



Orthopaedic Oncology Division

Cara Cipriano, MD, MSc



Orthopaedic Oncology Faculty



Kristy Weber, MD, FACS



Cara Cipriano, MD, MSc

2021-22 was a year of transition for the Orthopaedic Oncology service at Penn, with exciting changes to both our team and surroundings.

In September 2021, Dr. Cara Cipriano joined Penn Orthopaedics as the Chief of Orthopaedic Oncology and Director of Undergraduate Medical Education. Dr. Cipriano attended the Perelman School of Medicine here at Penn, followed by residency at Rush University. She completed fellowships in Musculoskeletal Oncology at the University of Toronto and Adult Reconstruction at Virginia Commonwealth University. She earned her master's degree in Clinical Investigation and practiced for seven years at Washington University in St. Louis, where she was the Director of Medical Student Education for the Department of Orthopaedics. Her clinical focus is on primary and secondary tumors of the musculoskeletal system, as well as primary and revision joint replacement. In addition to seeing patients at PCAM, she is building a practice at Radnor to improve access.

Dr. Kristy Weber continues to run a busy clinical service at PCAM and serves as the Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs. In 2021, she completed her term as First Past President of the AAOS while dedicating a tremendous amount of energy to her division and department here at Penn. As the Director of the Sarcoma Program at the Abramson Cancer Center, she leads the multidisciplinary sarcoma team, including medical oncology, radiation oncology, pathology, radiology, and neurosurgery. The group meets weekly for virtual multidisciplinary tumor board to ensure optimal coordination and care for our patients.

PA Kate Barrie remains an essential member of the team. Kate not only plays a large role in managing the service, but also sees patients independently. Kate exemplifies dedication, compassion, and clinical excellence, for which she is beloved by patients and colleagues alike. Our prior administrative coordinator, Sasha Mendez, and ambulatory nurse, Chrissy Vanella, have moved on to other roles, and Chrissy continues

to help in a temporary capacity whenever possible as we build our new team.

In October, we also experienced a physical transition with the opening of the Pavilion hospital. The building features panoramic views of the city, large screens in every patient room, and elevators without buttons. We marvel at the innovation and still sometimes get lost in its 1.5 million square feet. We operate and consult on oncology patients in the new building, while our postoperative patients remain comfortably lodged in the familiar surroundings of Rhoads 4. With the support of HUP leadership, we are increasing collaboration with social work and other inpatient services to further improve the care of our patients.

The past year has seen an increased focus on clinical research in our division. Through collaborative projects with radiation oncology and neurosurgery, we are currently investigating strategies of local disease control, including surgical and nonoperative treatments. These projects are designed to address the unanswered questions we encounter in our own practices, with the goal of providing answers that will improve patient care beyond our institution.

Our basic and translational science team continues to maintain impressive extramural funding and push the envelope of modulating the immune environment in soft tissue sarcoma and identifying targets for the prevention and treatment of sarcoma metastasis to the lung. We have strengthened our collaboration with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia with collaborative clinical trials across the full age span led by Drs. Patrick Grohar and Robert Maki. Overall, the portfolio of available clinical trials for a variety of bone and soft tissue sarcomas as well as aggressive benign conditions has more than doubled over the past year at Penn.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our patients, their families, and other supporters who continue to make our research possible through philanthropic generosity.

Upcoming Events:

After two years of postponing due to COVID-19, we look forward to hosting Dr. Carol Morris, Chief of Orthopaedic Oncology at Johns Hopkins University, as the Penn Orthopaedic

Oncology Visiting Professor in September 2022. Our 8th annual Steps to Cure Sarcoma event is scheduled to take place in person on May 22, 2022 (www.stepstocuresarcoma.com). We hope to see you there!