



Tumor

Faculty



Kristy Weber, MD



Orthopaedic Oncology Division Update

Kristy Weber, MD

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The Orthopaedic Oncology service at Penn is part of a multidisciplinary team of caregivers that is focused on patients of all ages with bone and soft tissue tumors. This includes the care of patients with benign and malignant primary tumors as well as patients with metastatic bone disease. The Penn Orthopaedic Oncology core team involves Dr. Kristy Weber, Bethany Sterling, CRNP, and Sarah Borgia, MHA, Administrative Coordinator along with an R4 orthopaedic resident. An R2 orthopaedic resident also participates on the service in addition to managing their primary role of evaluating and treating the HUP inpatient and ER consults. Patients are seen during 2 days each week in PCAM clinic, and surgeries are performed 1-2 days per week at HUP. Patients are also managed in the clinic and OR at CHOP along with Dr. Alex Arkader (orthopaedic oncology/pediatric orthopaedics) and Amy Rapino, NP. Bethany Sterling, NP runs a weekly Bone Metastasis Clinic at our Valley Forge location. A new formal connection with the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital to evaluate patients with bone or soft tissue tumors has been forged this year. Our Penn Orthopaedic Oncology Visiting Professor for 2017 is Dr. Ted Parsons, Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

The multidisciplinary clinical team that treats patients with bone or soft tissue sarcomas meets weekly on PCAM South 12 for a clinical care conference to discuss the presentation and differential diagnosis of new patients as well as the ongoing multimodal therapy for existing patients. Our musculoskeletal radiology team leads the conference under the direction of Ronnie Sebros, MD, PhD. Our musculoskeletal pathology team members provide expertise reading the tumor biopsies and teach all of us about the histologic and molecular appearances of these rare tumors. A new faculty member, Dr. John Wojcik will join the sarcoma pathology team with particular expertise in molecular evaluation of tumors and a strong basic science interest. The medical oncology team is led by Drs. Chip Staddon and Lee Hartner who practice at Pennsylvania Hospital and have provided high level care for sarcoma patients for many years in the Penn community. Dr. William Levin is the lead radiation oncologist at PCAM/HUP who utilizes proton radiation and IMRT for patients with sarcoma, and he works with a network of radiation oncology colleagues throughout the Penn hospital system. Dr. Jacob Shabason will join the faculty in radiation oncology with a particular interest in developing new clinical trials combining immunologic treatments and radiation for sarcoma. Dr. Giorgos Karakousis is a surgical oncologist who treats patients with melanoma as well as retroperitoneal, abdominal and extremity sarcoma. In addition, we have a large surgical team including neurosurgery, plastic surgery, colorectal surgery,

urology, and gynecologic oncology surgery that collaborate to surgically resect complex tumors about the spine and pelvis and reconstruct the defects to allow maximal function. Finally, there is a large supportive care team at Pennsylvania Hospital and HUP/PCAM to who assist patients with bone and soft tissue cancers including nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, nutrition specialists, physical/occupational therapists, prosthetic/orthotic specialists and others focused on alternative therapies. Active marketing efforts are ongoing at both Penn and CHOP to expand the reach of the orthopaedic oncology program in the region

All of the members of our clinical Sarcoma team prioritize seeing patients expediently and efficiently to make an accurate diagnosis and provide expert treatment. A Sarcoma leadership group meets monthly to work on quality initiatives and clinical pathways to improve the overall delivery of care to our patients.

An exciting development for Penn Orthopaedics and the Division of Orthopaedic Oncology is the successful recruitment of Dr. Robert Wilson who will start work in September 2017. Dr. Wilson is completing an orthopaedic oncology fellowship at Vanderbilt and will be joining the Penn community along with his wife, Dr. Jessica Wilson, an endocrinologist and physician-scientist. We are thrilled to have him join the division, and he will take a lead in clinical research and education. He will expand our reach to Radnor and will also initially spend time at the Philadelphia VA hospital performing both tumor surgery and hip/knee arthroplasty.

One of the features that stands out about the Penn Sarcoma program is the presence of a collaborative scientific team focused on new discoveries in sarcoma. Over the past year, the cohesive team of clinicians and scientists from Penn Med, Penn Vet and CHOP have worked together to apply for team science grants. In addition to the monthly Sarcoma research meetings, the smaller team meets regularly to develop a multi-pronged approach to the prediction, prevention, and treatment of sarcoma metastasis to the lung. The core sarcoma research team includes Karin Eisinger, PhD, Malay Haldar, MD, PhD, Celeste Simon, PhD, Margaret Chou, PhD (CHOP), and Nicola Mason, PhD, BVetMed. These investigators utilize sophisticated murine and canine spontaneous sarcoma models to study these diseases. They are focused on immunology, hypoxia, and epigenetics among other areas of study in both bone and soft tissue sarcomas and are collaborating in a translational way with our musculoskeletal radiology and pathology teams and Kristy Weber, MD. Our Sarcoma Visiting Professor this year was David Kirsch, MD, PhD, Vice-Chair of Radiation Oncology at Duke who gave an outstanding talk about the use of genetic mouse models of sarcoma during his visit.