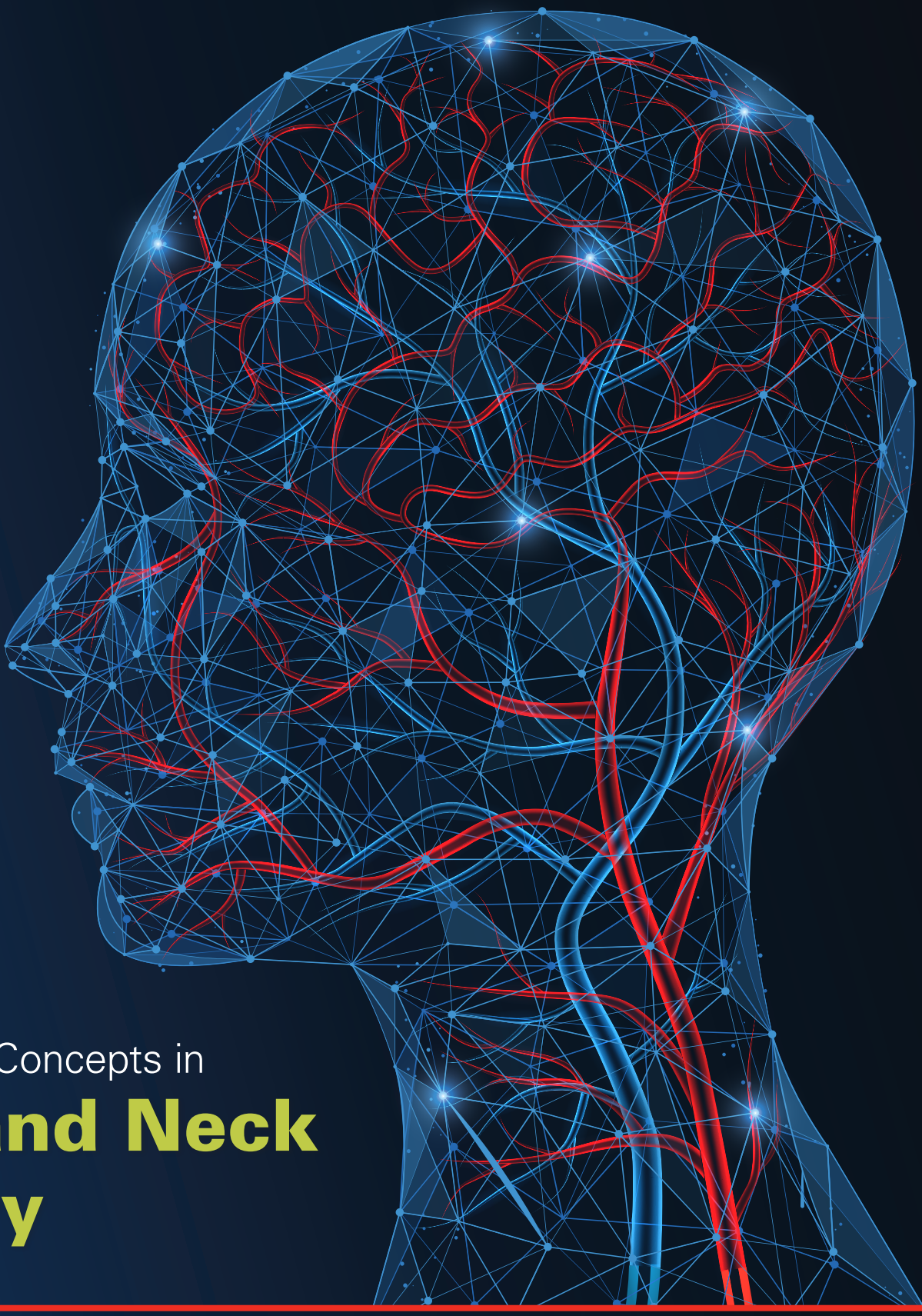
Cancer
UT MD Anderson



2026 Current Concepts in

Head and Neck Surgery

UT MD Anderson
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
The University of Toronto

For more information, scan QR code

2026 Current Concepts in Head and Neck Surgery

November 13-14, 2026
UT MD Anderson | Onstead Auditorium | 6767 Bertner Avenue | Houston, Texas

