

## Amina Ahmed, MD

The Sheba Foundation Endowed Directorship  
of the Rush Cancer Program

### Advancement of Medicine

In the past year, we have established a multi-cancer early detection program which is first of its kind in the area. This work had led to an abstract submission to the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

We have funded multiple clinical and translational research projects with the use of philanthropic support in lung, hematology and breast, key strategic areas of cancer research. These projects are now pending submissions for several R01 grants.

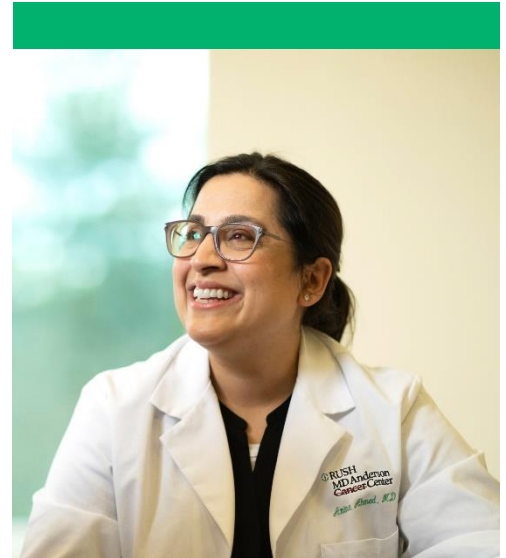
We have a robust faculty development program with the support of coaching and educational lectures to promote a positive culture within RUSH MD Anderson Cancer Center, which will enhance the patient experience, faculty development, and faculty and staff retention.

Within our quality group, we have implemented an Advanced Care Planning Program across the Cancer Center, started a Transition of Care program and are assessing patient reported outcomes across all disease sites.

We have expanded our palliative care and supportive oncology programs across all cancer system locations and have launched our Survivorship Passport program to ensure all patients are receiving proper care and follow up as thrivers post cancer treatment.

Lastly, we are continuing our health equity initiatives with close attention to enhancing lung cancer screening; increasing community outreach and patient navigation to promote screening and support our patients.

The Sheba Endowment has supported funding for lung cancer pilot research which will lead to external funding for **Carl Maki, PhD**. The endowment has supported protected time for **Summer Dewdney, MD**, the diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the Cancer Center, to continue our





health equity initiatives. The endowment also supports **Ithaar Derweesh, MD**, who joined Rush in 2025 as professor and director of urologic oncology. He also serves as our new director of clinical research and faculty development. Dr. Derweesh is working with all junior faculty on their research and creating an educational lecture series for faculty in the Cancer Center. He will also be working on future RUSH MD Anderson's National Cancer Institute designation.

On a personal note, I have worked with another institution to develop international educational materials for women with gynecologic malignancies. These materials, including office handouts, videos and social media, will help inform patients with gynecologic malignancies about the importance of genetic testing, biomarker usage in treatment, social support programs and survivorship. These materials will be available in South America, North America and Europe.

## The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

The Lavin family's financial contribution to cancer at Rush has built the Cancer Clinical Trials Office over the last two years. Because of this investment, the cancer program has received a transformational gift to now pursue the build out of a Phase I Clinical Trials Program and recruitment of a physician-scientist to lead this work. This initiative will be the primary focus of the upcoming year.

## With Gratitude

I sincerely thank the Lavin family for their incredible contributions to Rush and RUSH MD Anderson Cancer Center over the years. We have made considerable strides in growing our program and increasing the quality of care for our patients secondary to the contributions made by your generosity. I look forward to all the impactful programs and research outcomes that will continue to come from your support.