

Parameswaran Venugopal, MD

The Elodia Kehm Professor and
Chair of Hematology

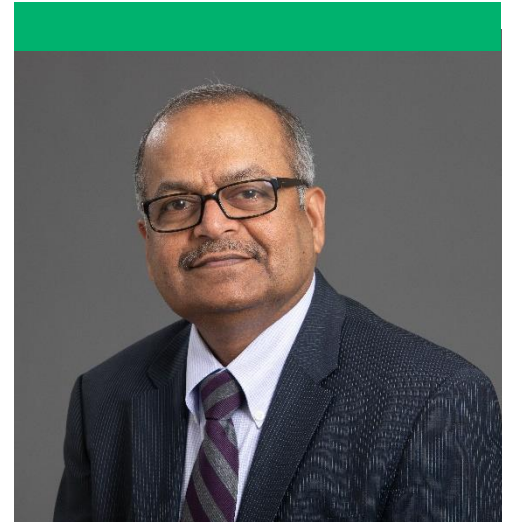
Advancement of Medicine

During the 2025–2026 academic year, my clinical and research efforts have continued to focus on advancing care for patients with blood cancers, particularly lymphoma and plasma cell disorders such as multiple myeloma. Our work has emphasized innovation in immunotherapy, cellular therapy integration and improved response assessment strategies that directly affect patient outcomes.

A major clinical milestone has been the continued expansion and optimization of outpatient bispecific antibody therapy for lymphoma. Building upon prior implementation efforts, our program has further refined protocols and multidisciplinary workflows to ensure safe, efficient delivery of these transformative therapies in the outpatient setting. This innovation enhances patient comfort, improves access to care and reduces healthcare utilization while maintaining safety standards.

In parallel, our research activities have focused on real-world outcomes with cellular therapies, response assessment using advanced imaging analytics and biomarker-driven investigations in plasma cell dyscrasias. Collaborative work presented at national and international meetings this year has contributed to evolving treatment paradigms in follicular lymphoma, large B-cell lymphoma and myeloma-related kidney injury.

Notable scholarly contributions include participation in the international randomized Phase II S1608 trial in POD24 follicular lymphoma presented at the International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma, research examining artificial intelligence-enhanced PET response metrics presented at the ARRS Annual Meeting and real-world CAR T-cell therapy outcomes submitted to the 2025 ASH Annual Meeting. These contributions strengthen Rush's national visibility and position our institution as a leader in modern lymphoma care.





Research

The Elodia Kehm Endowed Chair funds have continued to play a critical role in supporting programmatic growth and academic productivity within the Section of Hematology.

Specifically, funds have supported:

- Research personnel within the Clinical Trials Office
- Faculty and advanced practice provider support within the lymphoma program
- Faculty development within the myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative neoplasms program
- Acute leukemia and classical hematology programs
- Publication costs in peer-reviewed journals
- Conference registration and professional society memberships for hematology faculty

These investments have strengthened our ability to conduct investigator-initiated research, expand multidisciplinary collaboration and maintain national engagement in evolving therapeutic areas.

Grants

The momentum generated through initiatives supported by the endowment has encouraged additional philanthropic support for projects within the Section of Hematology. The visibility of our research and programmatic expansion has reinforced donor confidence and facilitated broader institutional investment in hematologic malignancy research and clinical innovation.

Publications

- Cahill K, Godfrey J, Nabhan C, Kline J, Riedell PA, Cohen KS, Narula S, Karrison TG, Robertson J, Karmali R, Venugopal P, Kim SH, Rapoport AP, Lee ST, Law J, Fishkin PAS, Isufi I, Velasco M, Kaminer L, Smith SM. A multicenter phase 1/2 trial of lenalidomide and dose-adjusted EPOCH-R in MYC-associated DLBCL. *Blood Adv.* 2025 Nov 11;9(21):5665-5675. doi: 10.1182/bloodadvances.2025017092. PMID: 40720747; PMCID: PMC12848333.
- Strati P, Champion R, Coleman M, Smith SM, Venugopal P, Martin P, Wood A, Miller K, Christian B. Acalabrutinib alone or in combination with rituximab for follicular lymphoma: An open-label study. *Br J Haematol.* 2024 Dec;205(6):2248-2253. doi: 10.1111/bjh.19787. Epub 2024 Sep 22. PMID: 39308028; PMCID: PMC11637741.



Presentations

- A less common subtype of DLBCL: Speaker, Session Chair and Panelist at the Wisconsin Lymphoma & Myeloma conference, 10-25-2025.
- A case of Fever of Unknown Origin: Multi-disciplinary Medical Grand Rounds, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, on 08-20-2025.
- CLL: Update on Management in 2025: Program in association with Northwestern Medicine Nurses Society meeting, June 26, 2025, Chicago, IL.
- Precision Therapy in CLL: Central Illinois Cancer Conference at Peoria, IL April 5, 2025
- A case of fatigue (DLBCL): Multi-disciplinary Medical Conference, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, on 3-19-2025.
- Shifting Landscape in DLBCL: Wisconsin Multiple Myeloma & Lymphoma Summit: August 17, 2024.
- Update in Mantle Cell Lymphoma: Cellular Therapy meeting in Deerfield, IL: September 21, 2024.

The Year Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

Over the next year, we will focus on:

- Continued refinement and expansion of bispecific antibody and immunotherapy delivery models
- Developing research initiatives focused on CAR T-cell therapy optimization and post-cellular therapy strategies
- Expanding of real-world lymphoma outcome datasets
- Advancing biomarker and imaging-based decision tools to enhance treatment precision
- Strengthening educational engagement with community oncologists through structured CME and outreach programs

These efforts will further align Rush's hematology programs with national leadership in immunotherapy and translational oncology.



With Gratitude

We extend our deepest gratitude to the generous donor of the endowed fund for your continued support of our mission in hematology.

Your philanthropy has enabled us to expand innovative treatment programs, strengthen faculty expertise and advance impactful research that directly improves patient outcomes. The work supported by this endowment has led to national and international presentations, multi-institutional collaborations and the development of new care delivery models that are transforming how patients with blood cancers are treated.

Equally important, your support has fostered collaboration, mentorship and academic growth within our section. The collective accomplishments of our faculty, trainees and research teams reflect the enduring impact of your investment.

On behalf of our entire team — and the patients whose lives are improved by these efforts — thank you for your vision, generosity and commitment to advancing medicine. Your support continues to serve as both catalyst and inspiration.