CONSORTIUM FOR Advancing Management and Prevention of Cancer in People with HIV

AMC Scholars

2020 - 2026

The Consortium for Advancing Management and Prevention of Cancer in People with HIV (AMC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the **2026 AMC Scholar Program**.

2026

Scholar: Solomon Kibudde, MBChB, Mmed, FC Rad Onc (SA) **Institution:** Uganda Cancer Institute Mentor(s): Jackson Orem, PhD, MBChB, MMed Project Title: *Health-Related Quality of Life in Women With and Without HIV Receiving Definitive Chemoradiation for Locally Advanced Cervical Cancer in Uganda*	
Scholar: Shae Jansen Aref, MD **Institution:** MD Anderson Cancer Center Mentor(s): Elizabeth Chiao, MD, MPH; Kathleen Schmeler, MD; Lilie Lin, MD; Swali Fundafunda, MD Project Title: *Evaluating Surgical Treatment Pathways and De-Escalation Opportunities in Cervical Cancer Among Women Living with HIV in Zambia*	
Scholar: Nicolette Taku, MD, MPhil, MPH **Institution**: MD Anderson Cancer Center Mentor(s): Elizabeth Chiao, MD, MPH; Jane Montealegre, PhD Project Title: *Barriers to Breast Cancer Care Among Women Living with HIV in Zambia*	

Scholar: Aushja Syed, MD

Institution: Ohio State University

Mentor(s): Robert Baiocchi, MD, PhD; Syed Husain, MB, BS, FACS, FASCRS

Project Title: *Leveraging AI to Improve Quality and Access in Anal Cancer Screening*



Scholar: Harriet Adhiambo, BScN, MSN, PhD

Institution: Washington University

Mentor(s): Thomas Odeny, MD, MPH, PhD

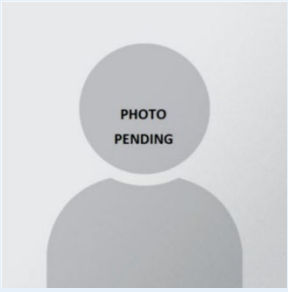
Project Title: *Characterizing Retention and Engagement in Cancer Care among People Living with HIV and Cancer (CARECAN-HIV)*



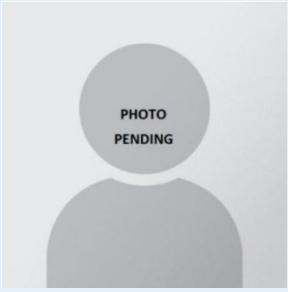
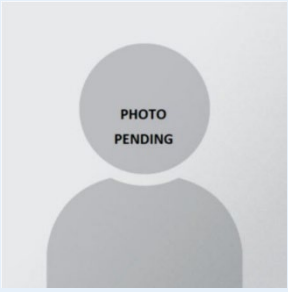
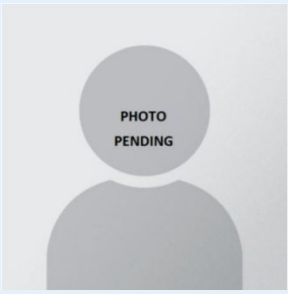


In addition, we congratulate the following **second-year** AMC Scholars, who have demonstrated adequate progress and participation in AMC activities during their first-year scholarship.

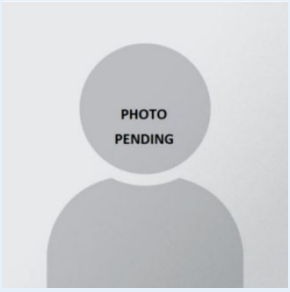
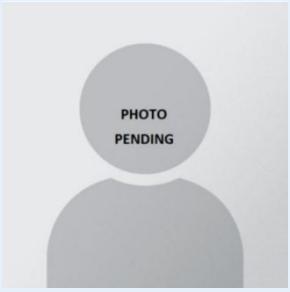
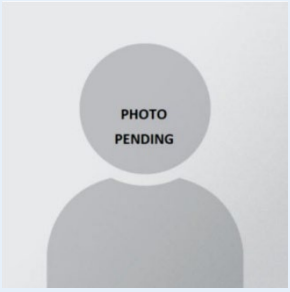
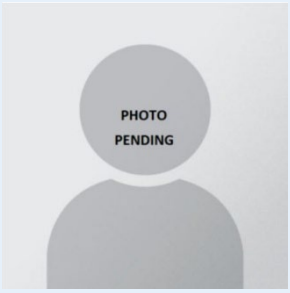
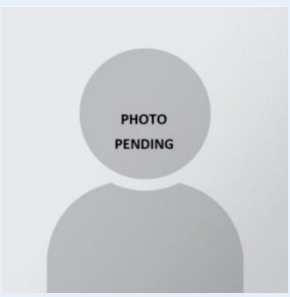
2025

