

# Piedmont Oncology

Quarterly Newsletter - Winter 2025

## Message from Dr. Wally Curran, Chief of Piedmont Oncology

Welcome to our second Piedmont Oncology Newsletter!! You will see the seven physicians listed below have joined Piedmont Oncology since our last newsletter, and in addition, our four radiation oncologists caring for patients in Atlanta, Kennesaw, Cartersville, and now Jasper have formed the Piedmont Physicians Radiation Oncology Group!! You can see that this exceptional group of new doctors are serving patients at many of our Piedmont locations, and their specialties include colorectal surgery, breast surgery, gynecologic oncology, thoracic surgery, advanced gastroenterology, and radiation oncology. Expect to see another superb group of new providers in our next Piedmont Oncology Newsletter!!



We have had many important Piedmont Oncology events recently: the “Ribbon Cutting” at the beautiful new Piedmont Mountainside Radiation Oncology Facility in Jasper, the Bill Barber Breast Cancer Educational Event, the Piedmont Oncology 2025 Brain Tumor Patient and Caregiver Conference, and the Atlanta Pancreas Cancer Conference. Please look below for upcoming activities, including the Piedmont Oncology Luminaria Gala on October 25th, the first-ever large-scale gala in support of Piedmont Oncology.

Finally, take a look at the impressive listing of Piedmont Oncology clinical trials in this newsletter: 5 recently opened and 14 in development. Special thanks to our research administration team and our principal investigators who are making this transformational work happen!!!

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## NEW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### Bispecific T-Cell Engager (BiTE) Therapy Now Available at John B. Amos Cancer Center (JBACC) at Piedmont Columbus Regional

Dr. Andy Pippas, Piedmont Oncology's Medical Director of Medical Oncology, provided a novel type of immunotherapy known as Bispecific T-Cell Engager (BiTE) therapy to a patient at the John B Amos Cancer Center (JBACC) at Piedmont Columbus Regional. Bispecific T-cell engager (BiTE) therapy is a type of immunotherapy that helps the body's immune system identify and destroy cancer cells. This type of treatment holds promise for patients with several types of cancer, and JBACC is the first community cancer program in Georgia to offer this new approach to their patients!



Providers and staff from pharmacy, nursing, clinical operations, facilities, EVS, and IS have been working together for over five months to develop policies, procedures, and specialized staff training in order to safely and effectively offer this therapy option to the community.. There are currently nine BiTE therapies on the market for oncology. 7 of the 9 BiTE therapies will be offered by JBACC physicians during 2025.

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### New Radiation Oncology Center at Piedmont Mountainside Hospital

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 for its new 8,760 square foot Radiation Oncology Facility, which is located on the southwest corner of the hospital property at Georgia Highway 515 and Bill Hasty Boulevard. Physicians and staff at the facility will serve patients of north Georgia, including those from Pickens, Fannin, Gilmer, Gordon and Murray counties, with outpatient radiation oncology services.



The equipment at the center includes a new state-of-the-art linear accelerator, a CT simulation scanner, and all the latest software tools to enable the best available radiation oncology care. This will be the first facility in the Piedmont system to offer patients radiosurgery treatments using Brainlab ExactTrac Dynamic with thermal surface tracking, which provides sub-millimetric guidance for patient treatments.

Radiation oncology services will be provided by Piedmont Oncology radiation oncologists, including Dr. Adam Nowlan, who is very active in clinical research activities, and his experienced team of Piedmont Oncology radiation oncology physicians and other fully-credentialed professionals.

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### PHYSICIAN AND STAFF RECOGNITIONS

#### Dr. Cyril Spann Honored with 2024 William C. Waters Award for Clinical Excellence at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital

Dr. Cyril Spann, gynecologic oncologist at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital, is the recipient of the 2024 William C. Waters Award for Clinical Excellence. Shouky and Doris Shaheen established this award in 2002 to honor the career of Dr. Waters upon his retirement. The award is given to one physician and one nurse at Piedmont Atlanta each year who exhibit the same “brilliant clinical insights, unending compassion, and persuasive humanism” as Dr. Waters.

All of Dr. Spann’s nominators described his impressive base of knowledge and skill with complex cases and how willing he is to share his talents with peers as well as medical students and residents. Dr. Julia Combs, OB-GYN, highlighted Dr. Spann’s exceptional bedside manner. She wrote, “Dr. Spann has a unique way of connecting with his patients, often guiding them through some of the most challenging moments of their lives with kindness, patience, and empathy.” The nursing directors at Piedmont Atlanta chose Dr. Spann from 16 total nominees for the physician award; he had received 10 of those 16 nominations for providing high-quality, patient-centered care.



Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, the Waters Award is permanently endowed, thanks to the Shaheen family as well as other private gifts from patients, colleagues and friends of Dr. Waters. Dr. Waters was an internal medicine physician who practiced at Piedmont Atlanta for over 30 years.



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## NEW PIEDMONT ONCOLOGY PHYSICIANS

### Advanced Gastroenterology



**Naveen Anand, MD – Advanced Gastroenterologist**

*Piedmont Physicians Gastroenterology Atlanta*

*Primary Hospital: Piedmont Atlanta Hospital*

Naveen has over 10 years of experience as an advanced GI specialist, as well as a health system leader. Dr. Anand is a board-certified and fellowship-trained therapeutic endoscopist, trained in advanced endoscopy, gastroenterology, and hepatology. Dr. Anand has extensive experience in treating pancreatic diseases.

### Breast Surgery



**Cathy Graham, MD – Breast Surgeon**

*Piedmont Physicians Breast Surgery Specialists Cartersville*

*Primary Hospital: Piedmont Cartersville Hospital*

Dr. Cathy Graham is an exceptional fellowship-trained breast surgeon who served as the Breast Surgery Program Director at Emory Saint Joseph's for 7 years and led the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University High Risk Breast Clinic.

### Colorectal Surgery



**Jennifer Cronin, MD – Colorectal Surgeon**

*Piedmont Physicians Surgical Specialists Henry*

*Primary Hospital: Piedmont Henry*

Dr. Cronin has been in practice since 2019. Her clinical focus involves malignant and benign diseases of the colon, rectum, and anus, including colon, rectal, and anal cancer. She has a specific interest in minimally invasive robotic and laparoscopic approaches to colon and rectal surgery.



**Nathalie Mantilla, MD – Colorectal Surgeon**

*Piedmont Physicians Colon and Rectal Surgery at Augusta*

*Primary Hospital: Piedmont Augusta*

Dr. Mantilla is a double board-certified, fellowship trained colorectal surgeon with extensive experience in minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Mantilla has special interest in pelvic floor disorders and has specialized in the diagnosis and treatment of rectal prolapse, chronic constipation, and fecal incontinence.

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## Colorectal Surgery



**Hope Rasque, MD – Colorectal Surgeon**  
*Piedmont Physicians Colorectal Surgery of Conyers*  
*Primary Hospital: Piedmont Rockdale*

Dr. Rasque is board certified in colon and rectal surgery with 20 years of experience. Dr. Rasque was the first colon and rectal surgeon in the Atlanta area to offer office anal pap and high resolution anoscopy for the prevention of anal cancer. She brings this technology to Piedmont Rockdale.

## Gynecologic Oncology



**Amal Masri, MD – Gynecologic Oncologist**  
*Piedmont Physicians Gynecologic Oncology Athens*  
*Primary Hospital: Piedmont Athens Regional*

Dr. Amal Masri brings expertise in the treatment of ovarian, uterine, cervical, and vulvar cancers. Dr. Masri is passionate about improving patient outcomes through personalized treatment strategies, blending her clinical expertise with ongoing research to advance the field of gynecologic oncology.

## Thoracic Surgery



**Allan Pickens, MD – Thoracic Surgeon**  
*Piedmont Heart Thoracic Surgery Atlanta*  
*Primary Hospital: Piedmont Atlanta*

Dr. Allan Pickens specializes in thoracic surgery with a focus on minimally invasive robotic and thoroscopic techniques, removal of early-stage lung and esophageal cancers, mediastinal tumors and chest wall tumors, hiatal hernia repairs, anti-reflux surgery, hyperhidrosis treatment, and pectus repairs.

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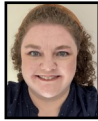









## OUR CLINICAL EXPERTISE

- ✦ Drs. Amal Masri and Wally Curran spoke on cervical cancer and lung cancer respectively on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Howard Stroud Community Health Symposium in Athens in honor of Black History Month.
- ✦ Dr. Andrew Page discussed the Piedmont Oncology Pancreas Cancer Early Detection Program at the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium U01 Retreat on January 31<sup>ST</sup> at City of Hope, Duarte, CA. Dr. Sope Olugbile also attended. Piedmont Oncology recently joined this consortium and will conduct several early detection trials.
- ✦ Dr. Curran presented on the state of the art for small cell lung cancer care and on management of stage III lung cancer patients at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Lung Conference in Fort Lauderdale on February 1st.

