

**Morehouse School of Medicine  
Cancer Biology Program  
at  
Georgia Cancer Center for  
Excellence at Grady**

Presented by

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Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar  
Gynecologic Oncologist and Chairman, Dept OB/GYN





# Cancer Center Research

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- Basic Science Research
- Clinical Research
- Training
  - P60, 5-year NIH Grant focusing on disparities in cancers



## Dr. Stephanie Yap's Cancer Accomplishments

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- The aim of the study was to understand the mechanisms of ovarian cancer and to improve the tools for clinical care and diagnosis. One of the goal was to develop more specific and less toxic treatment drugs that would eliminate disparities in survival for different subgroups of African-American patients.
- Our study showed that the drugs Azac and Trichostain A (TSA) are able to inhibit the growth ovarian cancer cells. These drugs may be acting through modification of epigenetic pathways.



# Dr. Veena Rao's Research Accomplishments

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Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar

**Dr. Rao's Lab**      Functional analysis of ELK-1 and BRCA1 in Breast,  
Ovarian and Prostate Cancers

**Current Findings**    TN breast cancers are aggressive and highly prevalent  
in black women. There are currently no targeted  
treatment available.

BRCA1a blocks Triple Negative Breast tumors (ER-  
/PR-/HER2-), Ovarian and Prostate cancers.

**Future Efforts**      Study mechanism of anti tumor activity of  
BRCA1, identify targets and molecular markers and use  
nanoparticles (in collaboration with Georgia Tech) to  
deliver BRCA1 into tumor cells.



# **Dr. E. Shyam Reddy's Research Accomplishments**

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**Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar**

- **ERG gene identified by Dr Reddy and Rao is involved in the majority of prostate cancers and also involved in children bone cancer and Leukemias.**
- **Dr Reddy identified the interaction of two proteins responsible for cancer in Ewing sarcoma and Leukemias.**
- **Based on the above finding, they developed a cell based assay to screen for drugs that counteract the function of cancer genes involved in Ewing sarcoma, prostate cancer and Leukemias.**
- **They identified several drugs that function as anticancer agents and they function as targeted therapeutic agents (not like regular chemotherapeutic agents).**



# **Dr. Bumpers & Dr. Okoli's Surgical Oncology Accomplishments**

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## **“Fellowship Trained Surgical Oncologists”**

- **Run clinics each week that are Breast and Surgical Oncology**
- **Participate in combined (MSM/Emory) tumor breast tumor boards weekly**
- **Produce combined abstracts presented at national meetings. Total of 5 for 2007**
- **There are 5 combined manuscripts either submitted or in preparation from work done in 2007**
- **Partners with Emory in introduced new techniques, such as mammosite, to the Avon Breast Center**
- **Currently collaborator on combined clinical trials and a grant submitted**
- **Dr. Bumpers has 2 retrospective studies completed and being prepared from breast center patients' data**



# Dr. Eric Flenaugh's Accomplishments through Cancer Center Support

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## **Clinical Services**

- Developed interventional pulmonary services at Grady Hospital for cancer patients:
  - **Improved lung cancer diagnostic capabilities**
    - Autofluorescence bronchoscopy
    - Protocols for transbronchial FNA
    - Ultrasound guided parenchymal biopsy
  - **Improved staging capabilities**
    - Autofluorescence bronchoscopy / synchronous lesions
    - Endobronchial Ultrasound guided mediastinal staging
  - **Improved palliation for cancer patients**
    - Endobronchial tumor ablation techniques
    - Airway stenting and dilation techniques
    - Endobronchial radiation therapy
    - Indwelling pleural catheter placement
    - Endobronchial injection of medication for airway lesions



# Dr. Eric Flenaugh's Accomplishments through Cancer Center Support

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## **Research Abstracts Presented**

- ***Transbronchial Needle Aspiration: Is Pooled Cell Block, Cytology Slides, or Both Needed to Improve Diagnostic Yield?***
  - American College of Chest Physicians Annual Meeting (CHEST), Salt Lake City, Utah.
- ***Submitting Specimens for Transbronchial Needle Aspiration: Is Less More?***
  - 14th World Congress for Bronchology, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ***Cancerization of the Oral Airway Tract of African American Men Diagnosed with Lung Cancer.***
  - NIH-NCRR RCMI Program. National Center for Primary Care. Morehouse School of Medicine. Atlanta, GA.
- ***Synchronous Lesions in the Airways of African American Men Diagnosed with Lung Cancer. Awarded Best in Category, Research Abstracts***
  - American College of Chest Physicians Annual Meeting (CHEST), Montreal, Canada.
- ***The Impact of Interventional Bronchoscopy on a County Hospital and Disparities in Lung Cancer.***
  - 5th International Conference on Scientific Basis of Health Services, Washington DC 2003
  - 13th World Congress for Bronchology, Barcelona, Spain. June 2004





# Dr. Eric Flenaugh's Accomplishments through Cancer Center Support

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## **Mentoring- Through the Training Core**

- **Flenaugh EL**, Henriques MN. *Lung Cancer Disparities in African Americans: Health vs. Healthcare*. Clin Chest Med. 2006 Sep;27(3):431-9, vi.
- **Flenaugh EL**, Heisler M. *Basic Principles of Mechanical Ventilation*. In: Williams MV, ed. Comprehensive Hospital Medicine, 1st Ed. 87; 669-676. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2007.
- Moanna A, **Flenaugh EL**, Lennox JL, Moss M, Vuchetich A. *Severe Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis in an HIV infected Adult on Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy*. Journal of Bronchology 2005. 12(4):210-213.
- Danai P, **Flenaugh EL**. *Bronchoscopic Image: Bronchomediastinal Fistula*. Journal of Bronchology 2006. 13(1): 37-38.
- **Flenaugh EL**, Henriques MN. *Lung Cancer Disparities in African Americans: Health vs. Healthcare*. Clin Chest Med. 2006 Sep;27(3):431-9, vi.
- Kolawole F, Allen R, **Flenaugh EL**. *Photo Quiz: Dyspnea and dry cough in a patient with rheumatoid Arthritis*. Am Fam Physician. 2007 Jan 1;75(1):103-5.
- Seivwright T, Fair N, **Flenaugh EL**. *Photo Quiz: Tuberculosis Empyema*. Resident & Staff Physician March 2007. 53(3)



## Gynecologic Oncology Service

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- Consolidated gynecologic cancer care for Georgia Cancer Center.
  - From treatment of preinvasive to end of life care
- By working with Georgia CORE, Grady was enrolled as a Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) site.
  - Unique for the GOG in the US
  - The only GOG statewide consortium in the US
  - Collaboration among Cancer Centers over the entire state



## Summary

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- Morehouse is committed to the communities and people of Georgia.
- Morehouse Cancer Program will continue to collaborate in research and training to provide superior care for cancer patients.
- This will reduce cancer disparity in our state.