



Division Director, Solid Tumor Oncology & Nancy Johnston Records Chair of Oncology
Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma Health Campus
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

THE SEARCH

The University of Oklahoma National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC), in conjunction with OU Health and the OU Department of Internal Medicine, seeks a nationally recognized clinician-scientist to provide strategic leadership for the Division of Solid Tumor Oncology. The incoming Director will join during a time of rapid growth and will have a unique opportunity to guide the program through a major statewide expansion. The Director will oversee a team of medical oncologists and researchers with an immediate opportunity to recruit additional faculty to the growing program. This key position is supported by an endowed chair and additional resources to effectively recruit and further build innovative programs. Additional leadership opportunities within SCC exist for qualified candidates.

The Division of Solid Tumor Oncology has the foundation to significantly scale its impact across all mission areas. The Division is academically based in the Department of Internal Medicine, and the Division Director plays an active role in the Department of Internal Medicine. The clinical work of the Division, as well as clinical trials and clinical research grants, is housed within the SCC. The relationship between the Department of Internal Medicine and the SCC is a major strength for the Division of Solid Tumor Oncology and underscores the inherent value of OU Health's matrixed system. In FY25, the Division received \$31.4M in grants and contracts, including LAPS and Experimental Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN) funding, and had an operating budget of \$3M. The division includes 36 medical oncology faculty across multiple sites whose specialties span all major disease programs. Members of the division provided care for over 1,600 new patients and conducted 34,000 patient visits in FY25.

This is a unique Division Director opportunity at a pivotal moment of expansion and transformation at OU. The next leader will guide the Division's strategy as SCC pursues NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center designation while scaling care delivery across Oklahoma. Key opportunities include advancing basic research and clinical trial innovation, expanding disease-specific programs, recruiting and mentoring a growing faculty, and strengthening statewide access. At the same time, the role requires navigating the complexities of a matrixed, multi-site organization, balancing clinical growth with research excellence, and aligning diverse stakeholders across SCC, the Department of Internal Medicine, and OU Health. Success will depend on a leader who can articulate a bold vision, foster collaboration, and drive performance across clinical, academic, and operational dimensions in an evolving oncology landscape.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH CAMPUS

The University of Oklahoma Health Campus (OUHC) is one of a small number of comprehensive academic health campuses in the United States, bringing together the Colleges of [Medicine](#), [Allied Health](#), [Dentistry](#), [Nursing](#), [Pharmacy](#), [Public Health](#), and the Graduate College, along with major research and clinical centers such as the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center and the [Stephenson Cancer Center](#) (SCC). The OUHC operates with an annual budget of approximately \$900 million and employs more than 800 full-time faculty and 4,000 staff, supporting a broad academic, research, and clinical enterprise. Across more than 70 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, the campus educates and trains nearly 4,000 students and approximately 1,000 residents, fellows, and postdoctoral trainees.

The Health Campus is led by [Gary E. Raskob](#), PhD, Senior Vice President and Provost, who oversees academic and research programs across the seven colleges and provides strategic leadership for campus-wide research initiatives. Dr. Raskob is a Regents Professor of Medicine and Public Health, an internationally recognized epidemiologist, and the author of more than 200 peer-reviewed publications. He also serves on the boards of the OU Health System and the University Hospitals Authority and Trust.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The [University of Oklahoma College of Medicine](#) (OUCOM) is the largest entity within OUHC and forms the cornerstone of OU Health. OUCOM boasts a distinguished faculty of nearly 1,350 members, including almost 1,000 full-time faculty and 218 endowed chairs and professorships. It comprises 21 academic departments, including 17 clinical departments, four basic science departments, and numerous centers and institutes dedicated to advancing research and clinical initiatives across diverse medical fields.

In addition to its main campus in Oklahoma City, the College operates a branch campus in Tulsa, which hosts eight clinical departments and the unique [School of Community Medicine](#) track. Together, these campuses offer Oklahoma's Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree program, a highly competitive Physician Assistant (PA) program, an innovative MD/PhD dual-degree option, opportunities for MPH coursework, and a comprehensive array of graduate medical education (GME) residency and fellowship programs, including a Hematology/Oncology fellowship.

Furthermore, OUCOM plays a vital role in training healthcare professionals through 83 specialty and subspecialty programs, accommodating 766 residents and fellows. Notably, Oklahoma retains 51.4% of physicians who complete their residencies within the state, demonstrating OUCOM's exceptional contribution to bolstering the local healthcare workforce, which exceeds the national average retention rate of 47.6%. Over 80% of Oklahoma's healthcare professionals are OU grads.