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### NEW PIEDMONT ONCOLOGY STAFF MEMBERS

 <b>Leah Henderson</b> <i>Quality Project Specialist Oncology CGC</i>	 <b>Nihjole Heskey</b> <i>Cancer Navigator Piedmont Rockdale Hospital</i>	 <b>Dawn Hughes</b> <i>Sr. Performance Improvement Lead Oncology CGC</i>
 <b>Amy Jones</b> <i>Oncology Dietician Piedmont Henry Hospital</i>	 <b>Jenise Key</b> <i>Sarcoma Cancer Navigator Piedmont Atlanta Hospital</i>	 <b>Linnea Lundh</b> <i>Genetic Counselor Piedmont Augusta Hospital</i>
 <b>Miranda Murray</b> <i>Manager, Radiation Oncology Piedmont Atlanta Hospital</i>	 <b>Lynn Rabun</b> <i>Manager, Infusion Services Piedmont Atlanta Hospital (Piedmont West and Kennesaw)</i>	 <b>Donetta Reid</b> <i>Practice Manager Piedmont Physicians Medical Oncology Atlanta</i>
 <b>Aubrey Surian</b> <i>Genetic Counselor Piedmont Augusta Hospital</i>	 <b>Barbara Velasco</b> <i>Practice Manager Breast Surgery at Piedmont Henry Hospital</i>	 <b>Sonji Yancy</b> <i>Director, Physician Operations Oncology Physician Enterprise</i>



### Highlights from 2024 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Priya Vishnubhotla, MD, Medical Oncologist Piedmont Physicians Medical Oncology Rockdale

The 2024 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium was held December 10-13, 2024. Some of the conference's most clinically relevant abstracts are as follows:

- ⇒ **PATINA:** The AFT-38 PATINA Phase III trial demonstrated a clinically meaningful 15.2-month PFS improvement with palbociclib added to anti-HER2 plus ET, with a manageable toxicity profile, and may represent a new standard of care for patients diagnosed with HR+ HER2+ advanced breast cancer.
- ⇒ **EMBER 3:** In a phase 3, open-label trial, patients with ER-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative advanced breast cancer that recurred or progressed during or after aromatase inhibitor therapy- treatment with imlunestrant led to significantly longer progression-free survival than standard therapy among those with ESR1 mutations but not in the overall population. Imlunestrant-abemaciclib significantly improved progression-free survival as compared with imlunestrant, regardless of ESR1-mutation status.
- ⇒ **COMET:** In women with low-risk DCIS aged 40 years and older, after 2 years of follow up, 5.9% of the women who received standard-of-care treatment (surgery with or without radiation) and 4.2% who were actively monitored (mammograms every six months) had been diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in the affected breast. Overall health-related quality of life, anxiety and symptom trajectories were comparable during 2 years of follow up. Longer term follow-up is needed, initial results are encouraging.
- ⇒ **INSEMA:** In this trial involving patients with clinically node-negative, T1 or T2 invasive breast cancer (90% with clinical T1 cancer and 79% with pathological T1 cancer), omission of surgical axillary staging was noninferior to sentinel-lymph-node biopsy after a median follow-up of 6 years.





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### ONCOLOGY RESEARCH UPDATES

#### Recently Opened

NRG-BR009	Ovarian	A Phase III Adjuvant Trial Evaluating the Addition of Adjuvant Chemotherapy to Ovarian Function Suppression plus Endocrine Therapy in Premenopausal Patients with pN0-1, ER-Positive/HER2-Negative Breast Cancer and an Oncotype Recurrence Score $\leq 25$ .
NRG-BN013	Neuro	Phase III trial of single fraction stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) versus fractionated SRS (FSRS) for intact brain metastases.
NRG-GY026	Endometrial	A phase II/III study of paclitaxel/carboplatin alone or combined with either trastuzumab and hyaluronidase-oyok (herceptin hylecta) or pertuzumab, trastuzumab, and hyaluronidase-zzxf (phesgo) in HER2 positive, stage I-IV endometrial serous carcinoma or carcinosarcoma.
COH19288	Pancreas	Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer: Prospective Study

#### Coming Soon (Q1/Q2)

COPERNICUS	Lung	A Phase 2b, Open-Label, Two-cohort Study of Subcutaneous Amivantamab in Combination with Lazertinib as First-Line Treatment, or Subcutaneous Amivantamab in Combination with Platinum-Based Chemotherapy as Second-line Treatment, for Common EGFR-Mutated Locally Advanced or Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.
DESTINY BTC-01	Biliary	A Phase 3 Study of Trastuzumab Deruxtecan (T-DXd) and Rilvegostomig versus Standard-of-Care Gemcitabine, Cisplatin, and Durvalumab for First Line Locally Advanced or Metastatic HER2-expressing Biliary Tract Cancer.
EXCEVE	Pancreas	An Exploratory Pilot Study to Examine the Utility of Several Blood-Based Assays for Disease Monitoring in Patients with Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC).
FLEX	Breast	MammaPrint, Blueprint, and Full-genome Data Linked with Clinical Data to Evaluate New Gene Expression Profiles: An Adaptable Registry.
NRG-GY032	Endometrial	A phase II study of tailored adjuvant therapy in POLE-mutated and p53-wildtype/NSMP early-stage endometrial cancer.
PCDC	Pancreas	Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC) Prospective Cohorts
TGEN 2020	All Cancers	TGen Human Biospecimen Collection Protocol to Support Translational Research of Cancer
ARIES	All Cancers	A biobank Registry Platform Study in Oncology
GEMINI	Lung	A Longitudinal Multi-Omic Biomarker Profiling Study of Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
CAAA617D12302	Prostate	An International, Prospective, Open-label, Multi-center, Randomized Phase III Study comparing lutetium (177Lu) vipivotide tetraxetan (AAA617) versus Observation to delay castration or disease recurrence in adult male patients with prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) positive Oligometastatic Prostate Cancer (OMPC).