Scholar: Antonio Camiro-Zuniga, MD, MS **Institution:** Instituto Nacional de Cancerologia in Mexico City Mentor(s): Patricia Amalia Volkow Fernandez, MD; Samantha Vogt, MD, MPH Project Title: *Kaposi Sarcoma Herpes Virus Load in Bronchoalveolar Lavage as a Tool for Differential Diagnosis for Pulmonary Lesions in People with Recently Diagnosed Advanced HIV Disease and Kaposi Sarcoma*	
Scholar: Dorothy Imbuka Mangale, PhD, MS **Institution**: Washington University in St. Louis Mentor(s): Thomas Odeny, MBChB, PhD, MPH Project Title: *Describing the Epidemiology of Cancer Among People with HIV in Western Kenya, their Experiences in Care and the Perceived Potential and Strategies for Integrating HIV Testing and Linkage in the Oncology Setting*	
Scholar: Carolina Emerick da Silva Rangel, DDS, PhD, MSc **Institution**: Brazilian National Cancer Institute (INCA) Mentor(s): Fabio Eudes Leal, MD, DPhil; Elizabeth Chiao, MD, MPH Project Title: *Oral Health Status and Oral Cancer Risk in People Living with HIV: A Cross-Sectional Study in Brazil*	
Scholar: Herman Johan van Besien, MD **Institution**: Weill Cornell Medical College Mentor(s): Lisa Roth, MD; Ethel Cesarman, MD, PhD Project Title: *Sensitizing EBV Lymphomas to Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte Therapy*	
	

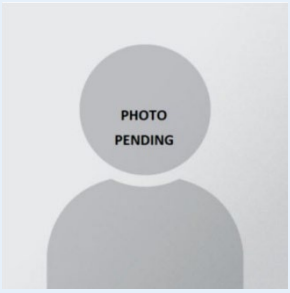
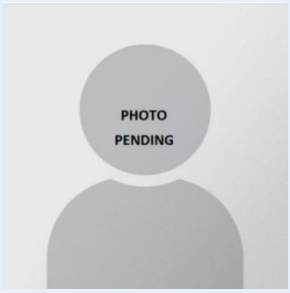
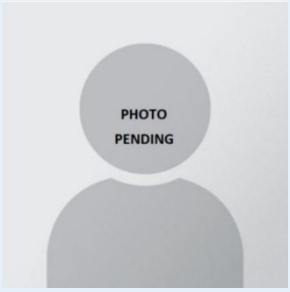
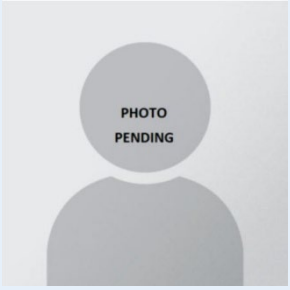
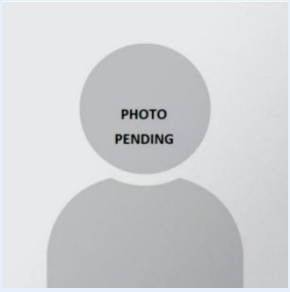
2024

