Division Introduction

Under the direction of Stephen X. Skapek, M.D., the faculty, fellows, and numerous support and administrative staff in the Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology are dedicated to the fulfillment of a four-fold mission:

- The diagnosis and care of infants, children and adolescents with cancer and myriad hematologic disorders
- The education of medical students, residents, fellows, and other trainees, as well as provision of continuing education to practicing physicians
- Clinical, translational, and laboratory research aimed at improving and extending our knowledge about blood diseases and cancer
- Advocacy of our cause on behalf of the patients and families we serve

As the major program of its kind in North Texas and one of the largest in the United States, each year physicians in the Division primarily provide care in the Pauline Allen Gill Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children’s Health to hundreds of patients with complex disorders. We also offer outreach that includes educational and consultative resources for primary and referring physicians in the region.

Faculty in the Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology are conducting clinical as well as molecular and cellular biology research in cancer and blood disease. Laboratory research efforts include basic and translational studies that help to bridge the lab and clinical venues. Research is carried out in laboratories at UT Southwestern, Children’s Medical Center Research Institute and Children’s Health℠.

Our education mission includes medical students, pediatric residents, and hematology/oncology fellows. The Division also sponsors an innovative summer student internship program for outstanding premedical and medical students.

Faculty

The Division has a team of 23 faculty, and eight fellows. Drs. Cristyn Branstetter, Kenneth Chen, and An Pham joined the faculty in 2016.

Cristyn Branstetter, M.D.
Assistant Professor

B.A.
Hendrix College, Conway, AR, 2003

M.D.
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, 2008

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 2008-2011
Fellowship, Pediatric Hematology Oncology
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, 2012-2015

Interests
Experimental therapeutics for pediatric malignancy
Kenneth Chen, M.D.
Instructor

B.S.E.
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2002
M.D.
UT Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, TX, 2006

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
UT Southwestern Medical Center/Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, 2006-2009
Fellowship, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
UT Southwestern Medical Center/Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, 2010-2013

Interests
Germ cell tumors, and Wilms tumor

An Pham, M.D.
Instructor

B.S., magna cum laude
University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX, 2006
M.D.
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, 2010

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
McLane Children’s Scott & White, Temple, TX, 2010-2013
Fellowship, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children’s Hospital, Chicago, IL, 2013-2016

Interests
Sickle Cell disease, and quality improvement

Honors / Awards

Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, D Magazine

• Laura Klesse
• Patrick Leavey
• Stephen Skapek
• Naomi Winick

Best Doctors in Dallas, D Magazine

• Tamra Slone
• Jonathan Wickiser

Texas Super Doctors, Texas Monthly Magazine

• George Buchanan
• Naomi Winick

Victor Aquino

• Promotion to Professor of Pediatrics
Invited Lectures

James Amatruda

- Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, March 2016
  - “Genetic and genomic approaches to improving outcomes in childhood cancers”
- Grand Rounds, USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, Los Angeles, CA, February 2016
  - “Molecular Pathogenesis of Childhood Germ Cell Tumors”

Conference Presentations


Poster, BMT Tandem Meetings, Oahu, HI, February 2016
“BPX-501 Cells (Donor T Cells Transduced with iC9 Suicide Gene) Treatment Following TCR Alpha Beta Depleted Stem Cell Transplantation in Adults and Children with Hematological Disorders”


Poster, American Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, May 2016
“Outcomes of pediatric hematology/oncology inpatients that develop a bloodstream infection”

Sue PK, Laetsch TW, Chaisavaneeyakorn S, Stewart S, Siegel JD, Winick N.

“Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Infection as a Cause of Fever and Morbidity Among Pediatric Cancer Patients on Maintenance Chemotherapy”

Laetsch TW, Staruch R, Koral K, Chopra R.

Oral Presentation, 2016 International Congress of Hyperthermic Oncology, New Orleans, LA, April 2016
“Prospective Imaging Study of Magnetic Resonance Thermometry Quality in Pediatric Solid Tumors”

Garg P, Coughlin L, Mirpuri J, Koh A.