OUCOM is led by [Ian F. Dunn](#), MD, FACS, FAANS, who was appointed Executive Dean in January 2024. Dr. Dunn also serves as Chief Academic Officer and Chief Physician Executive of OU Health, with responsibility for academic strategy, clinical integration, and faculty leadership across the health system. He joined the

University of Oklahoma from Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he held senior academic and clinical leadership roles in neurosurgery. Dr. Dunn is nationally recognized for his contributions to neurosurgical oncology and brings a strong record of leadership across academic medicine, research, and clinical care.

Under Dr. Dunn's leadership, the College of Medicine anchors the research enterprise of the Health Campus and holds the largest National Institutes of Health funding portfolio in the state. In the most recent year, the College increased its NIH funding by more than \$4 million, reaching \$64.4 million in total annual support. Institutional investment has supported growth in research programs across areas that include diabetes and metabolic disease, cancer, neuroscience, and population health.

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

[The Department of Internal Medicine](#), led by [Isabella Grumbach](#) MD, PhD, a cardiologist and physician-scientist, who joined OU in 2025 after serving as Vice Chair for Research and Interim Chair at the University of Iowa and completing training in Germany, Chicago, and at Emory University, comprises of approximately 230 faculty, including 20 PhD faculty, and over 137 staff and research scientists distributed across 12 divisions: Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism; Cardiovascular Diseases; Digestive Diseases and Nutrition; General Internal Medicine; Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine; Solid Tumor Oncology; Hematologic Malignancies, Transplant and Cellular Therapeutics; Hospital Medicine; Infectious Disease; Nephrology; Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine; and Rheumatology, Immunology, and Allergy. In addition to these roles, the Division Directors, the Director for Patient Safety and Quality, the Vice Chairs for Education, Research, Faculty Development, Faculty Affairs, and Community and Alumni Engagement, and the research and business administrators all report directly to the Chair. Over the past five years, 115 new faculty members have been hired. The new department chair is committed to growing the number of faculty to meet the demands of the rapidly expanding healthcare center and an ambitious vision for scholarly activities. As Chair, she brings distinguished expertise in cardio-oncology and a commitment to partnering with the SCC Director, recognizing that cancer care spans all areas of internal medicine.

The Internal Medicine [Residency Program](#) has 78 residents and is complemented by the distinctive [Global Health and Social Justice Program](#) and boasts energetic and highly dedicated young leadership. The Internal Medicine-Pediatrics (Med/Peds) Residency has 12 residents, and the Ophthalmology, Neurology, and Radiology residents rotate on the Department services throughout the academic year. The residency has flourished and matched an excellent slate of interns from our medical school and beyond. There are also 13 fellowships in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism; Cardiology; Interventional Cardiology; Electrophysiology; Infectious Diseases; Gastroenterology; Hematology/Oncology; Nephrology; Pulmonary and Critical Care; Sleep Medicine; Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergy; Hospice and Palliative Medicine; and Geriatric Medicine.

STEPHENSON CANCER CENTER

The Stephenson Cancer Center is one of 72 NCI-designated cancer centers in the United States. It serves as the state's leading institution for cancer care and research, integrating clinical services, academic programs, and translational science. Oklahoma has a higher than national average incidence for lung and bronchus, colorectal, cervix, kidney and renal pelvis, and oral cavity and pharynx cancers. For the most recent information on Cancer Data in Oklahoma, please review the [Cancer in Oklahoma Annual Report 2025](#) and the [Community Outreach and Engagement Core](#).

The center maintains over 300 active clinical trials (nearly 20% of patients at Stephenson participate in clinical trials), including the top ten nationally ranked [Oklahoma TSET Phase I Program](#). It also holds Lead Academic Participating Site (LAPS) status within the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN)—a designation awarded to only 32 centers nationwide, and SCC consistently ranks among the highest-enrolling sites in the network.

Stephenson supports more than 160 investigators working on over 400 active research projects, with \$65 million in annual funding. Over the past five years, the center has published more than 1,450 peer-reviewed articles and provided care to over 16,500 patients. Research programs span [Cancer Biology](#), [Cancer Therapeutics](#), and [Cancer Prevention & Control](#), supported by centers such as the [TSET Health Promotion Research Center](#), the [Center for Cancer Prevention & Drug Development](#), and a [Specialized Program of Research Excellence \(SPORE\)](#) in endometrial cancer. For more information on Stephenson's research programs, centers, SPORE, and support services, please visit this [link](#).