Scholar: Graciela Nogueras Gonzalez, PhD, MPH **Institution:** University of Texas, MD Anderson Mentor(s): Elizabeth Chiao, MD, MPH; Lilie Lin, MD; Jane Montealegre, PhD, MSPH; Susan Citonje Msadabwe-Chikuni, MBChB, MMed Project Title: *Barriers to Cervical Cancer Screening and Follow-up Care for WLHIV Treated at the Cancer Diseases Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia*	
Scholar: Maria Montserrat Aguilar Hernandez, PhD **Institution:** Weill Medical College of Cornell University Mentor(s): Ethel Cesarman, MD, PhD; Amy Chadburn, MD; Lisa Roth, MD Project Title: *The Mutational Landscape of Polymorphic Lymphoproliferative Disorder and Correlations with EBV Status in PLWH*	
Scholar: Travis Lambert, MD **Institution:** Montefiore Medical Center Mentor(s): Rafi Kabarriti, MD Project Title: *Characterizing the Microbiome Composition Among Pre-cancerous HSIL vs. Anal Cancer SCCA Patients*	
Scholar: Racheal Dube Mandishora, PhD, MPH **Institution:** Moffitt Cancer Center **Mentor(s):** Trine Rounge, PhD; Timothy Wilkin, MD, MPH **Project Title:** *Intra Host and Intra Genotype Diversity of High-risk HPV in Women with HIV and Multi-site Pre-Malignant or Malignant Lesions*	
Scholar: María Macarena Sandoval, MD **Institution:** Fundación Huésped (Buenos Aires, Argentina) **Mentor(s):** Valeria Fink, MD; Luciana La Rosa, MD **Project Title:** *From Guidelines to Practice: Pilot Study on Anal Cancer Screening for People with HIV in Argentina*	

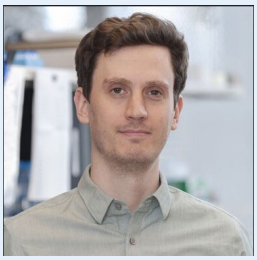
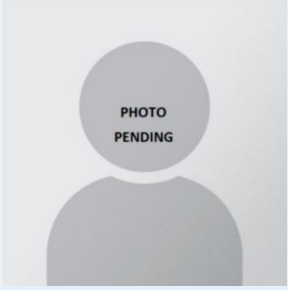
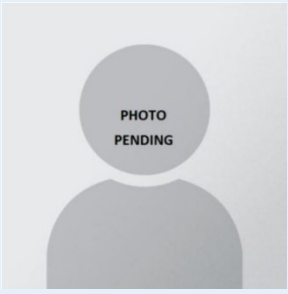
2023

Scholar: Gaurav Goyal, MD **Institution:** University of Alabama, Birmingham **Mentor(s):** Smita Bhatia, MD, MPH; Vanessa Eulo, MD **Project Title:** *Burden of Morbidity and Premature Mortality in People with HIV and Non-AIDS Defining Cancers*	
Scholar: Priscilla Namaganda, MD **Institution:** Uganda Cancer Institute/ Fred Hutchinson **Mentor(s):** Jackson Orem, PhD, MBChB, MMed; Cecilia Yeung, MD **Project Title:** *Oncogenic Viral Proteins Associated with Lymphomas at the Uganda Cancer Institute, Uganda, a Comparison Between HIV-associated and Non-HIV-associated Lymphomas*	
Scholar: Daniel Nathan, MD **Institution:** Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai **Mentor(s):** Keith Sigel, MD, PhD, MPH; Joseph Sparano, MD **Project Title:** *Prevalence and Impact of Clonal Hematopoiesis on Outcomes of Malignancy in People Living with HIV*	
Scholar: Angel Ramírez-Fernández, PhD **Institution:** University of Pennsylvania **Mentor(s):** Stefan Barta, MD; Joseph Fraietta, PhD **Project Title:** *Harnessing CAR-T Strategies in the Management of HIV and Lymphoma: Opportunities and Alternatives in the US Healthcare Landscape*	
Scholar: José Antonio Dias da Cunha e Silva, MD, MSc, MPH **Institution:** Instituto nacional de Cancer Jose de Alencar (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) **Mentor(s):** Beatriz Grinsztein, MD, PhD; Ana Ortiz, PhD, MPH; Anna Coghill, PhD, MPH; Fabio Leal, MD, PhD **Project Title:** *Prevalence of Histologically-Confirmed HSIL (hHSIL) in Women Living with HIV (WLWHIV) in Brazil*	

