO POPULATION IS GROWING

“This research approach is important because Latinos are projected to be one-third of the U.S. population by 2050,” Dr. Ramirez said.

The book provides recommendations for action in these areas:

- Genetics, environment and lifestyle of Latino subgroups
- Latino cancer risk, prevention and screening
- Biology of cancer health disparities
- Advances in cancer therapy and clinical trials
- Latino cancer in the era of precision medicine
- Engaging Latinos in cancer research
- Emerging policies in U.S. health care



“We hope readers will explore this important research to gain a fresh, comprehensive perspective on Latino cancer health disparities,” Dr. Ramirez said. “We anticipate this will inspire critical thinking and strategizing about how people can apply this research and practice into their work, leading to more collaboration, research and success in improving the health and lives of U.S. Latinos.”

Ed Trapido, Sc.D., FACE, an epidemiology researcher at the Louisiana State University School of Public Health and LSU Health Sciences Center, is the book’s other co-editor.

...continued next page

The book was supported in part by the Mays Cancer Center, IHPR and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (R13MD012457-01).

Contributors to the book include Mays Cancer Center Director Ruben A. Mesa, M.D., FACP; IHPR team members Patricia Chalela, Dr.P.H., Pramod Sukumaran, Ph.D., Cliff Despres, Andrea Fernandez, M.P.H., and Edgar Muñoz, M.S.; and Sneha Prabhu, M.P.H., formerly of the IHPR.

The Scientific Planning Committee for the book and conference includes Drs. Ramirez and Trapido; Anna M. Nápoles, Ph.D., National Institute on Minority Health and

Health Disparities; Elena V. Rios, M.D., National Hispanic Medical Association; Filipa C. Lynce, M.D., Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University Medical Center; Frank J. Penedo, Ph.D., Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami; Marcia R. Cruz-Correa, M.D., Ph.D., University of Puerto Rico; Mariana C. Stern, Ph.D., Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Southern California; Martin Mendoza, Ph.D., U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Virginia Kaklamani, M.D., Mays Cancer Center; Ysabel Duron, Latinas Contra Cancer; and Sandi Stanford, Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation.



CONGRATS, JEREMY!

Jeremy Viles, DNP, MBA, RN, NE-BC, Chief Nursing Officer at the Mays Cancer Center and Assistant

Dean of School of Nursing was named one of the **Top 25 Nurses in South Texas** by the San Antonio Nursing Consortium.

The San Antonio Nursing Consortium consists of the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses of San Antonio, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, and the San Antonio Chapter American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Congratulations, Jeremy!

EDGE

WHAT CAN I DO TO UNDERSTAND AND PROMOTE EDGE?



To move toward a future that better serves our region and achieves our mission, here are four actions employees – you – can take:

1 BE FLEXIBLE AND OPEN TO NEW IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

EDGE transformations are structured, but details will continuously evolve as we collaborate to develop prototypes in areas where we have opportunities to improve service delivery. These prototypes will be tested and refined to encourage greater effectiveness, efficiency, and scalability. Over the next two years, there will be exciting options for new career paths and individual growth for UT Health San Antonio employees.

2 SEEK INFORMATION FROM CREDIBLE SOURCES

Transformation doesn't happen overnight and at times misinformation or misunderstanding spreads. It's everyone's responsibility to seek out credible information, to not speculate and to seek clarity when confusion arises. At each stage of the initiative, faculty and staff leaders will be updated with information about the progress of the EDGE prototypes in their respective areas that they can share with you. Active feedback channels are already in place in the form of website engagement, surveys, ability to ask questions and discussion forums.

HERE ARE SOME CREDIBLE SOURCES FOR EDGE INFORMATION:

- Your leaders
- [EDGE website](#)
- Ask questions at EDGE@uthscsa.edu

3 ACTIVELY ENGAGE

Look for regular updates to the [EDGE website](#) on My UT Health, in the *This Week* newsletter, or from your manager. There will be constant progress, so EDGE communication will be provided in routine communication channels readily available for those who are interested and seeking information, rather than emails to fill your inbox. By taking the initiative to be informed, you'll be aware, knowledgeable, and prepared for transformation. Managers will be equipped with resources to keep them up to date about changes so they can provide messages to all employees.