Platform Presentation, Pediatric Academic Society/Society of Pediatric Research, Baltimore, MD, May 2016
“Candida Albicans Promotes Gram-Negative Bacterial Dissemination from the Neonatal Murine GI Tract”

Sue PK, Laetsch T, Stewart K, Winick N.

Poster, Pediatric Academic Society/Society of Pediatric Research, Baltimore, MD, May 2016
“Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Infection as a Cause of Fever and Morbidity among Pediatric Cancer Patients on Maintenance Chemotherapy”

Education and Training

The Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology provides educational opportunities for medical students and pediatric residents, in addition to our fully accredited fellowship program. Our goal is to impart knowledge, instill excitement for learning, and translate questions into focused areas of research.
Medical Students

The Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology has taken a major role in the education of medical students at UT Southwestern.

Third-Year Medical Students

During their third year, medical students from UT Southwestern spend eight weeks in pediatrics training at Children's Medical Center Dallas, located on the UTSW campus. Approximately one-fourth of these students will spend two weeks on the Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Service. During this time, the students learn about and participate in the care of children with a wide range of hematologic and oncologic disorders, including sickle cell disease, hemophilia, aplastic anemia, leukemia, lymphoma, brain tumor, bone tumor, and other childhood cancers.

Fourth-Year Medical Students

Fourth-year medical students have the option to participate in a four-week elective in the outpatient hematology/oncology clinics in the Pauline Allen Gill Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's. During this elective, the students see children with cancer and blood disorders, as well as new patients referred to the Gill Center for further evaluation. This outpatient rotation allows the students to see these children in the clinic setting to complement learning in the inpatient area, where our children are often more acutely ill. With prior approval, this elective is also available for a limited number of fourth-year students from other medical schools.

Residents

Pediatric Hematology-Oncology is one of the core subspecialties for pediatric residents at UT Southwestern. All PL-1’s spend four weeks covering the Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Service at Children’s. Each month a PL-2 or PL-3 supervising resident and two or three PL-1s are assigned to the service.

The month spent on the rotation allows residents to learn to take care of what can be very complicated and sick patients with life threatening disease. Residents often look back on this time as a very rewarding experience.

Division faculty are consistently praised by the residents for their devotion to education. Over the course of the four-week rotation, several afternoons each week provide enhanced learning opportunities which may include lectures, pathology review, and bedside teaching. The curriculum covers most, if not all, of the American Board of Pediatrics Content Specifications for "Disorders of the Blood and Neoplastic Disorders."

Pediatric residents may also elect to spend a month in the outpatient clinic at the Gill Center during their second or third year. This month allows the residents to learn about, and help care for, children with a wide range of hematologic or oncologic conditions to which they may never be exposed in the inpatient setting. Over the course of the month, the residents spend time in a number of clinics, including general hematology, hemophilia, thrombosis, general oncology, neuro-oncology, and stem cell transplantation. They are also invited to attend the many educational programs offered by the Division, including weekly hemostasis and sickle cell team meetings, hematological malignancy and solid tumor patient care conferences, a weekly research seminar, and tumor board.

Fellows

The Division provides an excellent opportunity for clinical fellowship training. Children’s Medical Center Dallas, our primary pediatric teaching hospital, is the principal site for clinical training of our fellows. Directly adjacent to the UT Southwestern Medical Center, this hospital is consistently ranked by US News and World Report as one of the nation’s finest children’s hospitals. Importantly, its proximity to UT Southwestern allows clinical fellows to easily move between clinical and research
training venues during their fellowship.

The Division prides itself on an atmosphere that welcomes new ideas, change, and creativity for fellowship education. The overall goals and objectives for pediatric hematology/oncology fellows are to gain extensive experience in the diagnosis and ongoing care of children with cancer and hematologic disorders, and to become researchers and teachers of pediatric hematology/oncology.

Fellow Research

Our Division includes physician scientists with funded and successful clinical and laboratory research programs. We provide the opportunity to obtain clinical, translational or basic laboratory research training at an institution that hosts a dazzling array of world renowned investigators, including distinguished faculty who are Nobel laureates and many more who are members of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Many of our fellows extend their research training by taking advantage of institutional funds such as a Physician Scientist oncology T32 grant through the UTSW Simmons Cancer Center; an NCI designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Research Activities

The Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology is nationally distinguished for its design and conduct of NIH-funded multi-center clinical trials involving childhood cancer and blood disease. A few examples are provided below.

