

Identifying Onboarding Gaps of Advanced Practice Providers in Surgical Oncology

(Presenting author): Connie To is an Advanced Practice Provider currently working within the Surgical Oncology department and primarily works with pancreas and gastric patients. She has been with MD Anderson since 2012 working as a research assistant, professional student nurse extern, registered nurse, and now advanced practice registered nurse

Heather Griffith APRN, has been an MD Anderson employee for over 9 years. She has spent the last three years working as an Advanced Practice Provider in the Surgical Oncology department. Adapting quickly to the specialized field Heather has helped train in coming APPs. Her passion for education and drive to discover ways to improve education led to her current project of Identifying Education Gaps in Onboarding and Training in Advanced Practice Providers in Surgical Oncology.

Steven Wei is a graduate of the Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) Physician Assistant program in 1999 and received his Master in Public Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health. He recently completed his doctorate in education (EdD) in professional leadership with an emphasis in health science education from the University of Houston. For over 22 years, Steve has worked in the Hepatico-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) surgery clinic at MD Anderson Cancer Center and has served as an Advanced Practice Provider Supervisor in the department of surgical oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center for over 12 years. He is also an adjunct clinical instructor for the BCM Physician Assistant (PA) program and recipient of the BCM Distinguished Young Alumnus Award. In 2018, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) recognized him as a Distinguished Fellow.

He is a past president of the Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology (APAO), and the founder and co-chair of the Surgical Oncology Advanced Practitioner (SOAP) Conference. Steve currently serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Advanced Practitioners in Oncology (JADPRO). He has a clinical interest in HPB surgery and has co-authored over 40 peer-reviewed publications and abstracts. Steve also has a passion for education and APP leadership development, and he is a frequent speaker at national and international meetings on the unique role of APPs in oncology and HPB surgery, as well as APP wellness and professional development.

Rae Brana Reynolds is an APRN and APP Manager with the Department of Surgical Oncology.

Rae completed her PhD, MS, Bachelor's degree at the University of Texas – Houston. Her clinical practice is primarily with patients with pancreas and endocrine malignancies. In addition to her clinical and administrative work, Rae also works Patient Experience to enhance clinician communication and develops as well as implements programs for APP development.