Gynecologic oncologist [Robert Mannel](#), MD, is the director of OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus. Additionally, he serves as Associate Vice Provost for Cancer Programs at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus and is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the OU College of Medicine. Dr. Mannel is a leader in the National Clinical Trials Network of the National Cancer Institute serving as co-chair of NRG Oncology, and his clinical and research interests include laparoscopy for gynecologic malignancies, gynecologic oncology, and drug development for ovarian, endometrial, and cervical cancers. He has published more than 200 scientific articles dealing with the management of gynecologic malignancies. He completed medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, his residency at Scott & White Medical Center, and a fellowship at the University of California, Irvine.

DIVISION OF SOLID TUMOR ONCOLOGY

The Division of Solid Tumor Oncology is currently comprised of 36 medical oncology faculty members at multiple OU locations in Oklahoma City, Norman, and Tulsa. The Division is academically based in the Department of Internal Medicine, and the Division Director plays an active role in the Department of Internal Medicine. The clinical work of the Division, as well as clinical trials and clinical research grants, is housed within the SCC. Faculty specialize within multidisciplinary, disease-specific programs with

specialized tumor boards, clinics, supportive care teams, and research teams. In FY 2025, the division of Solid Tumor Oncology had 34,000 patient visits and over 1,600 new patients within the breast, neuro, head and neck, urologic, gastrointestinal/colorectal, lung, and orthopedic/sarcoma programs. The Division's strengths lie in clinical trials, laboratory-based chemoprevention programs, the translational pipeline from discovery to investigator-initiated trials, and work with underserved populations, especially Native Americans.

Approximately 25% of new patients seen in FY 2025 at SCC had cancers of the breast. The Breast Program at SCC is certified by the American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancers (NAPBC), the only program with this certification in the state. Screening mammograms are available across Oklahoma through the extensive OU Health Breast Health Network and the OU Health Mobile Mammography Program.

Additionally, almost 25% of new patients in FY 2025 had gastrointestinal, colon, or rectal cancers. SCC is accredited through the American College of Surgeons National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer and is the only program in the state with this designation.

Among other priority cancer types is lung cancer, which has both high incidence as well as high mortality rates in Oklahoma. In April 2023, SCC received over \$1.7 million from TSET to increase access to lung cancer screening in Oklahoma. The award enabled the SCC to develop the Oklahoma Mobile Lung Cancer Screening Action Network (Oklahoma LUNG SCAN) – a statewide program to provide Oklahoman's access to screening in their home communities – along with a lung screening bus that will travel to perform screenings across the state to patients in remote communities or who lack access to hospitals and screening services.

The [Hematology/Oncology Fellowship](#) program at OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center is a three-year training program with three fellows per year. Fellows benefit from more than 23 academic clinical faculty, as well as a rich translational environment that includes basic scientists in the Stephenson Cancer Center and a robust clinical trials program. The trials program is first in the nation in accruals to cooperative group oncology LAPS trials and in the top 10 in accruals to Phase 1 studies. Fellows can pursue a master's degree in clinical translational research as a part of the fellowship, providing additional exposure to statistics, epidemiology, and clinical trial design. Designated mentors and a research committee will assist fellows in developing a suitable research project(s) and will help the trainee focus on specific areas of clinical interest.

ROLE OF THE DIVISION DIRECTOR

Reporting to the Director of the Stephenson Cancer Center and the Chair of Internal Medicine, the Division Director for Solid Tumor Oncology guides the clinical, academic, and research mission of the faculty in the disease-specific solid tumor programs at the SCC and across the institution. The Hematology-Oncology fellowship program director works in concert with the Division Director for education mission oversight.

The role operates within a highly integrated and matrixed environment, requiring close collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Physician Executive of the SCC, administrative leaders for ambulatory and inpatient services, the Clinical Trials Office leadership and translational research program directors, and the Department of Internal Medicine leadership for academic governance and faculty affairs. The Director also acts as part of the Department's leadership and in close collaboration with the Division Director of Hematologic Malignancies, Transplant & Cellular Therapeutics in the oncology space.