Overview

This two-day course, built on the long-standing tri-institutional Current Concepts series, will review contemporary management of head and neck tumors with a focus on surgical approaches, multidisciplinary care, functional outcomes, emerging technologies, and novel systemic strategies in thyroid cancer. Esteemed faculty from three major cancer centers — The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and the University of Toronto — will review the current epidemiology and management of oral cavity, oropharynx, larynx/hypopharynx, skin, thyroid/parathyroid, salivary gland, and skull base tumors; discuss multidisciplinary decision making in early stage and advanced cancers; and explore strategies for optimizing reconstruction, function, and survivorship. The course will feature a combination of focused presentations, structured debates, and interactive panel discussions. Attendees will have opportunities to engage with faculty throughout the program and to discuss challenging cases in a multidisciplinary "Stump the Faculty"/tumor board format.

Target Audience

Specialties: Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, General Surgery, Medical Oncology, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Pathology, Radiation Oncology

Professions: Nurse - APRN, Other, Physician (MD or DO), Speech-Language Pathologist, Student or Trainee

Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, learners will be able to:

1. Apply current evidence from neoadjuvant and adjuvant head and neck cancer trials to identify appropriate referral timing to tertiary centers.
2. Develop treatment plans aligned with contemporary guideline-based indications and multidisciplinary standards or care.
3. Describe contemporary strategies for sequencing surgery with systemic and radiation therapy following neoadjuvant treatment.
4. Identify advanced minimally invasive and ablative techniques that may benefit appropriately selected patients with head and neck cancers.

Evaluation

An online course evaluation tool will provide participants with the opportunity to comment on the value of the program content to their practice decisions, performance improvement activities, or possible impact on patient health status. Participants will also have the opportunity to comment on any perceived commercial bias in the presentations as well as to identify future educational topics.

Accreditation

In support of improving patient care, UT MD Anderson is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™
WITH COMMENDATION
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

Credit Designation:

UT MD Anderson designates this live activity for a maximum of 12.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery's MOC Credit:

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn their required annual part II self-assessment credit in the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery's Continuing Certification program (formerly known as MOC). It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of recognizing participation.

Course Directors

Victoria E. Banuchi, M.D., MPH
Associate Professor, Department of
Head and Neck Surgery
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

John R. de Almeida, M.D.
Professor, University of Toronto
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Kate Hutchenson, PhD
Professor, Head and Neck Surgery
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Kristen Pytynia, M.D.
Professor, Head and Neck Surgery
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Ashok R. Shaha, M.D.
Allan H. Selig Chair, Department of Surgery
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Mark E. Zafereo, M.D.
Professor, Head and Neck Surgery
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

UT MD Anderson Cancer Center Faculty

Jennifer Anderson, M.D.
Moran Amit, M.D.
Carly Barbon, Ph.D
Victoria Banuchi, M.D., MPH
Mark Chambers, M.D. Karen
Choi, M.D.
Barbara Ebersole, M.A.
Jack Fu, M.D.
David Fuller, M.D., Ph.D.
Ryan Goepfert, M.D.
Neil Gross, M.D.
Ehab Hanna, M.D.
Amy Hessel, M.D.
Kate Hutcheson, Ph.D.
Gregory Jones, M.D.
Efstratos Koutrampakis, M.D.
Stephen Lai, M.D., Ph.D.
Anastasios Maniakas, M.D.
Michael Migden, M.D.
Amy Moreno, M.D.
Jeffrey Myers, M.D., Ph.D.
Shorook Naara, M.D., Ph.D.
Christine Porsche, M.S.
Kristen Pytynia, M.D.
David Richards, M.D.
Brad Smith, M.A.
Jennifer Wang, M.D.
Randy Weber, M.D.
Michael Wotman, M.D.
Mark Zafereo, M.D.
Xiao Zhao, M.D.

Moderators

Faisal Ahmad, M.D.
Karen Choi, M.D.
Neil Gross, M.D.
Rebecca Gao, M.D.
Thomas Ow, M.D.
Carol Lewis, M.D.
Jennifer Wang, M.D.
Shorook Naara, M.D.
Kenric Tam, M.D.
Mark Chambers, M.D.

