

Oncology Nursing Conference

Enhancing knowledge, transforming practice

This educational activity was developed through a collaborative effort across UT MD Anderson and is sponsored by Cancer Network and the Meyers Institute for Oncology Nursing



September 25-26, 2026

UT MD Anderson Duncan Building (CPB), Floor 8

Virtual and In-Person Format

Friday, September 25, 2026

Time	Dur	Session Title	Presenter(s)
7:00 AM	0	Registration Check-In & Breakfast	CPB 8 - Foyer
8:00 AM	15	Welcome & Morning Announcements	Kim Slusser, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CHPN <i>AM Moderator: Asha Demla</i>
8:15 AM	60	Opening Keynote – Targeting the Microbiome to Promote Health and End Cancer Insights into emerging trends and strategies that will define the future of oncology practice, understanding the human microbiome and its influence on cancer response to treatment, & introduction to precision medicine principles	Jennifer Wargo, MD
9:15 AM	75	Igniting the Immune Response: An Overview of Immunotherapy and Checkpoint Blockade in Cancer Care Categories of immunotherapies and indications; management & patient education for immunotoxicities	Michelle Rohlf, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, AOCNP
10:30 AM	15	AM Break & Networking Opportunity	
10:45 AM	75	Engineering Immunity: Cell Therapies and Bispecific T-Cell Engagers in Cancer Care Principles of cell therapies, innovations and future of practice, and nursing considerations	Jason Westin, MD Sherry Adkins, MSN, RN, ANP-C, FAAN
12:00 PM	60	LUNCH & Networking Opportunity	
1:00 PM	60	The Role and Responsibility of the Cardio-Oncology Nurse Aspects of caring for the oncology patient with cardiac complications, including inpatient rounding, ambulatory considerations assessment and triaging, APP responsibilities, and research involvement.	Anecita Fadol, PhD, APRN <i>PM Moderator: Colleen Jernigan</i>
2:00 PM	45	Understanding Oncofertility Impact of cancer therapies on fertility; evaluation and risk considerations, and the latest approaches to preservation	Terri Woodard, MD
2:45 PM	15	PM Break & Networking Opportunity	
3:00 PM	60	Why Goal Concordant Care Should Matter for Oncology Nursing Define goal concordant care and its impact on patient outcomes; strategies to apply in different practice settings. Include patient perspective/crucial conversation concepts	Victoria McClosky, RN
4:00PM	60	Glycemic Management of the Cancer Patient Coordination of care and management of the cancer patient experiencing diabetic conditions	Sonali Thosani, MD Vivian Crowder, MSN, APRN, FNP-C
5:00 PM	-	Adjourn	
TOTAL HOURS	9.5 hrs		
5:00 pm	90	Networking & Welcome Reception (all learners, faculty, and exhibitors are welcome)	

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Time	Min	Session Title	Presenter(s)
6:45 AM	60	Registration Check-In & Breakfast (Day 2)	CPB 8, Foyer
8:00 AM	15	Welcome & Morning Announcements	Danya Garner, PhD, RN, OCN, CCRN, NPD-BC <i>AM Moderator: Kathy Mishaw</i>
8:15 AM	60	Innovations in Technology to Improve Oncology Nursing Practice Benefits and risks of incorporating technology into nursing practice. Discuss bias, alarm fatigue, patient engagement, equity, and benefit to patients. Updates on MDA's implementation of nursing innovation and technology initiatives. Consider including AI in clinical trials	Lavonia Thomas, BSN, DNP, MSN, RN
9:15 AM	60	Advances in the Treatment of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Overview of disease, landscape of genetic mutations and associated treatment options, and latest advances in systemic therapy	John Heymach, MD
10:15 AM	30	AM Break & Networking Opportunity	
10:45 AM	75	Updates in the Management of Pancreatic and Biliary Tract Cancers Insights into the latest therapeutic strategies and clinical advancements for pancreatic and hepatobiliary cancer, including high-risk screening considerations (highlight somatic and germline genetics)	Kaysia Ludford, MD Madhulika Eluri, MD
12:00 PM	60	Lunch & Satellite Symposium <i>(Non-Accredited Educational Session)</i>	CPB 8.3059 <i>Telehealth Room</i>
1:00 PM	60	Driving Change: Advocacy, Policy, & Impact in Oncology Practice How advocacy and policy initiatives shape oncology practice and effect patient outcomes; understanding how nurses use their expertise to drive change. Provide updates in the student loan caps for higher level nursing education	Eleni Valanos <i>PM Moderator: Joylyn Estrella, MSN, RN</i>
2:00 PM	15	PM Break & Networking Opportunity	
2:15 PM	75	Cutting Edge Surgical Updates: Breast and Melanoma Cancer Panelists should include considerations for APRNs in surgical practice and patient management, ERAS a. Breast Cancer Advances in minimally invasive surgery and the use of biomarkers to guide surgical decisions b. Melanoma Cancer Considerations for the sequence of surgery within the treatment plan; node dissection in the era of immunotherapy	Susie Sun, MD Roi Weiser, MD <i>Session Moderator: Rae Reynolds, APRN, PhD, RN</i>
3:30 PM	60	All Hands-on Deck: Oncology Team Approach to Pain Management Discussion of pain management guidelines and regulations, and overview of opioid misuse behaviors in the cancer patient	Tonya Edwards, APRN, MS, RN Matthew Clark, PharmD
4:30 PM	-	Adjourn	
TOTAL HOURS	9.75 hrs		