All faculty within Solid Tumor Oncology ultimately report to the Division Director for academic matters, including promotion, mentorship, and alignment with institutional goals. The Division Director plays a critical role in fostering a collaborative culture that supports physician-scientists, educators, and clinicians across diverse career tracks.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Division Director will have strategic oversight of a mission-critical division of the institution at a time of change and evolution, both locally and nationally. The Director will be an adept manager and creative problem-solver who can inspire a large team through a period of clinical expansion while maintaining excellence in research and educational programs. Playing a vital role in coordinating cancer-related care at OU Health, the next Director will be an engaged partner to other cancer leaders and OUCOM leadership, balancing advocacy for the interests of the Division with the needs of OUCOM and OU Health overall, as the success of each relies on the success of both.

- Establish an ambitious and strategic vision for the next chapter of solid tumor oncology as the SCC pursues NCI Comprehensive Cancer designation and OU Health expands across the state of Oklahoma.
- Elevate and nurture the breadth and depth of fundamental, translational, and clinical research across every solid tumor disease program, with a specific focus on clinical trial development.
- Mentor and develop faculty of all career stages in the clinical, research, and education missions, with particular focus on providing sponsorship of early career faculty.
- Recruit, retain, and build disease-focused expertise as the division continues to grow to meet the cancer care needs of OU Health.
- Advocate for and represent the division and its members with the Department of Internal Medicine, the SCC, and OU Health.
- Champion and support interdisciplinary collaboration across the institution to promote a consistent quality of care across all sites.
- Commit as a partner to the SCC in its mission to bring world-class cancer care within reach of every Oklahoman, extending the Division's clinical, research, and educational impact into the rural and underserved communities that need it most.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

While no single candidate will embody every qualification listed below, the University of Oklahoma seeks candidates with many of the following attributes:

- An MD, MD/PhD, or equivalent medical degree from an approved medical school;
- Board certification in Medical Oncology;
- Unrestricted medical license, or ability to acquire licensure, and DEA in the State of Oklahoma;
- Academic credentials commensurate with the rank of Associate Professor or Professor;
- Ability to maintain an active clinical practice as a recognized expert in solid tumor oncology;
- Significant experience as a clinical leader at an academic medical center;
- An outstanding record of scholarly accomplishment and national recognition in solid tumor oncology;
- Demonstrated track record of extramurally funded research for clinical investigation, translational research, basic laboratory studies, and/or health services research;
- A strong commitment to education across a broad spectrum of learners;
- An ability to foster a highly collaborative academic environment and a track record of partnering with a broad set of stakeholders;
- Exhibit political savvy and work comfortably in an environment where interdisciplinary collaboration is a daily occurrence.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City is the capital and largest city in Oklahoma and a growing metropolitan area of more than 1.4 million residents. The region enjoys a generally mild climate, with roughly 230 sunny days per year, average winter highs in the low 50s, and long spring and fall seasons that support year-round outdoor activity. The city offers extensive green space and recreation, including more than 75,000 acres of parks and trails and the Oklahoma River corridor, which supports rowing, kayaking, cycling, and major national sporting events. The city is widely recognized for its livability and affordability, with a cost of living well below that of most major U.S. metros, attainable housing, short commutes, and a high quality of daily life that is increasingly difficult to find in larger coastal markets.

Over the past two decades, Oklahoma City has undergone a sustained civic and economic transformation driven by long-term public investment, downtown revitalization, and population growth. The city supports a robust and expanding arts and cultural scene, including nationally recognized museums, a strong performing arts community, and vibrant districts such as Midtown, Bricktown, Paseo, and the Plaza District. Oklahoma City is also home to the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder, whose presence has shaped downtown development and contributed to a strong civic identity. With a collaborative culture, growing research and innovation ecosystem, and continued investment in infrastructure and quality of life, Oklahoma City offers an appealing environment for

accomplished academic leaders seeking both professional opportunity and livability.

For more information on Oklahoma City please visit: <https://www.okcchamber.com/>

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-oklahoma-health-sciences-college-medicine/division-director-solid-tumor>

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Why You Belong at the University of Oklahoma:

The University of Oklahoma values our community's unique talents, perspectives, and experiences. At OU, we aspire to harness our innovation, creativity, and collaboration for the advancement of people everywhere. You Belong Here!

Mission of the University of Oklahoma:

The Mission of the University of Oklahoma is to provide the best possible educational experience for our students through excellence in teaching, research, and creative activity, and service to the state and society.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma Health Campus. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma Health Campus would supersede any conflicting information in this document