



# Gynecologic Oncology and Surgery Practice

[www.ucsfhealth.org/gynonc](http://www.ucsfhealth.org/gynonc)



## Information for Referring Physicians

### ► NOW LOCATED AT UCSF MEDICAL CENTER AT MISSION BAY

**Address:** UCSF Bakar Precision Cancer Medicine Building, 1825 4th St., 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94158

**Phone:** (415) 353-9600 / **Fax:** (415) 353-7657

**Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Maps and directions:** [www.ucsfhealth.org/pathway](http://www.ucsfhealth.org/pathway)

### Overview

Our unique multidisciplinary team includes surgeons, radiation and medical oncologists, nurses and other health care professionals who have specialized training in caring for patients with gynecologic cancers, including cancers of the uterus, cervix, ovaries and vagina.

Our patients have access to many of the country's leading gynecologic cancer specialists and a full range of diagnostic capabilities and treatment options. Using a team approach, we are able to advise women and their families of the latest treatment options and to offer timely, innovative and compassionate care in a personal and supportive environment.

### Conditions treated

- Cervical cancer
- Consultation for advanced metastatic cancer to/from the gynecologic tract
- Endometrial or uterine cancer
- Family history of breast and/or gynecological cancer
- Gestational trophoblastic disease
- Ovarian cancer
- Peritoneal cancer
- Undiagnosed pelvic mass
- Vaginal cancer
- Vulvar cancer

### Highlights

- Member of NRG Oncology, a national cooperative group for clinical trials funded by the National Cancer Institute
- Board-certified physicians in obstetrics and gynecology and subspecialty-trained gynecologic oncologists
- Physicians are members of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology
- Part of the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health
- Pre-eminent surgical program with expertise in open, laparoscopic and robotic surgery
- Treatment options include conventional and targeted anti-neoplastic therapy including intraperitoneal/chemotherapy

### UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center Highlights

- The only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in the Bay Area
- Member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, an alliance of 25 of the world's leading cancer centers
- Each year, more than 6,000 patients are newly diagnosed with cancer at UCSF, and an additional 2,000 patients are referred here, making UCSF one of the highest volume cancer centers in the country
- More than 100 highly specialized providers at the forefront of their fields care for patients, conduct clinical research and teach the next generation of clinicians.
- Regularly scheduled tumor boards bring together each specialty's surgeons and oncologists with experts in pathology, radiology and radiation therapy to discuss customized treatment for patients
- Services available onsite:
  - Infusion center staffed by specially trained nurses who provide treatments such as chemotherapy
  - Radiation therapy department staffed by board-certified physicians, physicists, dosimetrists and radiation therapists
  - Cancer risk screening and genetic counseling for families with a history of cancer
  - Symptom management services to help improve patients' quality of life
  - Psychology, psychiatry and social work services to address the emotional and supportive needs of our patients and their family and friends
  - Registered dietitian who provides individualized nutritional consultations
  - Support groups, a cancer resource center and a nationally recognized expressive arts program
  - Integrative medicine services led by oncology experts

### Program components

**Radiation Oncology** at UCSF Medical Center is world renowned for offering the highest level of treatment planning and care to patients, while seeking treatment advancements for future patients. Our radiation oncology specialists are committed to the practice of evidence-based medicine, and continuously find new and better treatment options that improve patient outcomes in the treatment of cancer. I-Chow (Joe) Hsu, MD, and Rajni Sethi, MD, both specialize in radiation treatment for patients with gynecological cancers.

The **Cancer Risk Program** is a comprehensive genetic counseling service for families with a history of cancer. It is the largest, most comprehensive genetic testing center for cancer in Northern California.

Genetic counselors assess personal and family history, provide education and counseling and, when appropriate, offer genetic testing for cancer predisposition genes. Based on family history, other cancer risk factors and genetic testing results, counselors and doctors provide an individualized risk management program for each patient, which includes recommendations for cancer screening and options for preventive measures. Genetic counselors Director Beth Crawford, MS, Julie Mak, MS, and Amie Blanco, MS, all specialize in genetic counseling for patients and families with gynecological cancers. To refer a patient to the Cancer Risk Program call **(415) 885-7779**.

The **Symptom Management Service (SMS)** provides treatment and counseling to improve the quality of life and care of patients at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Services for physical and emotional symptoms of cancer include treatments for pain, fatigue, depression, anxiety and spiritual distress as well as advanced care planning. Integrated medical, psychological, social work and spiritual approaches are offered along with regular cancer care. All care is coordinated with the patient's cancer treatments and with the support of his or her oncologist.

Our team includes doctors, nurses, dietitians, social workers and a service coordinator. Some members of the team include: Director Michael Rabow, MD, BJ Miller, MD, Thomas Reid, MD, Brook Calton, MD, MHS, and Nancy Shepard Lopez, NP.

**Diagnostic Pathology and Cytopathology** at UCSF Medical Center offers specialized evaluation of gynecologic specimens (biopsies, tumor resections, fluid samples and Pap tests) by a team of pathologists recognized internationally for their expertise in the diagnosis of gynecologic diseases. The program's mission is to provide pathologic evaluations that enable personally tailored management plans for each patient. Our pathologists are an integral component of the multidisciplinary evaluation and management of patients presented at our Gynecologic Oncology Tumor Board. Diagnostic pathology services are also available as secondary consultation for patients with pathology material from other institutions.

Our gynecologic surgical pathologists are Charles Zaloudek, MD, Joseph Rabban, MD, MPH, and Karuna Garg, MD. Our gynecologic cytopathologists are Theodore Miller, MD, and Tere Darragh MD.