2022

Scholar: Chimwemwe Moses Banda, MBBS, MMed, FCOG **Institution:** UNC Project- Malawi **Mentor(s):** Lameck Chinula, MBBS, MMed, FCOG; Ntokozo Ndlovu, MMed; Matthew Painschab, MD **Project Title:** *Evaluating the Clinico-pathologic Characteristics of Patients with Pre-cancerous and Cancerous Anal Disease at Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe, Malawi*	
Scholar: Sanjay Patel, MD, MSc, MPH **Institution:** Weill Medical College of Cornell University **Mentor(s):** Ethel Cesarman, MD, PhD; Amy Chadburn, MD **Project Title:** *Dissecting the Unique Features of the Tumor Microenvironment (TME) in HIV/AIDS-associated Classic Hodgkin Lymphoma Patients*	
Scholar: Georgios Pongas, MD **Institution:** University of Miami **Mentor(s):** Juan Carlos Ramos, MD **Project Title:** *Preclinical Development of Immunotherapy Combining Magrolimab with Viral Lytic Induction Therapies in Primary Effusion Lymphoma*	
Scholar: Sridevi Rajeeve, MD **Institution:** Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai **Mentor(s):** Keith Sigel, MD, PhD, MPH; Joseph Sparano, MD **Project Title:** *Determining the Impact of Age and Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) on Adverse Prostate Cancer Outcomes for Men Living with HIV (MWH)*	
Scholar: Christoph Weigel, PhD **Institution:** Ohio State University **Mentor(s):** Robert Baiocchi, MD, PhD; Polina Shindiapina, MD, PhD **Project Title:** *Utilizing Kaposi Sarcoma Herpes Virus (KSHV) DNA Methylation to Assess Virus Activity in HIV+ Patients*	

2021

Scholar: Zachary Epstein-Peterson, MD **Institution:** Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center **Mentor(s):** Ariela Noy, MD; M. Lia Palombo, MD **Project Title:** *Axicabtagene Ciloleucel in Relapsed or Refractory HIV-associated Aggressive B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma*	
Scholar: Guido Ghilardi, MD **Institution:** University of Pennsylvania **Mentor(s):** Stefan Barta, MD; Joseph Fraietta, PhD; Marco Ruella, MD **Project Title:** *Premature T Cell Aging in HIV+ Hodgkin's Lymphoma*	
Scholar: Pamela Gorejana-Chidawanyika, MMed, MBChB **Institution:** University of Zimbabwe **Mentor(s):** Margaret Borok, MMed; Ntokozo Ndlovu, MMed **Project Title:** *The Spectrum of Malignancies in Adolescents and Young Adults Living with HIV (AYALHIV) in Harare, Zimbabwe: A Retrospective Descriptive Review of the Cancer Registry Data*	
Scholar: Fan Lee, MD **Institution:** UNC Project-Malawi **Mentor(s):** Lameck Chinula, MBBS, MMed, FCOG; Jennifer Smith, PhD, MPH; Jennifer Tang, MD **Project Title:** *Experiences of Women Participating in a Human Papillomavirus-based Screen-Triage-and Treat Strategy for Cervical Cancer Prevention in Malawi*	

