Veda N. Giri, MD
Program Director

Veda N. Giri, MD, is an Associate Professor in Medical Oncology and Cancer Biology at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) at Jefferson. She is a medical oncologist with a clinical and research interest in inherited cancer risk assessment. She is the Director of Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics which provides patients with genetic counseling, genetic testing, and cancer screening recommendations along with the opportunity to take part in innovative research and patient-centered initiatives. Dr. Giri received her medical degree from Sidney Kimmel Medical College (previously, Jefferson Medical College) and proceeded to complete her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at the University of Michigan. She then completed advanced training in medical genetics at the University of Pennsylvania before entering SKCC, where she directed prostate cancer risk assessment and developed studies focused on evaluating the role of genetic factors in prostate cancer. In 2006-2014, she directed prostate cancer risk assessment and fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania and proceeded to complete her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the Director of Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics which provides patients with genetic counseling, genetic testing, and cancer screening recommendations along with the opportunity to take part in innovative research and patient-centered initiatives.

Cancer Risk Assessment Program

We are currently providing cancer genetic services for the following Jefferson Health and Sidney Kimmel Cancer Network Members:

- Aria – Jefferson Health
- Mercy Health System (Mercy Fitzgerald and Nazareth)
- Deltana Media, PC, Shamokin
- Holy Family University Hospital, Sewell, NJ
- Doylestown Hospital, Doylestown, PA
- Kennedy University Hospital, Sewell, NJ
- Delta Medix, PC, Scranton, PA
- Mercy Health System (Mercy Fitzgerald and Nazareth)
- Sid Hovenstein Cancer Center, Doylestown, PA
- Aria – Jefferson Health
- Holy Family University Hospital, Sewell, NJ
- Kennedy University Hospital, Sewell, NJ
- Delta Medix, PC, Scranton, PA
- Doylestown Hospital, Doylestown, PA

Innovation Arm Initiatives

- Genetic Evaluation of Men (GEM) Registry – A registry of men with and at risk for prostate cancer. We collect medical, family history, behavioral data as well as DNA for cancer risk research. We are exploring the role of genetics, environment, and lifestyle factors in cancer development in patients and their families. We develop the field of genetic testing for prostate cancer. GEM Clinical Multigene Testing Study – Offers a clinically available multidrug test to men with and at risk for prostate cancer. The goal is to uncover genetic mutations for inherited prostate cancer risk. The study is designed to provide genetic counseling and testing for prostate cancer patients. GEM Clinical Multigene Testing Study – Offers a clinically available multidrug test to men with and at risk for prostate cancer. The goal is to uncover genetic mutations for inherited prostate cancer risk. The study is designed to provide genetic counseling and testing for prostate cancer patients.

• Telegenetics – In an effort to expand access to our cutting edge cancer genetics program, we have launched our Telegenetics initiative. This telehealth approach provides patients the option to have genetic counseling remotely via a secure, web-based application in order to maximize access to our program. Patients will also have the opportunity to engage in research through the research initiative.

• Cancer Disparities – Cancer risk assessment knowledge, attitudes, and uptake projects are being developed and evaluated for minority populations who experience higher rates of cancer, such as African American, Latino, and Asian Indian populations. We identified gaps in risk assessment and promote translational research involving participants of our program to gain critical insights into genes involved with cancer predisposition, cancer risk factors, and behavioral factors that motivate decision-making for testing. An example of a project is “Beyond Standard of Care” (i.e., novel Germline/Gene/Genetics Clinic – the first in the country to offer genetic counseling and genetic testing for prostate cancer patients linked with multidisciplinary evaluation of prostate cancer). Through the GU genetics clinic, we have developed the prostate cancer genetic contribution to cancer risk in diverse populations.

Philanthropy

Philanthropic funds are a vital key to keep the innovative research and patient-centered initiatives moving forward. If you are interested to learn more about our program or to make a donation, please contact Laura Gross at 215-593-5026.

KARE Study/Inherited Cancer Risk Assessment Program – This study is exploring genetic counseling and testing in the next era of tumor sequencing potentially informing inherited cancer risk. The goal is to characterize the inherited mutation spectrum, correlation to personal and family history, and assess genetic providers and patients regarding their niche knowledge, comfort, and satisfaction with the genetic counseling and testing process based around tumor sequencing results.