The **Fertility Preservation Center** is focused on quickly providing patients with the information needed to make active, informed decisions about their fertility preservation options prior to cancer treatment. With a dedicated medical team that is at the forefront in fertility preservation, and one of the most highly respected certified embryology laboratories in the nation, we are uniquely qualified to offer the latest treatments in fertility preservation. Time is often critical when making decisions about fertility preservation options, and we understand that patients often have a very limited time between the diagnosis and the beginning of cancer treatment. If your patient has received a recent cancer diagnosis, we will see him or her within 24 to 48 hours of that diagnosis. Please call the Fertility Preservation Program directly at **(415) 353-9115** to refer a patient.

### Clinical trials

- Each year, more than 900 cancer patients choose to participate in our clinical trials
- Clinical trial types include prevention, screening, treatment, Phase I, and quality of life
- For a complete list of trials, please visit [www.cancer.ucsf.edu/trials](http://www.cancer.ucsf.edu/trials)

### Faculty

#### Rebecca Brooks, MD

Dr. Rebecca Brooks specializes in the surgical and medical management of gynecologic cancer, including ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, cervical cancer, vulvar cancer and other complex benign and malignant conditions of the female reproductive tract. She has a special interest in complex open surgery and minimally invasive surgery including laparoscopy and robotics.

Her research interests include genetic mechanisms underlying metastatic disease and the differences between patients and cancers that make the spread of cancer more likely, and the interaction of diseases or conditions that co-exist with cancer. She enjoys caring for patients with gynecologic malignancies and is also actively engaged in education and training of medical students, residents and fellows.

Brooks earned a medical degree at Rush Medical College in Chicago. She completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology, followed by a fellowship in gynecologic oncology, at Washington University School of Medicine/Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. Brooks is a member of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology and is board certified.

#### Lee-may Chen, MD

Dr. Lee-may Chen specializes in gynecologic malignancies. She has a particular interest in surgical and medical management of ovarian cancer. Her research focuses on early detection in women who are at high risk of developing gynecological cancer, symptom management and decision-making in the treatment of gynecologic cancers.

Chen earned a medical degree and completed an obstetrical and gynecological residency at the University of Michigan. She completed a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at UCLA Medical Center before joining UCSF Medical Center in 1999. She is board certified in gynecologic oncology as well as hospice and palliative medicine. She is a recognized educator and a clinical professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at UCSF. Since 2010, she holds the Edward C. Hill, MD endowed chair in gynecologic oncology. She is also a member of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology.

#### Stefanie Ueda, MD

Dr. Stefanie Ueda specializes in gynecologic cancers, with particular interests in ovarian cancer and robotic surgery. Her research has addressed conditions and treatments including low-grade serous ovarian cancer, biologically targeted therapies and clinical treatment outcomes. She is particularly interested in international health, collaborating and providing training at Mulago Hospital in Uganda.

Ueda earned a medical degree with honors from New York University School of Medicine. She completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Hawaii and a fellowship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She has received awards for cancer research from the Hera Women's Cancer Foundation and Entertainment Industry Foundation. Ueda is a member of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists and is board certified.

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## Clinical team

### **Pauline Beggs, RN**

Pauline Beggs is a registered nurse in gynecologic oncology at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, where her patients have valued her clinical expertise and warm demeanor for more than 10 years.

Additionally, she is highly regarded for the calm, confident way she works with her newly diagnosed patients and their families. Pauline also skillfully cares for her patients as they progress through treatment and she works with them to mitigate side effects. These skills and her 30 years of nursing experience have helped make her an integral member of the UCSF gynecologic oncology practice.

Pauline received her nursing education in the United Kingdom and went on to complete postgraduate training in stress management. She is the recipient of the prestigious 2011 Ernest H. Rosenbaum, MD Symptom Management Service Commitment to Patient Care Award for her passionate devotion to providing exceptionally high-quality patient care. Additionally, she is a member of the American Holistic Nurses Association, which emphasizes treating the whole person and viewing healing as a partnership between a patient and their practitioner. She is also active in Imagery International and she has lectured around the country on the health and wellness benefits of guided imagery and stress management.

Another one of Pauline's interests is patient education. Each year, she organizes and moderates the "Living with Gynecologic Cancer" events at UCSF. These popular programs raise awareness and bring support to her patients and the community.

### **Maureen Boberg, RN**

Maureen is a registered nurse in gynecologic surgical oncology. With more than 10 years of nursing experience, she brings a wealth of knowledge to her patients and practice. Additionally, Boberg has a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and is a certified oncology nurse. She provides compassion and support to her patients through postoperative symptom management, triage and chemotherapy education.

### **Kathleen Cavanaugh, NP**

Kathleen is a nurse practitioner in gynecologic oncology. She has a bachelors degree in nursing and received her masters degree in nursing science at UCSF School of Nursing. She has interest and additional training in integrative medicine and takes a holistic approach to patient care. She has experience in the care of oncology patients and for 15 years she has managed patients undergoing chemotherapy. She is the recipient of numerous academic, research and patient care awards including the prestigious Ernest H. Rosenbaum, MD Symptom Management Service Commitment to Patient Care Award for her devotion to providing high-quality patient care. She follows patients during surgery, through treatment and into survivorship. She co-leads several national clinic trials that investigate novel treatments for women with gynecologic malignancies.

### **Melissa Valdellon, NP**

Melissa is a certified acute care nurse practitioner who holds certification in medical-surgical nursing and critical care nursing. She provides comprehensive care to women with gynecologic malignancies primarily in the inpatient setting. Her focus includes post-operative management, chemotherapy and symptom management. Melissa educates OB/GYN residents on providing direct patient care and was presented with the "Most Outstanding OB/GYN Staff" award in 2013. She is also a recipient of the 2014 UCSF Mount Zion Symptom Management and Palliative Care Service Award.

Melissa graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. and earned her Master of Science degree in nursing from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.