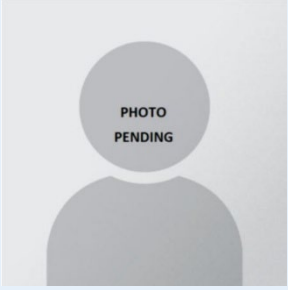
Scholar: Rosalyn Plotzker, MD, MPH **Institution:** University of California, San Francisco **Mentor(s):** Cristina Brickman, MD; Joel Palefsky, MD; Nancy Shoenbrunner, PhD **Project Title:** *Performance Characteristics of a Novel Point of Care (POC) High Risk Human Papillomavirus (hrHPV) Test for Anal Cancer Screening Among People Living with HIV (PLWH)*	
Scholar: Friday Saidi, MMed, MBBS **Institution:** UNC Project-Malawi **Mentor(s):** Lameck Chinula, MD; Jennifer Tang, MD **Project Title:** *Characterization of Cervico-vaginal Microbiota Among Women Living with HIV Participating in a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Test-and-Treat Program in Malawi*	
Scholar: Diego Salusso, MD **Institution:** Fundación Huésped (Buenos Aires, Argentina) **Mentor(s):** Valeria Fink, MD **Project Title:** *Penile HPV in Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender Women from Buenos Aires*	
Scholar: Larissa Lopes-Silva Scholte, PhD, MA **Institution:** George Washington University **Mentor(s):** Jeffrey Bethony, PhD, MA **Project Title:** *Re-fit for Purpose: Establishing Workflows for Liquid Biopsy (LB) Analytes for Frozen Biospecimens from AMC Protocols*	
Scholar: Paul Simonson, MD, PhD **Institution:** Weill Medical College of Cornell University **Mentor(s):** Ethel Cesarman, MD, PhD **Project Title:** *Characterizing Immune Infiltrates in Kaposi Sarcoma*	

Scholar: Tracess Smalley, PhD

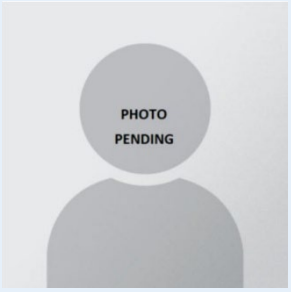
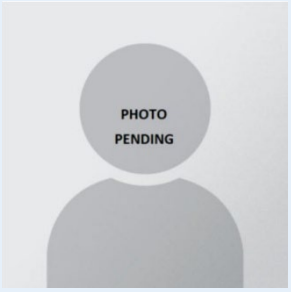
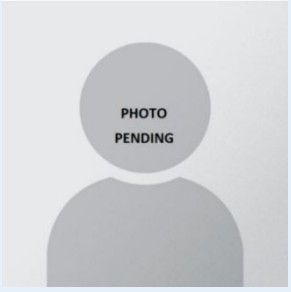
Institution: Moffitt Cancer Center

Mentor(s): Jennifer Binning, PhD; Shari Pilon-Thomas, PhD

Project Title: *Engineering Antibody-based Fragments to HPV Oncoproteins*



2020

Scholar: Fadhil Geriga, MMed, MBChB **Institution:** Uganda Cancer Institute **Mentor(s):** Jackson Orem, PhD, MBChB, MMed; Warren Phipps, MD, MPH **Project Title:** *Clinicopathological Characteristics and Outcomes of Children with Kaposi Sarcoma Uganda*	
Scholar: Jolinta Lin, MD **Institution:** Emory University **Mentor(s):** Lisa Flowers, MD; Leon Bernal-Mizrachi, MD **Project Title:** *Comparison of Patient Reported Outcomes in HIV-infected versus HIV-uninfected Patients with Anal Cancer and Understanding Critical Barriers to Diagnosis and Treatment*	
Scholar: Razia Moorad, PhD **Institution:** University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill **Mentor(s):** Dirk Dittmer, PhD; Ryan McNamara, PhD **Project Title:** *Whole-Genome Sequencing of Kaposi Sarcoma-associated Herpesvirus (KSHV/HHV8) Reveals Evidence for Two African Lineages*	
Scholar: Jennifer Morgan, MD **Institution:** University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill **Mentor(s):** Lameck Chinula, MBBS, MMed, FCOG; Katie Reeder-Hayes, MD, MBA, MSc **Project Title:** *Barriers to Essential Breast Cancer Treatment Components in Malawi*	
Scholar: Irene Chemtai Mungo, MD, MPH **Institution:** University of California, San Francisco **Mentor(s):** Lameck Chinula, MBBS, MMed, FCOG; Craig Cohen, MD, MPH; Jennifer Tang, MD **Project Title:** *High-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Clearance Following Thermal Ablation Among Women from the General Population, Including Women Living with HIV in Malawi*	