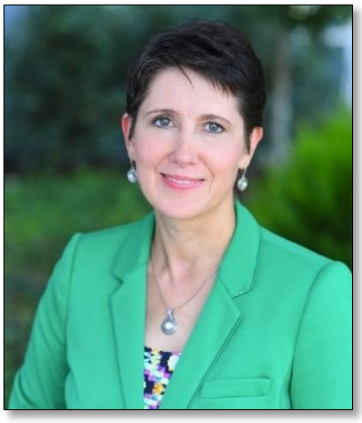
UNC DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY GRAND ROUNDS
2025-2026



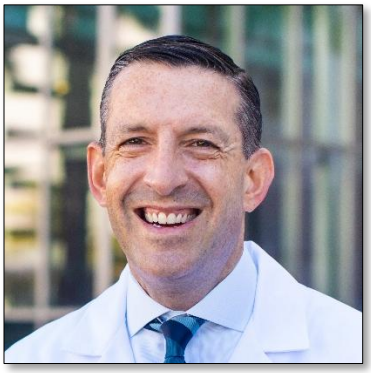
October 1, 2025

Up-to-Data Management of Transplant Associated Thrombotic Microangiopathy

Sonata Jodele, MD

Research Professor, Division of BMT & Immune Deficiency
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Dr. Sonata Jodele's clinical focus includes hematopoietic stem cell transplant and cell therapies for children and young adults. Her research interest centers on reducing organ toxicity after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation with a specific focus on hematopoietic stem cell transplant associated-thrombotic microangiopathy. Dr. Jodele leads national and international committees, NIH and industry sponsored clinical studies investigating TA-TMA pathogenesis, TA-TMA screening and early diagnostic tools, and studying novel therapeutic interventions for TA-TMA.



November 5, 2025

The Myriad Machinations of Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Mikkael Sekeres, MD, MS

Professor of Medicine
Chief, Division of Hematology
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Miami

Dr. Mikkael Sekeres' research focuses on patients with MDS and older adults with acute myeloid leukemia, and he has been the national and international primary study investigator on dozens of phase I/II/III trials. He is the author or co-author of over 450 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 650 abstracts, with an H-index of 100. He was the inaugural editor-in-chief of the *ASH Clinical News* magazine; he is on the editorial board of several journals and is Associate Editor for the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and a Section Editor for UpToDate; has written over 100 essays for *The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Huffington Post, Slate,* and *The Hill,* among others; and has authored 8 books, including *When Blood Breaks Down*: Life *Lessons from Leukemia* (The MIT Press 2020); *Drugs and the FDA: Safety, Efficacy, and the Public's Trust* (The MIT Press 2022); and a book tentatively titled *Chasing Truth in Cancer* (University of Toronto Press, 2026).

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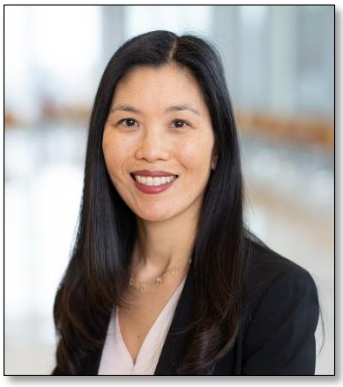


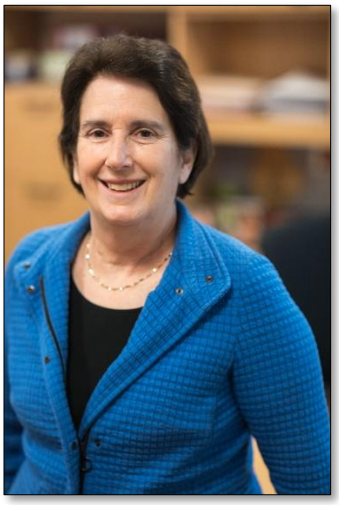
February 4, 2026

Novel Strategies to Prevent Alloimmunization in Sickle Cell Disease: The Role of Molecular Typing and Enhanced Blood Matching

Stella T. Chou, MD

Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Hematology)
University of Pennsylvania
Chief, Division of Transfusion Medicine
Interim Chief, Division of Hematology
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Dr. Stella Chou's work has demonstrated that inheritance of variant Rh antigens in patients with sickle cell disease and in Black donors is a major contributor to alloimmunization despite Rh "matched" transfusions. Ongoing work focuses on *RH* genetic matching of patients and donors, integrating molecular technologies into clinical transfusion medicine practice and developing novel tools for transfusion medicine. Her laboratory uses induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to create customized iPSCs with rare blood group antigen phenotypes and explores methods to enhance their use as renewable sources of red cells. Current work aims to produce developmentally fetal-type red blood cells at scale to meet both diagnostic and therapeutic needs for patients with hemoglobinopathies and for intrauterine and neonatal transfusion.



March 4, 2026

Ineffective erythropoiesis and anemia

Janis L. Abkowitz, MD

Clement A. Finch Professor of Medicine
Division of Hematology and Oncology
Adjunct Professor, Genome Sciences
University of Washington

Dr. Abkowitz's research is defining the molecular and cellular events that control red cell differentiation. Her lab studies how heme coordinates with globin as red cells mature and how dyscoordination leads to ineffective erythropoiesis and anemia. Her single cell RNA seq and CITE-seq studies involve murine models, as well as Diamond Blackfan anemia and MDS patient marrow samples. Recently, her lab developed methods to isolate human erythroblastic islands and query their component cells at single cell resolution.

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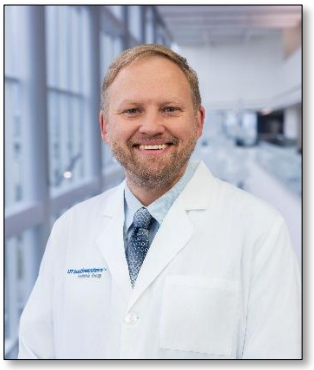

April 8, 2026

The present and future of gene therapy for inherited bone marrow failure syndrome

Richard Voit, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Horchow Family Scholar in Pediatrics
Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Dr. Voit's research focuses on gene therapy and hematopoietic cell regulation, with several publications in prominent journals such as *Cell Stem Cell*, *Journal of Clinical Immunology*, *Haematologica*, *Blood Advances*, and *Nature Immunology.* His top areas of clinical expertise are Sickle Cell Disease, Anemia, Neuroblastoma, and Hereditary Neuroblastoma. The Voit lab was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Children's Cancer Fund Call for Cure award.