Invited Speakers

John de Almeida, M.D.
University of Toronto

Jennifer Cracchiolo, M.D.
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Rebecca Gao, M.D.
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Jonathan Irish, M.D.
University of Toronto

Rosemary Martino, Ph.D.
University of Toronto

Eric Monteiro, M.D.
University of Toronto

Thomas Ow, M.D.
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Nadeem Riaz, M.D.
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Ashok Shaha, M.D.
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Kenrik Tam, M.D.
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Philip Wong, M.D.
University of Toronto

Day 1 : Friday, November 13

SLP pre-conference - SLP Pathways and Protocols (9:00 – 12:15 p.m.)

Time	Session and Presentation Title	Presenter/Speaker
9 a.m.	Care Pathways to Organize SLP Care in Oncology	Kate Hutcheson, Ph.D.
9:10 a.m.	Radiation Swallow Pathways "RAD Path": From the Beginning	Kate Hutcheson, Ph.D.
9:30 a.m.	RADPath Extenders: RAD Voice	Barbara Ebersole, M.A.
9:50 a.m.	RADPath Extenders: Mind the Gap for Surgical Patients	Carly Barbon, Ph.D.
10:10 a.m.	Q&A	
10:30 a.m.	Break and Exhibits	
11 a.m.	A Decade of MDA Boot Camp: Pearls and Pitfalls	Kate Hutcheson, Ph.D.
11:20 a.m.	RADPath/Boot Camp Extenders: Lymphedema Lite and Manual Therapy	Christine Porsche, M.S.
11:40 a.m.	How does it fit in? Integrating HNL into SLP Pathways and Protocols	Brad Smith, M.A.
Noon	Q&A	
Noon	Registration & Check-In	
1 p.m.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Victoria Banuchi, M.D., M.P.H Mark Zafereo, M.D.
1:05 p.m.	MD Anderson Cancer Center Head & Neck Surgery: Past, Present, and Future	Jeffrey Myers, M.D., Ph.D.
Session I: Oral Cavity Moderator: Karen Choi, M.D.		
1:20 p.m.	Oral Premalignancy: Risk Stratification, Molecular Markers, and Management	Xiao Zhao, M.D.
1:35 p.m.	Early-Onset Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma — Epidemiology, Outcomes, and Controversies	Karen Choi, M.D.
1:50 p.m.	Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy vs Elective Neck Dissection in Early-Stage cN0 Disease	Stephen Lai, M.D., Ph.D.
2:05 p.m.	Neoadjuvant Chemoimmunotherapy and Targeted Approaches for Locally Advanced Oral Cavity Cancer	Jennifer Cracchiolo, M.D.

Day 1 : Friday, November 13

Time	Session and Presentation Title	Presenter/Speaker
	Session II: Oropharynx Moderator: Neil Gross, M.D.	
2:20 p.m.	Patient Selection in HPV+ OPC: ctHPV-DNA, Imaging, and Biomarkers for Risk-Adapted Treatment	John de Almeida, M.D.
2:35 p.m.	Debate: Surgery vs Radiation as the Foundation of HPV+ Oropharynx De-Intensification Pro Radiation: Adaptive Radiotherapy and Toxicity Reduction Pro Surgery: Trans-Oral Robotic Surgery (TORS vs RT)	Clifton David Fuller, M.D., Ph.D. and Neil Gross, M.D.
3:05 p.m.	Break and Exhibits	
	Session III: Larynx and Hypopharynx Moderator: Rebecca Gao, M.D.	
3:15 p.m.	Organ Preservation, Primary Surgery, and Salvage Laryngectomy in 2026	Rebecca Gao, M.D.
3:30 p.m.	Perioperative and Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy in Head and Neck SCC: KEYNOTE-689 and beyond	Jennifer Anderson, M.D.
3:45 p.m.	Tracheoesophageal Puncture After Laryngectomy: Contemporary Techniques, Outcomes, and Rehabilitation	Amy Hessel, M.D.
	Session IV: Cutaneous Malignancies Moderator: Thomas Ow, M.D.	
4 p.m.	Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy for Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer: Practice-Changing Data and Response-Adapted Surgery	Thomas Ow, M.D.
4:15 p.m.	Adjuvant Immunotherapy for High-Risk Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer	Michael Migden, M.D
4:30 p.m.	Cutaneous Melanoma of the Head and Neck: Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy, Nodal Management, Reconstruction	Ryan Goepfert, M.D.
4:45 p.m.	Multidisciplinary Case Discussion - Stump the Faculty **Panelists:** • John de Almeida, M.D. (Toronto) • Jennifer Cracchiolo, M.D. (MSK) • Clifton David Fuller, M.D., Ph.D. (MDA) • Rebecca Gao, M.D. (MSK) • Kevin Higgins, M.D., MSc (Toronto) • Michael Wotman, MD (MDA)	Moderator: Carol Lewis, M.D. M.P.H.
5:15 p.m.	Adjourn	

