Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Program

The Lung Cancer Program at USC Norris Cancer Hospital, a part of the Keck Medical Center of USC, offers patients with known or suspected lung cancer access to a comprehensive multidisciplinary team of specialists in a personalized environment. Experts in thoracic surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, and pulmonology convene in a true multi-specialty clinic setting so that patients may be seen by appropriate specialists all in one visit. Our program also benefits from a dedicated interventional chest radiologist and expert lung pathologist.

An experienced lung cancer nurse navigator works with the patient and referring physician's office to facilitate collection of the necessary medical records and imaging studies. The nurse navigator will schedule an appointment with our team of doctors, eliminating the need for referring physicians to determine which specialists the patient should see. Rather than simply discussing cases at a traditional tumor board, a team of required specialists convenes weekly to evaluate and examine the patient together to meet the needs of the individual.

Lung Cancer Program Highlights

State-of-the-art diagnostic technology
• Low dose chest CT scan for screening and surveillance
• Electromagnetic navigational bronchoscopy, biopsy, and fiducial placement - SuperDimension®
• Endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) biopsy and mediastinal staging
• CT-guided FNA biopsy

Advanced surgical techniques
• Robotic lung resection (da Vinci®) - the only academic medical center in Southern California offering robotic lobectomy routinely for lung cancer
• Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) lung resection
• Surgical treatment of stage IIIA disease
• Novel therapy for refractory malignant effusions
• Tracheal resection and bronchoplastic surgery

Unique radiation and ablation treatment options
• Stereotactic radiosurgery (Cyberknife®)
• Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
• 3-D conformal radiation therapy (3-D CRT)
• CT-guided percutaneous thermal ablation or cryoablation
Personalized systemic therapy
• Tumor gene expression analysis for optimization of conventional chemotherapy
• Tumor mutational analysis for targeted biologic therapy
• Clinical trials for patients of all stages, I through IV
• Access to a constant flow of pipeline drugs via multiple clinical trial mechanisms

USC Lung Cancer Program Faculty

Lung cancer management is a complex and rapidly evolving field that is blurring the lines among traditional specialties. It is only through a fully integrated multidisciplinary approach like the USC Lung Cancer Program that all of these exciting developments can be put into practice in a streamlined fashion. Our physicians will communicate with you throughout the evaluation and treatment process to keep you fully informed about your patient’s treatment plan.

Thoracic Surgery
• Jeffrey A. Hagen, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery
• P. Michael McFadden, MD, Professor of Surgery
• Daniel S. Oh, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery

Medical Oncology
• Barbara J. Gitlitz, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine
• Stephen Liu, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine

 Radiation Oncology
• Afshin Rashtian, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology

Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology
• Christopher Lee, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology

Pulmonology
• Ching-Fei Chang, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine
• Alex A. Balekian, MD, Instructor of Medicine

About USC Norris Cancer Hospital

One of only a few facilities in Southern California built exclusively for cancer research and patient care, USC Norris Cancer Hospital is affiliated with the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center — one of the original eight comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute. The close partnership between the hospital and cancer center offers immediate benefit to patients seeking the latest breakthroughs in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Clinical trials are available for eligible patients in all stages.

Our USC Locations

Keck Hospital of USC
1500 San Pablo St.
Los Angeles, CA 90033
888-700-5700

Healthcare Consultation Centers (Physician Offices)
1510 and 1520 San Pablo St.
Los Angeles, CA 90033
1-800-USC-CARE

USC Norris Cancer Hospital
1441 Eastlake Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90033
800-700-3956

Doheny Eye Institute
1450 San Pablo St.
Los Angeles, CA 90033
(323) 442-6335

Satellite Locations
• Downtown Los Angeles: (213) 437-1000
• La Cañada: (818) 952-2171
• Beverly Hills: USC Doheny Eye Center - (310) 601-3366
• USC Norris Westside Cancer Center - (310) 272-7640
• USC Institute of Urology - (323) 865-3700
• Pasadena:
  Surgical Specialties - (626) 683-9000
  Oncology - (626) 568-1622

Online Physician Directory

Go to doctorsofusc.com/app to download the free app. This desktop application lets you search, manage and organize physician listings for easy access during the referral process.