RadComp Newsletter - October 2024

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A study at the heart of breast cancer treatment

Study News



From left: Justin Bekelman, Bonnie Ky, Alexander Lin, and Hien Lu

Changes In RadComp's Leadership

Justin Bekelman, the founder and national principal investigator of the RadComp Study, will be stepping down to pursue a new initiative in cancer care transformation. Meet RadComp's new leadership team, Dr. Alexander Lin and Dr. Bonnie Ky.

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Sharon Rivera-Sanchez (center in red) with U. Maryland Chapter President, Saanika Mahashetty (right of Ms. Rivera-Sanchez) and U. Maryland chapter leadership

Trials of Color Inspires the Next Generation of Breast Cancer Advocates

Stakeholder Advisory member Sharon Rivera-Sanchez started the nonprofit, Trials of Color, to encourage minorities to participant in clinical trials. Her network has expanded and is thriving at her second site, the University of Maryland, where U. Maryland student, Saanika Mahashetty is Founder and President of their Trials of Color chapter.

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Making Introductions

At this year's American Society for



From left: Penn PIs: Suneel Nagda, Alex Lin and Justin Bekelman

Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) meeting in Washington DC, we helped to introduce our new Principal Investigator, Dr. Alex Lin, to some of RadComp's site principal investigators and contributors.

[See Photos]

Publication of Interest



Congratulations to

Karen Hoffman, MD
on her recent publication:

Premastectomy Radiotherapy and Immediate Breast Reconstruction: A Randomized Clinical Trial

JAMA Network Open.
2024 Apr 5;7(4):e245217.

Advocacy Partner Events & Resources



Young Survivors Coalition
Meet in Person or Virtual Hangouts

YSC has sites throughout the nation where you can call or visit to get the support that you need.
Click here for locations

Virtual Hangouts addressing many different concerns are also available
Click here to learn more

Living Beyond Breast Cancer



2024 Butterfly Ball: The Power of Connections

Sat, Nov 16, 2024 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm ET

Location: Vie by Cescaphe: 600 N Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Click here to learn more

More About RadComp



Visit our website

Study Locations

Clinicaltrials.gov

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RadComp's New National Principal Investigators



From left: Justin Bekelman, Bonnie Ky, Alexander Lin and Hien Lu

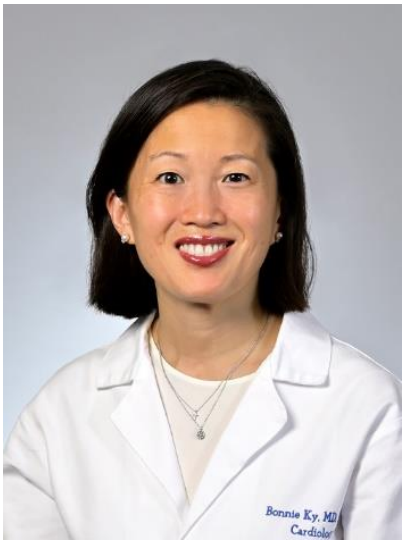
RadComp Study founder and national site principal Investigator, Justin Bekelman, is stepping down from his role to pursue a new venture in the private sector. He has appointed Dr. Alexander Lin and Dr. Bonnie Ky as the new leadership team for the RadComp Study. Project Manager, Hien Lu, will remain with the study.



Alexander Lin, MD, FASTRO

Dr. Lin is the Morton M Kligerman, MD, Professor and Vice Chair of Radiation Oncology. He is part of a multi-Principal Investigator team conducting a National Institutes of Health grant to research ultra-high dose rate (FLASH) proton radiotherapy. He is a member of two independent data monitoring committees on 2 randomized clinical trials studying proton vs. IMRT trials in the UK. (UK TORPEdO and PROTIS (Chair).

He is the former Medical Director of the Roberts Proton Center at the University of Pennsylvania, and has held leadership positions at ASTRO and ASCO, and is an elected ASTRO fellow. In addition to his professional credentials, he has a personal interest in the treatment of breast cancer, with family members who have undergone treatment for breast cancer.