Day 2 : Saturday, November 14

Time	Session and Presentation Title	Presenter/Speaker
8 a.m.	Breakfast & Registration	
8:30 a.m.	Introduction and Overview of Day 2 Themes and Structure	Victoria Banuchi, M.D., MPH Mark Zafereo, M.D.
Tri-Institutional Trial Updates Moderator: Mark Chambers, D.M.D., M.S..		
Time	**Session and Presentation Title**	**Presenter/Speaker**
8:35 a.m.	Clinical Trial Update — University of Toronto	John de Almeida, M.D.
8:50 a.m.	Advancing Head and Neck Cancer Care Through Clinical Trials: Where Are We Going?	Mark Chambers, D.M.D., M.S.
9:05 a.m.	Clinical Trial Update — MD Anderson	Mark Zafereo, M.D. Neil Gross, M.D. Anastasios Maniakas, M.D.
9:35 a.m.	Clinical Trial Update — MSKCC	Jennifer Cracchiolo, M.D. Thomas Ow, M.D.
Session V: Thyroid and Parathyroid Moderator: Ashok Shaha, M.D.		
9:50 a.m.	Contemporary Surgical Management of Parathyroid Disease	Jason Liu, M.D., M.S.
10:05 a.m.	The New Era of Thyroid Ablation: 2025 ATA Endorsement, Expanding Indications, Non-Thermal Technologies	Victoria Banuchi, M.D., M.P.H.
10:20 a.m.	2025 ATA Guideline Updates: Active Surveillance, Lobectomy Expansion, Molecular Testing	Anastasios Maniakas, M.D.
10:35 a.m.	Advanced Thyroid Cancer: Molecular Testing, Neoadjuvant Therapy, and Beyond	Jennifer Wang, M.D.
10:50 a.m.	Break and Exhibits	
Session VI: Skull Base and Sinonasal Moderator: Kenric Tam, M.D.		
11 a.m.	HPV-associated Sinonasal Maligancies	Kenric Tam, M.D.
11:15 a.m.	Sinonasal Cancers in 2026: Induction Chemo, Targeted Therapy, and Immunotherapy	Ehab Hanna, M.D.
11:30 a.m.	Orbital Preservation with Systemic Therapy and Surgery in Sinonasal Cancer	Eric Monteiro, M.D.
11:45 a.m.	Lunch and Exhibits	

Day 2 : Saturday, November 14

Session VII: Surveillance and Survivorship

Moderator: Shorook Naara, M.D., Ph.D.

Time	Session and Presentation Title	Presenter/Speaker
12:30 p.m.	ctDNA in Head and Neck Cancer: Should it Guide Treatment Decisions — Are We There Yet?	Shorook Naara, M.D., Ph.D.
12:45 p.m.	Mental Health and Survivorship in Head and Neck Cancer	Gregory Jones, M.D..
1 p.m.	Speech, Swallowing, and Functional Rehabilitation in Head and Neck Cancer Survivorship	Carly Barbon, Ph.D..
1:15 p.m.	Using Clinical Data and AI in the Surveillance of Surgical Outcomes	Miriam Lango, M.D.

Session VIII: Expert Panel with Case Presentations

Moderator: Faisal Ahmad, M.D.

1:20 p.m.	Expert Panel with Case Presentations **Panelists:** Clifton David Fuller, M.D., Ph.D. (MDA) Ehab Hanna, M.D. (MDA) Eric Monteiro, M.D. (Toronto) Thomas Ow, M.D. (MSK) Ashok Shaha, M.D. (MSK) Kenric Tam, M.D. (MSK) Randy Weber, M.D. (MDA))	
2:20 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Mark Zafereo, M.D.

