Research interests: Psycho-Oncology, Psychoneuroimmunology, Biobehavioral pathways in cancer

Our research focuses on understanding the contributions of psychosocial factors to the health and well-being of cancer patients, and the behavioral and biological pathways underlying these relationships. For example, projects in the lab investigate interactions between psychological factors and immune functioning, as well as processes of psychological adjustment to a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Most research takes place at the UW Carbone Cancer Center, includes behavioral, biological, and clinical measures, and is conducted in collaboration with a multidisciplinary research team. Current projects focuses on the influence of mood disturbance on the recovery of immune function and clinical complications after stem cell transplantation. We are also investigating the role of sleep disturbances in immune regulation and quality of life among women with gynecologic cancers. The long-term goal of this work is to translate research findings into targeted behavioral interventions with the potential to improve the health and quality of life of individuals with cancer.

Websites:
http://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/brp/granteeProfile.do?contactId=1876139&grpId=52812
http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/bbpsb/ncintwk-biopathwys.html#ec