Bonnie Ky, MD, MSCE

Dr. Bonnie Ky is the Founder's Professor of Cardio-Oncology and tenured physician scientist at the University of Pennsylvania. She leads a highly active NIH-, AHA-, and PCORI-funded clinical translational research program in cardio-oncology with the fundamental goals of advancing actionable science to improve the cardiovascular care of our cancer patients. She is the Director of the Thalheimer Center for Cardio-Oncology, and Director of the Penn Center for Quantitative Echocardiography. She is a standing member and Chair of the NIH Clinical Integrative Cardiovascular and Hematological Sciences Study Section. She is the inaugural Chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Cardiotoxicity subcommittee and the co-Chair of the St Jude Children's Research Hospital Cardiopulmonary Renal Working Group. She is the founding Editor-in-Chief of *JACC: CardioOncology*, inducted member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, and Association of University Cardiologists; member of the American College of Cardiology Board of Trustees; and recipient of the ECOG-ACRIN Young Investigator Award and International Cardio-Oncology Society Thomas Force Leadership Award.

Dr. Ky is a founding member of the RadComp Study. She has served as Chair of the RadComp's Clinical Events Center since 2016. Additionally, she is the principal investigator for a RadComp Companion Study which evaluates potential cardiotoxicity of radiation therapy. Wholly devoted to advancing the cardiovascular care of patients living with and beyond cancer, she also has a clinic devoted to cardio-oncology.

Trials of Color Founder, Sharon Rivera-Sanchez, Inspires the Next Generation of Breast Cancer Advocates

TOC University of Maryland Chapter

Written by Saanika Mahashetty, Senior at the University of Maryland,
Pursuing a Dual Degree in Physiology and Neurobiology & Business Management
President and Founder of the University of Maryland Trials of Color Chapter



Sannika Mahashetty (center) of the University of Maryland with her Trial of Color Chapter Volunteers

During the summer of 2023, I was one among twenty undergraduate students selected for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Division of Cancer Biology Summer Undergraduate Research Program. Through this program, I was given the incredible opportunity to contribute to advancements in ovarian cancer modeling at the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering. In addition to gaining mentorship and invaluable research experience in Pittsburgh, I was also presented with the opportunity to present my research at a conference at the NIH headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. The conference hosted several distinguished members of the NCI community who introduced us to the different

facets of the cancer research process, from the researchers to the patients themselves.

During one of these speaker events, I was introduced to Mrs. Sharon Rivera-Sanchez, a patient advocate and founder of the non-profit organization Trials of Color. Her inspiring story helped me put a face to the research I had been conducting within the laboratory – something we students, and as she explained, even researchers often forget to do. Mrs. Sanchez captivated me, as she talked about her experience fighting triple-negative breast cancer while simultaneously combatting the racial barriers that are still present in the U.S. healthcare system. Until then, I had not been aware of the severity of the underrepresentation of gender and racial minorities in the clinical trial space. As soon as I learned about this issue, I immediately knew I wanted to support this cause in any way possible. As soon as Mrs. Sanchez finished her talk at this conference, I gathered the courage to introduce myself to her. I shared my newfound interest in her mission and my budding ideas to connect her organization to a younger population, the up-and-coming generation of researchers and doctors. Her excitement and unwavering support from the very start helped cement my vision to establish the first collegiate chapter of Trials of Color at the University of Maryland.



Sharon Rivera-Sanchez, (center in red) giving a talk at the University of Maryland

Starting the very first cancer awareness and advocacy-focused student organization at the University of Maryland was a daunting task, but it was an initiative that was welcomed by both students and faculty members. This past year, we formed a student executive board of individuals passionate about the message that Mrs. Sanchez advocates for through Trials of Color. The support for

our newly established University of Maryland chapter has been abundant, with students regularly attending our fundraisers and workshops. Just over this past year, we raised about $1,000 through a variety of fundraisers, in collaboration with local sponsors and businesses in the College Park area. All of our fundraising efforts at the end of each semester contribute towards giving back to the cancer community, as we donate our proceeds and create personalized care packages for patients at the Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

Establishing this club at the University of Maryland and sharing Sharon's story with my fellow peers has been incredibly gratifying. Everything we have accomplished over this past year is truly just the beginning. I aspire for this club to continue to reach greater heights, expand how we give back to the cancer community, and advocate for diversity and equity in the cancer clinical trial space.

Sharon Rivera-Sanchez is a member of the RadComp Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Founder of Trials of Color.

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ASTRO 2024 MEETING – WASHINGTON DC

New Principal Investigator Meet & Greet – September 30, 2024



Alex Lin and Arpi Thukral, Site PI – Northwestern Medicine, Warrenville, Illinois



Alex Lin and Peng Weng, Physicist, Inova – Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia



Lane Rosen, Site PI, Willis Knighton, Shreveport, Louisiana with Alex Lin



Amy Berrington de Gonzalez, Epidemiologist and founding member of RadComp design team with Alex Lin