Laboratory Research

Faculty are conducting molecular and cellular biology experiments in cancer and blood disease. Laboratory research efforts are both basic and translational studies that help to bridge the lab and clinical venues. Research is carried out in laboratories in the Division of Hematology/Oncology and also across the entire UT Southwestern Medical Center campus, including the NCI-designated Simmons Cancer Center and the Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern.

Active areas of basic research in the Division include:

- Using fruit fly and zebrafish models to understand the genetic defects causing rhabdomyosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma and malignant germ cell tumor
- Using complementary pre-clinical models to dissect the key “vulnerabilities” in rhabdomyosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, and other soft tissue sarcomas.
- Understanding the molecular machinery by which normal cells can undergo “senescence” as a tumor suppressor mechanism in the presence of a cancer-causing oncogene
- Identifying novel proteins that can be “targeted” as novel therapies in childhood cancer
- Understanding how certain cancer-causing mutations influence the metabolism in childhood brain tumors and certain types of sarcoma
- Uncovering how hematopoietic and embryonic stem cells are controlled and how the control mechanisms can go awry in cancer and blood disease
- Elucidating the molecular machinery that guides erythrocyte development
- Using novel model systems to elucidate the host and bacterial factors that cause invasive bacterial and fungal infections

Clinical Research

Physicians in our Division are engaged in a wide range of clinical research efforts spanning the cancer and blood disease programs. Clinical research efforts are supported by robust infrastructure provided by the Clinical Research Office (CRO) within the Gill Center and the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern, the only NCI-designated
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comprehensive cancer center in North Texas. At any point, 75 to 100 oncology trials and 20 to 30 hematology trials are open for enrollment for Gill Center patients.

**Active areas of clinical research include:**

- Prospective clinical trials for children with cancer, conducted under the umbrella of the NCI-sponsored Children’s Oncology Group
- Prospective, early-phase clinical trials for children with hematological malignancies, conducted as part of the Therapeutic Advances in Childhood Leukemia and Lymphoma (TACL) consortium and other academic and industry partners
- Prospective therapeutic trials for children with sickle cell disease, iron deficiency anemia and hemophilia
- Investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored therapeutic studies of children with cancer and blood disease
- Retrospective research studies investigating molecular and clinical factors influencing late effects in childhood cancer survivors
- Prospective and retrospective studies assessing a variety of quality measures of children with chronic hematology disorders
- Early phase clinical trials of immunotherapeutics for childhood cancer, including the use of CAR T-cells for childhood leukemia
- Prospective and translational research trials in children with venous thrombosis

The following list contains clinical studies approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at UT Southwestern as of December 31, 2016 and excludes more than 70 Children’s Oncology Group (COG) trials.

**James Amatruda**

- Archival Studies on Germ Cell Tumor Specimens

**Victor Aquino**

- Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) - Consent for Participation and Donation of Blood Samples
- Evaluating Fatigue and Hope in Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation Recipients
- PIDTC 6901, A Prospective Natural History Study of Diagnosis, Treatment and Outcomes of Children with SCID Disorders: Open
- PIDTC 6902, A Retrospective and Cross-Sectional Analysis of Patients Treated for SCID Since January 1, 1968
- A Multicenter Access And Distribution Protocol For Unlicensed Cryopreserved Cord Blood Units (CBUs) For Transplantation In Pediatric And Adult Patients With Hematologic Malignancies And Other Indications
- A multicenter safety study of unlicensed investigational cryopreserved cord blood units (CBUs) manufactured by the National Cord Blood Program (NCBP) and provided for unrelated hematopoietic stem cell transplantation of pediatric and adult patients: Open
- PIDTC Protocol # 6904, Analysis of Patients Treated for Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome Since January 1, 1990
- PIDTC Protocol # 6903, Analysis of Patients Treated for Chronic Granulomatous Disease Since January 1, 1995
- BP-U-004, Phase I/II study of CaspaCide T cells from an HLA-partially matched family donor after negative selection of TCR αβ+T cells in pediatric patients affected by hematological disorders
- Use of Endoscopy for the Evaluation of Prolonged Fever and Neutropenia in Children Undergoing Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation
- 13-TLEC, Natural History and Biology of Long-Term Late Effects Following Hematopoietic Cell Transplant for Childhood Hematologic Malignancies
- A Prospective Study to Determine if “Rooming In” Improves Caregiver Satisfaction with Post Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Discharge
Daniel Bowers
- Childhood Cancer Survivor Study
- Childhood Cancer Survivor Study Expansion: Long-Term Follow-up Study
- Risk-Adapted Therapy for Young Children with Embryonal Brain Tumors, High-Grade Glioma, Choroid Plexus Carcinoma or Ependymoma (SJYC07)
- After the Cancer Experience (ACE) Database
- SJMB12, A Clinical and Molecular Risk-Directed Therapy for Newly Diagnosed Medulloblastoma
- CRAD001CUS224T, Phase II Study of Everolimus (RAD001, AFINITOR®) for Children with Recurrent or Progressive Ependymoma

