
Bringing together physicians and scientists to develop and deliver personalized, targeted therapies for patients with prostate, kidney, bladder, and testicular cancers.
The doctors of UCLA’s Institute of Urologic Oncology translate the latest discoveries from basic, clinical, and population sciences directly into top quality care for patients.”

— Mark S. Litwin, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair, UCLA Department of Urology
Board of Directors, Institute of Urologic Oncology
WHO WE ARE

The IUO brings together physicians and scientists to develop and deliver targeted, leading-edge therapies for prostate, kidney, bladder, and testicular cancers, which strike nearly 400,000 Americans each year and lead to more than 55,000 deaths.

Established in fall 2008 by a major commitment from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, the IUO was charged with the mission to become a world leader in translational and biotechnological research in these cancers, to provide patients with the earliest access to the best available treatments, and to dramatically reduce the death rates.

“Our mission is to offer patients outstanding, individualized surgical and medical care and access to innovative therapies with the overall goal to cure urologic cancers.”

— Arie Belldegrun, M.D., FACS
Director, Institute of Urologic Oncology at UCLA
Carol and Roy Doumani Chair in Urological Oncology

Dr. Belldegrun is the founder and director of the IUO and also the founder and surgical director of the UCLA Kidney Cancer Program. Since its inception 20 years ago, the program has provided surgical and medical care to more than 4,000 patients with all stages of the disease. In addition, Dr. Belldegrun supervises an active research laboratory at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCLA that has developed innovative techniques in targeted cancer therapy, immunotherapy, and cancer vaccines. His team at UCLA has constructed novel treatments for prostate, bladder, and kidney cancers, using tumor-specific antigens and personalized, gene-based approaches.
WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

Personalization

The physicians and surgeons at the IUO focus on comprehensive, personalized, patient-centered treatment of urologic cancers and the development and delivery of new therapies. Patients can conveniently access the various specialists involved in their treatment, thereby simplifying the decision-making process for preferred treatment and improving their overall medical care.

Integration

This integrated treatment approach allows experts from related disciplines to collaborate more efficiently and effectively to bring to patients the most promising advances in disease-centered, multi-specialty diagnoses and medical and surgical treatments. The specialties include molecular pathology, targeted therapies, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation therapy, and minimally invasive and ablative surgery.

Innovation

UCLA has been a pioneer in the multidisciplinary, translational approach to care, including the use of targeted therapies; the development of novel, minimally invasive cancer surgeries and reconstructive surgical techniques offering improved quality of life; and the development of molecularly targeted drugs. Avastin®, Sutent®, Nexavar®, Torisel®, Afinitor®, Abiraterone (Zytiga®), MDV3100, Herceptin®, and Gleevec®, among others, were developed in large part based on research conducted in the clinics and laboratories of UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. Such innovative work developing new, personalized, less toxic, and more effective therapies for urologic cancers is currently being done within the IUO.

Expertise

The IUO harnesses the collective expertise of world-class specialists in urologic and medical oncology, diagnostic and interventional radiology, pathology, nursing, basic sciences, and clinical trials to advance the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of urologic cancers. Patients benefit from the combined experience of these doctors, who often treat the most complicated cases.
“Bringing people together from different disciplines that overlap around a disease creates a synergy that allows us to do things more quickly and efficiently.”

— Dennis J. Slamon, M.D., Ph.D.
Director of Clinical and Translational Research
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
WHY UCLA

Multidisciplinary Cancer Care Programs with Proven Track Records

• As the world’s first, UCLA’s multidisciplinary Kidney Cancer Program has evaluated and treated more than 4,000 patients over 20 years.

• Designated as a Center of Excellence in prostate and kidney cancer by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), UCLA is recognized as a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in prostate cancer.

• Celebrating 60 years, the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA is ranked third in the U.S. in research dollars and ninth in research funding from the NIH. UCLA has the largest and most diverse urology research program in the nation. The School of Medicine’s teaching hospital, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, is ranked as one of the top five American hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report* — and the best hospital in the West for 22 consecutive years.

Known for Innovation and the Most Advanced Technologies

• A leader in molecular technology, UCLA spearheads targeted cancer therapy, developing personalized treatments based on the molecular signature of each patient’s cancer. The IUO is working on a promising new class of targeted therapies for kidney, prostate, and bladder cancers.

• For more than 25 years, UCLA radiation oncologists have been leaders in the use of state-of-the-art radiation technologies for the treatment of cancer.

• UCLA physicians were among the first to use non-invasive stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) for the treatment of prostate cancer. Today, active SBRT approaches are applied to prostate cancer, kidney tumors, and isolated tumor recurrences throughout the body.

• UCLA continues to lead the way in the use of ablative cancer therapies — minimally invasive treatments such as robotics, cryosurgery, radiofrequency ablation (RFA), high-intensity-focused ultrasound (HIFU), and others, as well as radioactive seeds to eradicate small kidney and prostate tumors.

Patient Access to the Newest Drugs and Clinical Trials

• In 2004, Dr. Arie Belldegrun initiated and led the development of abiraterone acetate (Zytiga®). UCLA was one of the first centers to conduct clinical trials in patients with advanced prostate cancer. Zytiga® received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval in April 2011 and is offered as a standard of care to patients with advanced disease. Additional studies are ongoing.

• UCLA is a leading center for testing in prostate cancer therapy using HIFU, a pinpointed, completely non-invasive technique using sound waves to destroy cancerous lesions.

• The IUO plans to launch a first-in-class, targeted kidney cancer vaccine in early 2012. The technology was discovered and developed in UCLA laboratories.

• UCLA was one of the first centers involved in clinical testing of Provenge®, allowing our patients access to it seven years before commercial availability.

Bringing together physicians and scientists to develop and deliver personalized, targeted therapies for patients with prostate, kidney, bladder, and testicular cancers.

The Institute of Urologic Oncology is an example of the very best in academic medicine — cutting-edge research side by side with superior clinical care. Together, this collaboration accelerates translation of basic science into clinical care.

The IUO will be housed in the new Edie and Lew Wasserman Building at UCLA, a six-story, 100,000-square-foot, multipurpose facility designed by the architectural firm of Richard Meier. The construction is currently underway, and the building — located in Stein Plaza directly across from Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center — is scheduled to open in the spring of 2014.

OUR MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IS CHANGING THE WAY PATIENTS ARE HEALED.

This strong collaborative relationships within the UCLA campus research community provide an environment in which highly productive scientific and clinical partnerships are continually fostered. The personalized, targeted cancer therapies resulting from these associations are helping to change the way patients are healed.

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