4 FOCUS FORWARD

EDGE requires collaboration from all of us to transform the institution to achieve its mission. We will be asking for ideas and opportunities which may be found at every level and in every department. We must ask: what will it take to change? What are our best ideas for taking UT Health to a future that is efficient and effective at making lives better? As we launch prototypes, we will track progress through analysis and measurable results. There are and will always be channels to collect your ideas and share the opportunities you see.

We want your feedback.

Watch for Weekly Updates on the [EDGE website](#) and send questions to EDGE@uthscsa.edu.

Last month, the Enterprise Design for Growth and Effectiveness (EDGE) initiative launched the Business Services Center as its first prototype of a new service delivery model, or one way of how we will do our jobs differently as we become a more efficiently operating organization. As we start to witness changes in our operations, questions come up: What is in it for me? Is my job changing? What am I going to have to do?

The name of the **EDGE** initiative helps clarify:

Enterprise – Requiring collaboration from all of us

Design – Careful, thoughtful, intentional design of our future

Growth – Rapidly growing population in our region, the increasing need of medical services, and retaining our competitive leadership in the medical space

Effectiveness – What if we were able to accomplish more with existing resources? What if we got better at the things we already do well? What if we could reduce our frustrations while tightening focus on our mission?



WE CAN DO MORE

Watch how the Mays Cancer Center uses groundbreaking research and the most advanced treatment options to decrease the burden of cancer.



WATCH VIDEO

CLOSURES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

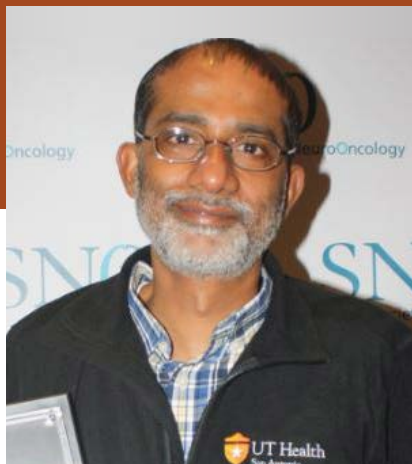
TUES 12.24.19 – Limited operations
for urgent care needs

WED 12.25.19 – CLOSED

THURS 12.26.19 – Limited
operations for urgent care needs

FRI 12.27.19 – Limited operations
for urgent care needs

WED 01.01.20 – CLOSED



Sandeep Burma, Ph.D., professor of neurosurgery and of biochemistry and structural biology, received the **Award for Excellence in Adult Basic Science** at the Society for NeuroOncology Annual Meeting in Phoenix in November.

The award, sponsored by the National Brain Tumor Society, was given for Dr. Burma's

DR. BURMA HONORED BY SOCIETY FOR NEUROONCOLOGY

research on the role of senescent astrocytes in promoting brain tumor development. Dr. Burma presented his research at the meeting.

Prior to joining UT Health San Antonio earlier this year, Dr. Burma spent 14 years at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas where he developed a strong research program in DNA repair and glioblastoma therapy resistance.

Dr. Burma obtained his doctoral degree from the National Institute of Immunology in India. After postdoctoral research in the fields of transcription and DNA repair at Yale University, Pennsylvania State University and the Los Alamos National

Laboratory, he worked as a career scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Dr. Burma's research has made many seminal contributions to our understanding of basic mechanisms of DNA repair and therapy resistance in glioblastoma. He is committed to translation of his research findings to improve cancer therapy, especially that of glioblastoma. His research has been continuously funded by the NIH and NASA.

At UT Health San Antonio, Dr. Burma is the Mays Family Foundation Distinguished Chair in Oncology.



Join us for an employee appreciation Holiday Luncheon and Welcome Celebration for Dr. Daruka Mahadevan and Dr. Mark Bonnen.

Friday, December 13th
Mabee Conference Room (G406)
11:30am – 1:00pm

Wear your favorite holiday
themed attire – cute or funny,
but work-appropriate.



Grand Rounds



Jennifer Huberty, Ph.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.

Jennifer Huberty, Ph.D.

College of Health Solutions
Arizona State University

TOPIC

“Prescribing Meditation to Manage Chronic Cancer Symptoms”

WHEN & WHERE

Wednesday, January 8, 2020
12:00-1:00 p.m.

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



Mays Cancer Center

UT Health MD Anderson
San Antonio ~~Cancer Center~~