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EIK1001-005	Lung	A Phase 2 Study of EIK1001 in Combination with Pembrolizumab and Chemotherapy in Patients with Stage 4 Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.
PARADOX	Colorectal	Optimizing Body Mass Index (BMI) with TCMCB07 in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Undergoing Chemotherapy.
IDE161-001	Solid Tumors	A Study of PARG Inhibitor IDE161 in Participants with Advanced Solid Tumors.
ECHO	GYN	Leveraging Methylated DNA Markers (MDMs) in the Detection of Endometrial Cancer, Ovarian Cancer, and Cervical Cancer: A Phase II Clinical Study.

### PIEDMONT ONCOLOGY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Barber Breast Cancer Fund Community Lecture Series: “What Should I Tell My Daughter?”

Barber Breast Cancer Fund Community Lecture Series was held on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at Piedmont Atlanta Shaheen Auditorium and this series is open to all women seeking clarity and practical guidance on topics related to breast cancer. With 150+ attendees, this event was hosted by Atlanta Breast Care founder Bill Barber, MD, and the Piedmont Healthcare Foundation, featured a panel of experts including Dr. Erin Bowman, Dr. Rajni Sinha, Shayna Komar and Molly Klein. These experts provided the knowledge and support needed to confidently guide your loved ones. Participants learned about the vital role that heart-healthy exercise and balanced nutrition play into prevention and overall wellbeing. Participants also learned about the hereditary factors of breast cancer, chemoprevention, and prophylactic surgery. The next series will likely be scheduled for Fall 2025.



#### 2025 Brain Tumor Patient and Caregiver Conference

The 2025 Brain Tumor Patient and Caregiver Conference was held on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at Piedmont Atlanta Shaheen Auditorium. The event was co-sponsored by Piedmont Oncology and the American Brain Tumor Association. Attendees heard from internationally known guest speaker Dr. Soma Sengupta, and learned more about primary and metastatic brain tumors, the latest treatments and trials, and available supportive care resources.





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## UPCOMING PIEDMONT ONCOLOGY EVENTS

### Piedmont Rocks!

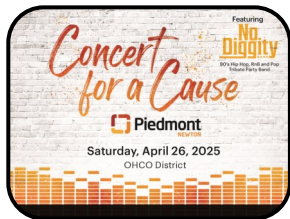
**Concert Benefitting Piedmont Newnan's Cancer Program**

**March 22, 2025**

**The Newnan Centre Amphitheatre (Newnan, GA)**



Piedmont Newnan Hospital will host its inaugural benefit concert, Piedmont Rocks!, on March 22, 2025 at the Newnan Centre Amphitheatre. This new philanthropic event will replace the Piedmont Newnan Soiree held in previous years. This year's event, featuring Yacht Rock Schooner as the headliner, will benefit oncology services at Piedmont Newnan, including the support of direct patient care programs, capital needs associated with our oncology programs, and program support for the Thomas F. Chapman Family Cancer Wellness Center. [Click here to buy tickets.](#)



### Piedmont Newton Concert for a Cause

**Concert Benefitting Piedmont Newton's Cancer Program**

**April 26, 2025**

**OHCO District (Covington, GA)**

Get ready for a fun night of live music and dancing at our annual Concert for a Cause, benefiting Piedmont Newton's Comprehensive Cancer Fund. This year the concert will be hosted indoors at Covington's newest venue, OHCO District on The Cricket Trail. We're especially excited to welcome No Diggity Band to the stage for the best of 90's Hip Hop, R & B and Pop Tributes. [Tickets and sponsorships are available!](#)

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As a not-for-profit entity, the Piedmont Healthcare Foundation supports efforts to provide high-quality patient-centered care, using updated techniques and equipment, through gifts from partners like you. With your support, Piedmont can continue our commitment to our patients by offering life-changing care that can lead to happier, healthier lives. For more information or to make a gift in support of Piedmont Oncology, visit [give.piedmont.org/oncology](https://give.piedmont.org/oncology) or call 404.605.4398.