Janna Journeycake
- Glanzmann Thrombasthenia (GT) Human Research
- Zimmerman Program for the Molecular and Clinical Biology of VWD
- The American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network (ATHN)
- Kids-DOTT: Prospective Multi-Center Evaluation of the Duration of Therapy for Thrombosis in Children (Protocol # 03-585)
- NN7999-3774 Safety, Efficacy and Pharmacokinetics of N9-GP in Previously Treated Children with Hemophilia B
- Hemophilia Inhibitor PUP Study (HIPS)
- CDC Public Health Surveillance for Bleeding Disorders - Registry for Bleeding Disorders Surveillance
- My Life Our Future: A Hemophilia Genotyping Initiative Data and Sample Research Repository
- A Phase III Open Label, Multicenter, Extension Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Recombinant Coagulation Factor VIII (rVIII-SingleChain, CSL627) in Subjects with Severe Hemophilia A (CSL627_3001)
- A Longitudinal, Observational Study of Previously Treated Hemophilia Patients (PTPs) Switching Coagulation Replacement Factor Products (ATHN-2: Switching Study)

Laura Klesse
- Utility of Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Identifying Optic Gliomas in Children Less Than 3 Years of Age with Neurofibromatosis Type 1
- Progression Free Survival and Outcomes of Tectal Plate Lesions in Children
- Genomic Analysis of Recurrent Pediatric Medulloblastoma
- Neurofibromatosis associated plexiform neurofibromas analysis for novel therapeutic targets
- Bio-specimen Bank for Pediatric Tumors and Cancer Predispositions
- Developing Evidence-Based Criteria for Initiating Treatment for Neurofibromatosis type 1 Associated Optic Pathway Gliomas
- Cardiovascular abnormalities in pediatric patients with neurofibromatosis type 1

Andrew Koh
- Role of Commensal Flora in the Development of Bacteremia and Fungemia in Cancer And Stem Cell Transplant Patients

Ted Laetsch
- T2009-012, A Phase I Dose Finding Study Of Panobinostat In Children With Refractory Hematologic Malignancies
- T2009-003, A Pilot Study of Decitabine and Vorinostat with Chemotherapy for Relapsed ALL
- A Phase II Study of Sirolimus and Erlotinib in Recurrent/Refractory Germ Cell Tumors
- Evaluation of NQO1 Expression in Pediatric Cancers
- A retrospective chart review to determine the time to and pattern of relapse in pediatric patients with recurrent sarcoma
- Radiological and Clinical Features of Pediatric Sarcoma and Neuroblastoma
- Assessing the precision of MR thermometry in Pediatric Solid Tumor Patients
- NMTRC 003B, A Phase II Preventative Trial of DFMO (eflornithine HCl) as a Single Agent in Patients with High Risk Neuroblastoma in Remission
- NMTRC V0706, A Phase II Trial of Nifurtimox for Refractory or Relapsed Neuroblastoma or Medulloblastoma
- CFZ008, Phase 1b/2 Study of Carfilzomib in Combination with Dexamethasone, Mitoxantrone, PEG-asparaginase, and Vincristine (UK R3 Induction Backbone) in Children with Relapsed or Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- T2014-004, A retrospective cohort study of re-induction treatment outcome among pediatric patients with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)
- Panel Based Next Generation Sequencing for High Risk Pediatric Oncology Patients
- CCTLO19B2202: A Phase II, single arm, multicenter trial to determine the efficacy and safety of CTL019 in pediatric patients with relapsed and refractory B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia
- CCTLO19B2206: A multicenter study of apheresis collection of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) in patients with CD19 expressing malignancies who could be eligible for a CTL019 clinical research trial
- CCTLO19A2205B: Long Term Follow-Up of Patients Exposed to Lentiviral-Based CD19 directed CART Cell Therapy
- T2014-001, A Phase I Trial of Temsirolimus (CCI-779, Pfizer, Inc.) in Combination with Etoposide and Cyclophosphamide in Children with Relapsed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
- The iCat2, GAIN Consortium Study, Multicenter Cohort Study To Evaluate Outcomes after Receipt of Targeted Therapy Matched to an Individualized Cancer Therapy (iCat) Recommendations in Children and Young Adults with Recurrent, Refractory, or High Risk Solid Tumors

