



Monica Kwari, RN, BSN, CCRP

Research Nurse Supervisor
Department of Leukemia
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

Monica Kwari, RN, BSN, CCRP is a Research Nurse Supervisor in the Department of Leukemia at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Her clinical research has been focused on Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) and Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). She oversees the implementation of clinical trial protocols, working closely with the principal investigators, sponsors and her research team.

In 1992, Monica received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from The University of Texas School of Nursing. The same year she joined the MD Anderson Cancer Center as an inpatient staff nurse providing care for leukemia and MDS patients. In 1997, she joined the MD Anderson Leukemia Department research team. As a research nurse, for the past 19 years she has been actively involved in the numerous patient-oriented clinical trials designed to battle AML, ALL and MDS. Some of these trials have led to the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug approvals. Over the years, Monica has contributed to dozens of articles and abstracts authored by the principal investigators she has worked with.



Brenna Hansen, BSN, RN, OCN®

Research Nurse Specialist
Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute (NCI)
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

Brenna Hansen is a clinical Research Nurse Specialist with the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research. Brenna graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 2007, and with her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 2002. Brenna's previous nursing experience was specialized in areas of critical care, hematological cancer, and stem cell transplantation. She has been working as research support for CAR T-cell therapy for the past five years.



Margaret McCormick, RN, BSN, MA, MBA

Lead, Clinical Trial Support Services
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Rye Brook, NY

In her role as Lead, Clinical Trial Navigation Services, Margaret (Peg) McCormick heads The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's efforts to educate people affected by blood cancers about the treatment option of clinical trials. Patients who may benefit from expanded clinical trial support services are referred to her by her colleagues in the Information Resource Center (IRC), the first point of contact for many patients affected by a blood cancer. Through education, advocacy, coaching and decision-support services, Peg and her peers help patients weigh their unique concerns around receiving care through standard treatment or within a clinical trial. LLS is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS's mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

In Peg's free time, she has a private psychotherapy practice called Listening2Cancer specializing in helping individuals deal with the emotional impact of cancer and the spiritual questions such experiences often raise. She conducts periodic group sessions designed to help those affected by cancer understand the importance and relevance of sustaining, reconnecting with, and creating meaning in their lives and, through mindfulness training, to increase their ability to tolerate emotionally and physically stressful events.

Peg earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota, her Masters in Business Administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and her Masters in Transpersonal Counseling Psychology from the Graduate School of Psychology of Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.