



## ENDOWMENT IMPACT SUMMARY

# Cancer Institute & Oncology Endowments

Thank you for your support of our work in Cancer Care and Oncology at MetroHealth. Your generosity helps patients receive the best care possible, and it provides tomorrow's caregivers with invaluable experience. Your partnership makes it all possible. I'm pleased to share an update and highlights from the past year.

## FUND UPDATES

### L. Charles McClure Cancer Research Endowment

- This endowment is funding a collaborative pilot research grant, led by Khalid Sossey-Alaoui, PhD, on the effects of stress on outcomes in triple negative breast cancer.
- Plans are underway to use these monies to support collaborative pilot research grants between the Population Health and Equity Research Institute and the Cancer Institute.

### November Family Endowment and Edward G. Mansour, MD Professorship in Surgical Oncology

The 18th annual Mansour Endowed Lecture in Surgical Oncology, held in fall 2023, featured a memorial tribute to Dr. Mansour, who was a MetroHealth leader in the field for more than three decades. The event featured Visiting Professor Ashwani Rajput, MD, Director, Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center - National Capital Region, Professor of Surgery. Early in his career, Dr. Rajput was mentored by Dr. Mansour. Dr. Rajput delivered an inspiring talk about the evolution of cancer care and how to leverage community partnerships to provide the best care for our patients.

### John Harris, MD Visiting Professorship Endowment

MetroHealth hosted Anthony Kam Chuen Chan, MD, MBBS, FRCPC, FRCPCCH, FRCPI (Hon), FRCP (Glas), FRCPath, a pediatric hematologist at McMaster Children's Hospital, as the visiting professor for last year's event.



Drs. Ashwani Rajput and Natalie Joseph

## INSTITUTE UPDATES

### Research and Equipment

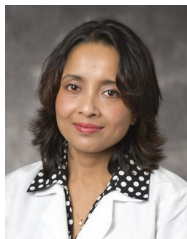
- **Transplants are on the rise** - 15 stem cell transplants have been performed since spring 2023, and the count is expected to reach as many as 20 this summer.
- **Breakthroughs in understanding cancer behavior** Research led by Dr. Bingcheng Wang, a pioneer in the cancer research field, was published in *Science* in November. His team's findings detail how and why the EphA2 receptor—a protein that can suppress cancer or make it grow and spread—plays the roles of both cancer hero and villain. Dr. Wang's research has the potential to inform cancer treatments in the future.
- **Treatment strategy for reducing Emergency Department visits** - The Encore Trust program is in the early stages of development for treating cancer patients at home when they have urgent symptoms, often following chemotherapy or other procedures. This program can result in a 36% decrease in ED visits within six months of starting cancer treatment for patients with a cancer diagnosis, keeping them out of the ED and avoiding long waits often associated with such visits.

### SUCCESS STORY: Strides in Sickle Cell Disease Procedures

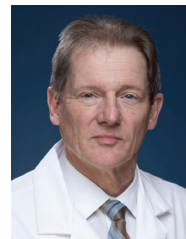
Mahogany Hogan, a 26-year-old patient with sickle cell disease, was the first patient to receive a new, novel sickle cell procedure that allows patients to recover at home after just two days in the hospital. MetroHealth is the only hospital in Ohio approved by the Food and Drug Administration to perform this procedure. Home recovery is less expensive, and it allows patients to rest without being frequently disturbed by staff checking vitals.

### SUCCESS STORY: One-Year Anniversary of First Successful Stem Cell Transplant

In April 2023, Mark Lungo was the first patient to undergo a transplant through MetroHealth's Blood and Marrow Transplant program, which was created for patients who face socioeconomic and other barriers preventing them from receiving life-saving care elsewhere. Since then, a total of 15 patients have been given a new chance to extend their lives.



MetroHealth welcomed Radiation Oncologists **Drs. Suzanne Russo** and **Tithi Biswas** to the Cancer Center. Due to ongoing recruitment, two additional solid tumor medical oncologists will begin work this fall.



Dr. **Roger Ove** was appointed chair of the newly designated Department of Radiation Oncology.



In January 2024, I joined the staff as Executive Director for the MetroHealth Cancer Institute overseeing Surgical Oncology, Hematology (benign and malignant), Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Gynecologic Oncology. I previously served as tenured Professor of Surgery at Texas Tech University Health Science Center, and Medical Director of the University Medical Center Cancer Center and the Director of University Medical Center Breast Center of Excellence, all in Lubbock, Texas.

Thank you again for your role in making these activities possible through your vital support. The echo of your generosity can be heard for years to come, and for that, we are infinitely grateful.

With gratitude,

**Rakhshanda Layeequr Rahman, MD, MBBS, FCPS, FRCS (Ed & Glasg), FACS**  
*Executive Director, Cancer Institute*