Patrick Leavey
- Long-term Follow-up of Patients Enrolled on Children’s Oncology Group Sponsored Research
- Identification of Anxiety and Depression in Children with Cancer
- Molecularly Targeted Therapy for Soft Tissue Sarcoma in Texas - Biospecimen Banking Protocol
- SPOC-2012-001, Phase 1 Dose-escalating Study of MM-398 (Irinotecan Sucrosate Liposome Injection) plus Intravenous Cyclophosphamide in Recurrent or Refractory Pediatric Solid Tumors
- Using Imaging and Computational Tools to Improve Risk Stratification in Children with Bone Cancer
- Programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) expression in pediatric sarcoma

Andrew Martin
- A retrospective review of toxicities in intermediate risk rhabdomyosarcoma patients treated on ARST0531

Zora Rogers
- TWITCH - TCD With Transfusions Changing to Hydroxyurea: A Phase III randomized clinical trial to compare standard therapy (erythrocyte transfusions) with alternative therapy (hydroxyurea) for the maintenance of lowered TCD velocities in pediatric subjects with sickle cell anemia and abnormal pre-treatment TCD velocities
- Leucine in DBA: The Use of Novel Therapies to Reconstitute Blood Cell Production and Promote Organ Performance, using Bone Marrow Failure as a Model: A Pilot, Phase I/II Study of the Amino Acid Leucine in the Treatment of Patients with Transfusion-Dependent Diamond Blackfan Anemia
- Retrospective Study of Pediatric Aplastic Anemia

Tiffany Simms-Waldrip
- Compassionate Use for the CliniMACS CD34 Reagent System

Stephen Skapek
- Establishment of a biorepository at the University of Texas Southwestern for the Study of PHPV and PVR
- COG D9902 Soft Tissue Sarcoma Biospecimen Bank Study
- Establishment of Biospecimen Banking Study for Soft Tissue Sarcoma
Tamra Slone

- Longitudinal Assessment of Cardiotoxicity in long-term Cancer Survivors
- Evaluation of the Outcome of the Dallas Institutional Protocol for Treatment of Children with a Bone Marrow Relapse of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- Evaluation of the Safety of Discharge of Children with Acute Myeloid Leukemia at Completion of Chemotherapy and Prior to White Blood Cell Count Recovery
- Evaluation of Port Complications During Treatment of Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- Liver toxicity secondary to PEG-asparaginase during treatment for childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Martha Stegner

- Once-Weekly intravenous liposomal amphotericin B (AmBisome) for fungal prophylaxis in pediatric high-risk hematologic malignancy: A retrospective evaluation of safety and tolerability

Tanya Watt


Naomi Winick

- Evaluation of microRNAs as novel markers of cardiotoxicity in children undergoing anthracycline therapy for pediatric cancer
- Inpatient outcomes and chemotherapy related toxicities among a national cohort of children with Acute Leukemia
- A Randomized Evaluation of a Six-Week Grief Curriculum for Bereaved Parents
- The Feasibility and Acceptability of Incorporating Electronic Assessment Tools during Outpatient Visits for Patients in the Maintenance Phase of Therapy for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- Risk factors for toxicity during the induction and delayed intensification phases of treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)
- A Family Bereavement Camp: Emerging Themes Regarding Its Impact on the Lives of Bereaved Parents and Siblings