Day 2 : Saturday, November 14

Time	Session and Presentation Title	Presenter/Speaker
Concurrent Session: Late Effects (held at Hickey Auditorium, 8:00 – 11:55 a.m.)		
8 a.m.	Introduction	Kate Hutcheson, Ph.D.
8:10 a.m.	From Biomarkers to Better Outcomes: Personalizing ORN Care	Stephen Lai, M.D. Ph.D.
8:25 a.m.	Integrating Oncology and Dental Care Algorithms: A Multidisciplinary Approach towards Mitigating Treatment-Related Orodental Morbidities	Amy Moreno, M.D.
8:40 a.m.	Physiatry for Late Effects: More Than Botox	Jack Fu, M.D.
8:55 a.m.	Developing HNC Laryngology Practice: The MSK Experience	Valeria Silva Merea, M.D.
9:10 a.m.	More Than Dysphagia: Bulbar Dysfunction in the 2nd Decade	Kate Hutcheson, Ph.D.
9:25 a.m.	Panel Q&A	Moderator: Stephen Lai, M.D., Ph.D.
9:45 a.m.	Break	
10:05 a.m.	Radiation Fibrosis Underneath it all: Imaging and Trials	Clifton David Fuller, M.D.
10:20 a.m.	Developing a HN Cardiotoxicity Service: The MDA Experience	Efstratos Koutrampakis, M.D.
10:35 a.m.	More than PEGs	David Richards, M.D.
10:50 a.m.	Practical Application of a Late Effect Clinic: The PMH Experience	Philip Wong, M.D.
11:05 a.m.	Developing a Dedicated Radiation HN Survivorship Program: The MDA Experience	Anna Lee, M.D.
11:20 a.m.	Don't Forget the Caregiver	Rosemary Martino, Ph.D.
11:35 a.m.	The Great Debate - Late Effects of Protons v Photons	Anna Lee, M.D. Nadeem Riaz, M.D. Moderator: Clifton David Fuller, MD

Registration Information

Current Concepts in Head & Neck Surgery will be held November 13–14, 2026, at Onstead Auditorium, MD Anderson Cancer Center, located in the Mitchell Building (BSRB), Floor 3, 6767 Bertner Avenue, Houston, Texas. The conference will begin on Friday, November 13, 2026, and conclude on Saturday, November 14, 2026. The deadline for advanced registration is October 16, 2026.

Location:

Onstead Auditorium, MD Anderson Cancer Center, located in the Mitchell Building (BSRB), Floor 3, 6767 Bertner Avenue, Houston, Texas.

Registration Category Fees Early registration rates apply through October 16, 2026. Regular registration rates apply beginning October 16, 2026, 12:00 AM (CST).

Payment Information:

Telephone registrations are not accepted.

We accept the following forms of payment:

Credit Cards (MasterCard, VISA, and American Express)
Check (Payable to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; through U.S. banks only)

Mail checks to:

Continuing Professional Education – Unit 1781
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
P.O. Box 301407
Houston, Texas 77230-1407

When registering online a receipt (confirmation letter) will be automatically emailed to the e-mail address you list on the registration form.

Refund/Cancellation Policy

The registration fee, minus a $50 administration-handling fee, is refundable if a written request is received on or before October 16, 2026, for both activities. No refunds will be granted after these dates. The request for a registration refund must include the tax identification number of the company or institution if registration was paid by a company or institution check.

The Department of Continuing Professional Education (CPE), reserves the right to cancel activities prior to the scheduled date, if low enrollment or other circumstances make it necessary. Each registrant will be notified by mail, e-mail, or at the phone or fax numbers given on the registration form. In case of activity cancellation, the liability of the CPE is limited to the registration fee. CPE will refund the full registration fee.

CPE reserves the right to limit the number of participants in an activity and is not responsible
for any expenses incurred by an individual whose registration is not confirmed and for whom space is not available.

For additional information, contact CPE at 713-792-2223 or toll free at 866-849-5866
or via e-mail: MDAnderson-CPE@MDAnderson.org

Special Assistance

Contact Continuing Professional Education / Activity Management at 713-792-2223 or
866-849-5866. You may also email CPE at MDAnderson-CPE@MDAnderson.org

Ground Transportation

Houston is served by two airports, George Bush Intercontinental (IAH) and William P. Hobby (HOU). The following ground transportations are available to and from the airports to the Medical Center.

- Uber and Lyft
- Taxicabs: Yellow Cab 713-236-1111;
  Fiesta Cab 713-225-2666
- Super Shuttle: For more information, call toll free at 800-258-3826, or on-line at: SuperShuttle.com.