

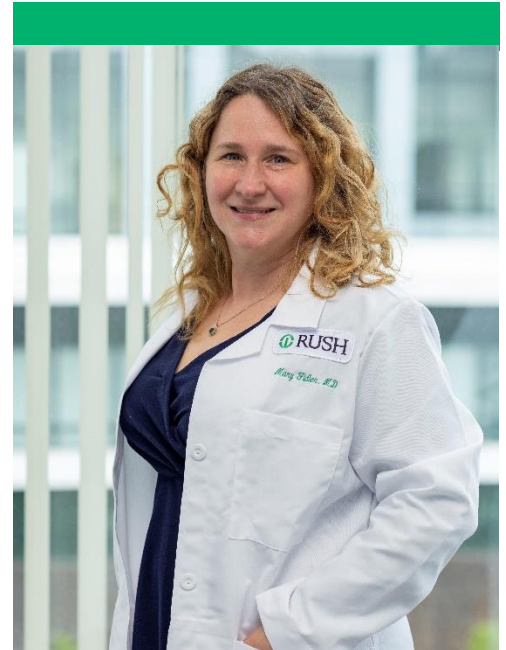


## Mary Jo Fidler, MD

Alice Pirie Wirtz Chair of Medical Oncology

### Advancement of Medicine

In 2025, we began work on the Women's Board-funded collaborative project studying sexual dysfunction in women with lung cancer who receive targeted epidermal growth factor receptor therapy or immune checkpoint inhibitors. We will start collecting samples to study the microbiome and its influence on urinary track colonization. We finalized the protocol, consent and questionnaire, which are now moving through the approval processes. MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston is planning to open our protocol as well.



In 2025, **Koosha Paydary, MD**, was selected to join the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Academy, or IASLCA, a highly competitive research training program from this society with well over 8,000 worldwide members. Dr. Paydary presented the culminating study plan for work that I anticipate will lower drug-drug interactions, allow for more time on therapy and improve outcomes for patients with lung cancer receiving targeted therapies.

I collaborated with **Magdalena Bednarczyk, MD**, from the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care to help two residents prepare abstracts for poster presentation at the American Geriatrics Society's annual meeting, which examined the ability of frailty assessments in older adult with lung cancer to identify patient vulnerabilities and the impact of a frailty clinic on POA documentation rates and changes in code status in patients with lung cancer.

I mentored resident **Phillip Papayanis, MD**, for his poster examining the role of frailty assessments in older adults with lung cancer to identify patient vulnerabilities and exploring patient outcomes. It was presented at the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer's World Conference on Lung Cancer in September 2025.

## Research

Aside from allowing me time to develop innovative quality of life projects and mentor junior faculty, these funds have also allowed for flexibility in supporting our thoracic oncology research initiatives, including the ability to study body mass composition in patients with lung cancer. We plan to submit work studying skeletal muscle loss and increase fat tissue in patients with EGFR mutated lung cancer to determine timing and effects of cancer cachexia on this important subset of patients.

## Publications

- Gadgeel SM, Nagasaka M, Dziubek K, Braun T, Hassan K, Cheng H, Halmos B, Wozniak A, Stevenson J, Patil P, Pennell N, **Fidler MJ**, Qin A, Niu Z, Nagrath S, Kalemkerian GP. Pembrolizumab in Combination With Platinum-Based Chemotherapy in Patients With Recurrent EGFR and ALK Gene Altered Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC). *Clin Lung Cancer*. 2025 Oct 3:S1525-7304(25)00227-X. doi: 10.1016/j.clcc.2025.09.002. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41046186.
- Uppaluri R, Haddad RI, Tao Y, Le Tourneau C, Lee NY, Westra W, Chernock R, Tahara M, Harrington KJ, Klochikhin AL, Braña I, Vasconcelos Alves G, Hughes BGM, Oliva M, Pinto Figueiredo Lima I, Ueda T, Rutkowski T, Schroeder U, Mauz PS, Fuereder T, Laban S, Oridate N, Popovtzer A, Mach N, Korobko Y, Costa DA, Hooda-Nehra A, Rodriguez CP, Bell RB, Manschot C, Benjamin K, Gumuscu B, Adkins D; KEYNOTE-689 Investigators. Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Pembrolizumab in Locally Advanced Head and Neck Cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2025 Jul 3;393(1):37-50. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2415434. Epub 2025 Jun 18. PMID: 40532178.
- Cortellini A, Santo V, Brunetti L, Garbo E, Pinato DJ, La Cava G, Naidoo J, Katz A, Loza M, Neal JW, Genova C, Gettinger S, Kim SY, Jayakrishnan R, El Zarif T, Russano M, Pecci F, Di Federico A, Alessi JV, Montrone M, Owen DH, Ramella S, Signorelli D, **Fidler MJ**, Li M, Camerini A, Halmos B, Vincenzi B, Metro G, Passiglia F, Yendamuri S, Guida A, Ghidini M, D'Alessio A, Banna GL, Fulgenzi CAM, Grisanti S, Grossi F, D'Incecco A, Josephides E, Van Hemelrijck M, Russo A, Gelibter A, Spinelli G, Verrico M, Tomasik B, Giusti R, Balachandran K, Bria E, Sebastian M, Rost M, Forster M, Mukherjee U, Landi L, Mazzoni F, Aujayeb A, Dupont M, Curioni-Fontecedro A, Chiari R, Sforza V, Tiseo M, Friedlaender A, Addeo A, Zoratto F, De Tursi M, Cantini L, Roca E, Mountzios G, Rocco D, Della Gravara L, Kalvapudi S, Inno A,



Bironzo P, Di Marco Barros R, O'Reilly D, Fitzpatrick O, Karapanagiotou E, Monnet I, Baena J, Macerelli M, Piedra A, Agustoni F, Cortinovis DL, Tonini G, Minuti G, Bennati C, Mezquita L, Gorriá T, Servetto A, Beninato T, Lo Russo G, Prelaj A, De Giglio A, Rogado J, Moliner L, Nadal E, Biello F, Nana FA, Dingemans AM, Aerts JGJV, Ferrara R, Abu Hejleh T, Takada K, Naqash AR, Garassino MC, Peters S, Wakelee HA, Nassar AH, Ricciuti B, Soda P, Caruso CM, Guarrasi V. Transformer-based AI approach to unravel long-term, time-dependent prognostic complexity in patients with advanced NSCLC and PD-L1  $\geq$ 50%: insights from the pembrolizumab 5-year global registry. *J Immunother Cancer*. 2025 Sep 29;13(9):e012423. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2025-012423. PMID: 41022528; PMCID: PMC12481261.

## The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

This year, I will prioritize management of a new research coordinator to revitalize our sample and data collections for patients with lung cancer. This person will assist with sample management and data collection for our women's sexual dysfunction study and assist with patient related outcomes work in patients receiving oral targeted therapy.

I will also prioritize our cancer cachexia in patients with EGFR mutated lung cancer work and submit a case report detailing two patients with debilitating brain cancer progression that had remarkable life and quality of life benefits with the addition of an agent that works on tumor blood vessel formation.

## With Gratitude

I am extremely grateful for the support I receive from the Alice Pirie Wirtz Chair of Medical Oncology. Following in my mentor's footsteps, **Philip Bonomi, MD**, we continue to work on improving quality of life and treatment benefit in patients with advanced lung cancer. The protected time has been extremely useful as I work to mentor Dr. Paydary as physician leader in the next generation of lung cancer research.