Ayesha Zia

- Evaluation of Thrombin Generation in Children with Venous Thromboembolism
- Comprehensive and Multidisciplinary Approach to Evaluation of Young Women with Heavy Menstrual Bleeding (HMB): Impact on Diagnosis, Management and Outcomes
- Hemostatic Variables and Markers of Hypercoagulability in Adolescent Girls on Low Dose Estrogen Containing Oral Contraceptives (OCPs)

Research Funding

Clinical and laboratory research efforts are funded by a wide variety of national, regional and local organizations, such as the National Cancer Institute, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Eye Institute, Cancer Research and Protection Institute of Texas, American Cancer Society, St. Baldrick’s Foundation, Children’s Cancer Fund of Dallas, Children’s Medical Center Foundation, Wipe-Out Kids’ Cancer, the 1 Million for Anna Foundation, and Hyundai Hope on Wheels Foundation.
Clinical Activities

The Pauline Allen Gill Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children’s Medical Center Dallas is the clinical site for most of the pediatric hematology and oncology care. The largest program of its kind in North Texas and the region, our program is internationally known for its excellence in patient care, education, clinical and laboratory research, and patient advocacy.

New sites for clinical care include the Children’s Medical Center Plano hospital for outpatient clinics and inpatient delivery of scheduled chemotherapy, and the Texas Health Resources Presbyterian Hospital for general hematology clinics.

Clinical Programs in Hematology and Oncology

- Brain Tumor
- Bone and Soft Tissue Sarcoma
- Bone Marrow Failure
- Genitourinary Neoplasms
- Hemophilia and Thrombosis
- Hemostasis and Thrombosis
- Hepatoblastoma
- Histiocytosis
- Iron Deficiency and other General Hematology
- Leukemia/Lymphoma
- Neuroblastoma
- Rare Tumors
- Sickle Cell Disease/Hemoglobinopathies
- Stem Cell Transplant Programs
  - Transplant for Malignancy
  - Transplant for Non-malignant Disease
- Young Women’s Blood Disorders

Additional Programs

- After the Cancer Experience (ACE) Childhood Cancer Survivor Program
- Cancer Genetic Susceptibility Program
- Neurofibromatosis
- Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology
- Experimental Therapeutics for Cancer and Blood Disease
- Palliative Care Program

A multidisciplinary approach is used in the Gill Center to plan and deliver clinical care that is targeted to meet the needs of each child. Among the services offered are social work, child psychology/psychiatry, nutritional support, pastoral care, physical and occupational therapy, prosthetics services, and palliative care, where appropriate.
Faculty members also provide a consulting service for newborn patients with hematological conditions at Parkland Memorial Hospital, the 997-bed Dallas County hospital with approximately 16,000 newborn deliveries each year that is the site of the newborn nursery. New sites for hematology consultations include the newborn nursery at the Clements University Hospital and the Texas Health Resources Presbyterian Hospital.

### Current Grant Support

**James Amatruda**

**Grantor:** CPRIT RP120685-C1  
**Title of Project:** Central Sarcoma Processing Core  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 8/2012 – 8/2018

**Grantor:** CPRIT RP120685-P3  
**Title of Project:** Functional Validation of Actionable Mutations in Sarcoma Genetic Model Systems  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 8/2012 – 8/2018

**Grantor:** NIH/NCI 1 R21 CA187516-02  
**Title of Project:** A novel functional genomic pipeline for target identification in sarcoma  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 7/2014 – 12/2016

**Grantor:** Regents of the University of Minnesota  
**Title of Project:** Molecular Epidemiology of Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 8/2011 – 5/2016

**Grantor:** Alex’s Lemonade Stand  
**Title of Project:** REACH Award: B-lapachone as a novel targeted therapy for ATRT and other pediatric cancers  
**Role:** Principal-Investigator  
**Dates:** 12/2013 – 12/2016
Grantor: Alex’s Lemonade Stand  
Title of Project: Zebrafish modeling of PAX3-FOXO1 driven rhabdomyosarcoma  
Role: Mentor  
Dates: 7/2015 – 6/2017