Telegenetics – In an effort to expand access to our cutting edge cancer genetics program, we have launched our Telegenetics initiative. This telehealth approach provides patients the option to have genetic counseling remotely via a secure, web-based application in order to maximize access to our program. Patients will also have the opportunity to engage in research through the research initiative.

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PhilaGenesis: The PhilaGenesis Multigene Testing Study for men with or at risk for prostate cancer. PhilaGenesis is a registry of patients with and without cancer who have undergone genetic testing in cancers such as prostate cancer. PhilaGenesis is a registry of patients with and without cancer who have undergone genetic testing in cancers such as prostate cancer.

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Susan Miller-Samuel, MSN, RN, AGN-BC
Susan Miller-Samuel is a board-certified Advanced Practice Nurse (AGNP) with 22 years of experience in nursing. She received her bachelor’s degree in nursing from The Pennsylvania State University and the master’s degree in nursing from LaSalle University. She completed an internship in cancer genetics at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY. Susan has provided cancer risk assessment and genetic counseling for nearly 20 years at Jefferson. While she spends most of her time providing counseling and education about hereditary cancer syndromes to high-risk individuals and their families, she is also a research assistant for several on-going studies in the field of cancer genetics. Susan’s background in oncology nursing has helped individuals and families with the psychological, social, and financial issues that arise in caring for someone with cancer. She is dedicated to providing counseling and support services to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer patients.

Collette Hingle, MS, LGCC
Collette Hingle has been a practicing genetic counselor specializing in hereditary cancer risk since 2015. She received her Master’s Degree in Genetic Counseling from Arcadia University in 2015, and her certification from the American Board of Genetics Counseling in 2015. Collette has developed a reputation for providing genetic counseling in Pennsylvania, as well as New Jersey and Delaware.

Meredith Kohn RN, MS
Meredith Kohn is a board-certified Nurse Practitioner who specializes in medical oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson. Meredith received her undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Obtaining his Internal Medicine training at Temple University Hospital, he completed fellowship training in hematology and oncology in a combined five-year Cancer Center fellowship program. He currently practices at Abington–Jefferson Health, a teaching hospital community hospital located in Abington, Pennsylvania. He is the primary lead for the Genetic Risk Counseling Program for joint patient management. Additional areas of interest include chemotherapy, hormonal and immunotherapy for breast cancer, as well as pediatric and young adult cancer genetics.

Karen Robinson, CMI
Karen Robinson joined The Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics Program in 2014, and serves as the Patient Intake Coordinator. Karen is a Certified Medical Assistant with experience in oncology. She has been with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital for 25 years. Karen’s primary role is communicating with patients to obtain intake information, reviewing medical records, and scheduling patient visits with the cancer genetics team.

Lora Rhoads, MSW, LSW
Lora Rhoads joined The Cancer Risk Assessment and Clinical Cancer Genetics Program in 2014. Lora specializes in treating patients with breast and ovarian cancers, fertility preservation, and surgery/mastectomy modification during and after therapy for prevention of recurrence and overall health.

Providers and Staff

Rebecca Jaslow, MD
Rebecca Jaslow, MD is an Assistant Professor in Medical Oncology at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson. She received her medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 2016. Prior to her current position, she worked in private practice in New York City. She is an expert in breast cancer, including BRCA germline mutations and breast cancer risk management.

Physician Contributors

Sue was the first to provide genetic counseling in Pennsylvania, and she has continued to provide services to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer patients.

Colette Hingle has been a practicing genetic counselor specializing in hereditary cancer risk since 2015. She received her Master’s Degree in Genetic Counseling from Arcadia University in 2015, and her certification from the American Board of Genetics Counseling in 2015. Collette has developed a reputation for providing genetic counseling in Pennsylvania, as well as New Jersey and Delaware. She focuses primarily on hereditary gastrointestinal predisposition syndromes, but also sees patients for a variety of other hereditary cancer diagnoses. Collette provides genetic counseling and screening services to several Sidney Kimmel Cancer Network affiliates.

Nicole Cramplenger, MS, MBA
Nicole Cramplenger is the current laboratory manager for the Cancer Genetics Program. Prior to joining the team at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson in 2014, Nicole received her Master’s Degree in Biotechnology and Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Johns Hopkins University in 2007. Nicole’s primary role within the Clinical Cancer Genetics Program is managing and processing patient samples for all ovarian risk assessments. Nicole provides genetic counseling primarily to patients and families at-risk for hereditary breast, gynecologic, and gastrointestinal malignancies.

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