

Physicians & Staff of the Geriatric Oncology Program

Richard Rosenbluth, M.D. Chief, Division of Geriatric Oncology of The Cancer Center at HUMC
Director of the Geriatric Oncology Program of The Cancer Center at HUMC

Dr. Richard Rosenbluth is a hematologist/oncologist with more than 35 years of experience treating patients with cancer and serious blood disorders. An early member of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG), he is recognized as one of the pioneers of geriatric oncology, including assessment and treatment of seniors with cancer, in the United States

After receiving his MD degree from the New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Rosenbluth completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center-NYU in New York. From Bellevue, he spent two years at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. He completed his Oncology-Hematology Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

For several years, he served as Chief of Oncology at New York Medical College-Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital in Manhattan. When the school relocated to Valhalla, New York, Dr. Rosenbluth moved to Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, where he served as chief of HUMC's Division of Medical Oncology (predecessor of The Cancer Center).

For more than 20 years, Dr. Rosenbluth served as a principal investigator for The Cancer Center's participation in research projects of the Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP), a project through which physicians at major medical centers and community hospitals collaborate with scientists throughout the country. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at New York University School of Medicine, and served as a member of the Cancer Control and Health Practices Committee for the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

HUMC's Hospice Medical Director for more than 20 years, he was recently appointed Medical Director of HUMC's new In-Patient Hospice Unit, which is integrated with the Geriatric Oncology Program.

Dr. Rosenbluth has authored and co-authored numerous academic research papers and newspaper op-eds, and is currently working on a book for laymen on Geriatric Oncology.

Knight Steel, M.D. Chief, Division of Geriatrics at HUMC

Knight Steel, M.D. is the endowed professor of Geriatrics at The New Jersey Medical School; chief of the Division of Geriatrics and director of The Homecare Institute at Hackensack University Medical Center; and program director of the Geriatric Fellowship Program at the UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School and Hackensack University Medical Center. He received his BA from Yale University and his MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Steel is co-founder and past president of The American Federation for Aging Research (one of the largest not-for-profit granting foundations directed to basic science research on aging and age-associated illnesses in the United States), and a Fellow of The American College of Physicians, The American Geriatrics Society and The Gerontological Society of America. Dr. Steel was president of The American Geriatrics Society and he has been a member of both The American Board of Internal Medicine and The Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine. Dr. Steel was the chair of the first certifying national examination committee in geriatric medicine for both The American Board of Internal Medicine and The American Board of Family Practice. In 1991, The R. Knight Steel Award for Excellence in Geriatric Medicine was established at Boston University Medical Center. In 1995, Dr. Steel received The Distinguished Service Award from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was the only officer to have received this award. Dr. Steel has published widely in the field of geriatric medicine. Jose Contreras, M.D. Chief, Division of Pain and Supportive Services of The Cancer Center at HUMC Daniel H. Smith, M.D. Chief, Division of Gynecologic Oncology of The Cancer Center at HUMC

Dr. Smith received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1972. He completed a residency in general surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital and a residency in obstetrics/gynecology at Los Angeles County/U.S.C. Medical Center. He completed his fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, in New York City. After graduating he was on the faculty of Cornell University Medical College and the staffs of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and New York Hospital until he joined the faculty of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1987. Prior to coming to Hackensack University Medical Center, he was director of gynecologic oncology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, in New York City, for 15 years.

As one of the only physicians in the United States to be board-certified in gynecologic oncology, obstetrics/gynecology, and general surgery, Dr. Smith provides a level of medical expertise and continuity of care not found elsewhere. He is qualified to treat surgically not only the primary site of a gynecologic cancer, but areas that may be affected by any spread of the cancer, such as the colon, bladder, or vascular system. Kathy Sonaband, M.S.W.

Director of Geriatric Assessment and Social Work

Ms. Sonnabend has returned to Hackensack University Medical Center to participate in the geriatric oncology medical practice. She was a member of the HUMC Cancer Center psychosocial team from 1996 until 2005, working both in the inpatient oncology unit and in the outpatient clinic. She graduated from Kean University with a BSW and earned her MSW from Fordham University while at Kean University she completed a program leading to a Certificate in Gerontology in her absence from the hospital the past two years, that that has continued to facilitate support groups for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Geriatricians Niharika Suckak, M.D.

Dr. Suchak is a board-certified geriatrician and internist with The Division of Geriatrics and The House Calls for Elders program. Dr. Suchak completed her geriatrics fellowship training and internal medicine residency at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore. Dr. Suchak also holds a master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University. Following fellowship training, Dr. Suchak was an assistant professor of both Geriatric Medicine and Internal Medicine at The Oklahoma University College of Medicine, as well as medical director of The Extended Care Unit at The VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Lisa Tank, M.D.

Dr. Tank is a board-certified geriatrician and internist with The Division of Geriatrics and The House Calls for Elders program. Dr. Tank completed her geriatrics fellowship training at Hackensack University Medical Center and the UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School and completed an internal medicine residency at New York Methodist Hospital, Cornell University in New York City. Prior to her entering her internal medicine residency she was a research fellow at The Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. Manisha Parulekar, M.D.

Dr. Parulekar is a board-certified geriatrician and internist with The Division of Geriatrics and The House Calls for Elders Program. Dr. Parulekar completed her geriatrics fellowship training at Hackensack University Medical Center and the UMDNJ New Jersey Medical School and completed a residency in internal medicine at New York Methodist Hospital, Cornell University in New York City. In addition to her experience in geriatrics, Dr. Parulekar completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology in India. Prior to entering her internal medicine residency, she was a research assistant at The Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University in Boston and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York City. Arunima Sarkar, M.D.

Dr. Sarkar is a geriatrician and board-certified internist with The Division of Geriatrics and The House Calls for Elders program. Dr. Sarkar completed her geriatric fellowship training at New York University (NYU), in New York City and completed a residency in internal medicine at Jamaica Hospital 8s Medical Center, in New York. Prior to entering her internal medicine residency, she was a clinical research assistant in Endocrinology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. Tom Capiaghi Advanced Practice Nurse