Grantor: Catholic Foundation / Platt / Weir  
Title of Project: Kevin’s Ewing Sarcoma Fund  
Role: Principal Investigator  
Dates: 3/2015 – Current

Grantor: Curing Kids Cancer  
Title of Project: Identification of targets for novel therapies of children’s cancers  
Role: Principal Investigator  
Dates: 11/2013 – Current

Grantor: CCRAC  
Title of Project: Identification of small-molecule agonists of bone morphogenetic protein signaling  
Role: Principal Investigator  

Grantor: Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (on behalf of COG)  
Title of Project: Amatruda – COG SMITSCS  
Role: Principal Investigator  

Grantor: Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (on behalf of COG)  
Title of Project: NIH National Clinical Trials Network Grant  
Role: Principal Investigator  

Grantor: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Title of Project: Malignant Germ Cell Tumors International Consortium  
Role: Principal Investigator  
Dates: 7/2015 – 6/2020

Grantor: QuadW Foundation – American Association for Cancer Research  
Title of Project: Zebrafish modeling of PAX3-FOXO1 driven Rhabdomyosarcoma  
Role: Mentor  
Grantor: The 1 Million 4 Anna Foundation  
Title of Project: Ewing Sarcoma Research Program  
Role: Principal Investigator  
Dates: 12/2015 – 11/2017

Daniel Bowers

Grantor: CPRIT  
Title of Project: Genotype and Metabolic Phenotype in Pediatric Brain Cancer  
Role: Co-Investigator  
Kenneth Chen

**Grantor:** Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation  
**Title of Project:** Dysregulation of the MYCN/let-7 axis in Wilms tumor  
**Role:** Fellow (J. Amatruda-Mentor)  
**Dates:** 9/2013 – 8/2017

**Grantor:** CCRAC, W.W. Caruth Scholar  
**Title of Project:** Dysregulation of the N-myc/Lin28/let-7 axis in childhood Wilms tumors  
**Role:** Fellow (J. Amatruda-Mentor)  
**Dates:** 6/2013 – Current

**Grantor:** CCRAC, Micaela’s Army Foundation  
**Title of Project:** Replacement therapy for miRNA-impaired Wilms tumors  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 11/2015 – Current

**Grantor:** Children’s Cancer Foundation  
**Title of Project:** A novel molecular prognostic approach to improve outcomes in childhood Wilms tumors  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 2/2015 – Current

Janna Journeycake

**Grantor:** Blood Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (NIH-NHLBI Flowthrough)  
**Title of Project:** Comparative Effectiveness in the Diagnosis of VWD  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 12/2013 – 11/2018

**Grantor:** Blood Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (NIH-NHLBI Flowthrough)  
**Title of Project:** Zimmerman Program for the Molecular and Clinical Biology of VWD  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 2/2015 – 1/2016

Laura Klesse

**Grantor:** Southwestern Medical Foundation / Dedman Family Scholarship Fund  
**Title of Project:** Dedman Scholar Support  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 3/2009 – Current

**Grantor:** The Children’s Tumor Foundation  
**Title of Project:** Children’s Tumor Foundation Support  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 1/2011 – Current

**Grantor:** Texas Neurofibromatosis Foundation  
**Title of Project:** Cardiovascular abnormalities in pediatric patients with neurofibromatosis type 1  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 06/2016 – 05/2017
Ted Laetsch

**Grantor:** Micaela’s Army Foundation  
**Title of Project:** A Clinical Trial Combining Targeted Therapy for Pediatric and Young Adult Patients with Refractory Germ Cell Tumors  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 7/2014 – Current

**Grantor:** Hyundai Hope on Wheels  
**Title of Project:** MR-guided High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (MR-HIFU) Hyperthermia for the Treatment of Pediatric Solid Tumors  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 1/2015 – 12/2016

**Grantor:** Alex Lemonade Stand Foundation  
**Title of Project:** B-lapachone as a Novel Targeted Therapy for ATRTs and Other Pediatric Cancers  
**Role:** Co-Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 12/2013 – 12/2015

**Grantor:** Children’s Cancer Foundation  
**Title of Project:** Experimental Therapeutics Program  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 12/2014 – Current

**Grantor:** Children’s Cancer Foundation  
**Title of Project:** Taking Advantage of Emerging Technologies to Bring Cancer Genetics to the Clinic  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 12/2014 – Current

**Grantor:** Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research  
**Title of Project:** Maximizing the Therapeutic Impact of CDK4/6 Inhibition in Rhabdomyosarcoma  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 4/2015 – 9/2016

**Grantor:** NIH/NCI  
**Title of Project:** Image-guided Doxorubicin Delivery for Pediatric Sarcomas (MPI)  
**Role:** Multi-Project Director/Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 7/2015 – 6/2020

**Grantor:** NIH/NCI  
**Title of Project:** Development and Hyperactive RAS Tumor SPORE  
**Role:** Co-Investigator, Project 2  
**Dates:** 9/2015 – 8/2020

Patrick Leavey

**Grantor:** Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)  
**Title of Project:** Molecularly Targeted Therapy for Soft Tissue Sarcoma in Texas  
**Role:** Co-Investigator and Principal Investigator Biospecimen Banking Study  
**Dates:** 9/2012 – 8/2018
Grantor: Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
Title of Project: Using Imaging and Computational Tools to Improve Risk Stratification in Children with Bone Cancer
Role: Principal Investigator
Dates: 3/2015 – 2/2019

Zora Rogers

Grantor: NIH / NHLBI
Title of Project: Pediatric Hydroxyurea Phase III Clinical Trial – Clinical Center (BABY HUG) Follow Up Study II
Role: Chair of Follow up Study II, Site Principal Investigator
Dates: 1/2012 – 12/2016

Grantor: NIH/St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
Title of Project: Hydroxyurea Management in Kids: Intensive versus Stable Dosage Strategies” (HUG KISS)
Role: Principal Investigator
Dates: 04/2016 – 03/2019

Stephen Skapek

Grantor: NIH/NEI
Title of Project: Tgfβ2 Controls p19Arf During Eye Development
Role: Principal Investigator
Dates: 4/2014 – 3/2018

Grantor: NIH/NCI
Title of Project: Cancer Center Support Grant
Role: Co-Investigator
Dates: 8/2015 – 7/2020

Grantor: Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
Title of Project: Molecularly Targeted Therapy for Soft Tissue Sarcoma in Texas
Role: Principal Investigator
Dates: 9/2012 – 8/2018

Grantor: NCI/NIH
Title of Project: Developmental and Hyperactive Ras Tumor SPORE
Role: Project Co-Leader
Dates: 9/2015 – 8/2020

Grantor: Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation
Title of Project: Maximizing the Therapeutic Impact of CDK/6 Inhibition in Rhabdomyosarcoma
Role: Co-Investigator

Grantor: Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)
Title of Project: Using Imaging and Computational Tools to Improve Risk Stratification in Children with Bone Cancer
Role: Co-Investigator
Dates: 3/2015 – 2/2019
**Pediatric Hematology-Oncology**

**2016 Annual Report**

**Grantor:** St. Baldrick’s Foundation  
**Title of Project:** Targeting LILRB4 by CAR-T cells for the treatment of pediatric AML  
**Role:** Mentor  
**Dates:** 07/2016 – 06/2018

**Grantor:** Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)/UTHSCSA  
**Title of Project:** Texas Pediatric Patient Derived Xenograft Facility  
**Role:** Co-Investigator  
**Dates:** 06/2016 – 05/2020

**Tanya Watt**

**Grantor:** Dedman Family Scholar  
**Title of Project:** Neuroblastoma Program Project  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 10/2011 – Present

**Ayesha Zia**

**Grantor:** NIH/NHLBI  
**Title of Project:** Predicting and Preventing Poor Outcomes of Venous Thromboembolism in Children  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 05/2016 – 04/2021

**Yanbin Zheng**

**Grantor:** NIH / NEI  
**Title of Project:** Tgf Beta 2 controls p19Arf During Eye Development  
**Role:** Co-Investigator  
**Dates:** 4/2014 – 3/2018

**Peer-Reviewed Publications**


Book Sections