

## MMI 291 Seminar Series

Current Theme: Interdisciplinary Research  
Spring Quarter 2024 – CRN 48450

Friday Seminar at 12:10-1 p.m.  
GBSF Auditorium, Room 1005

“Quiescence as a therapeutic  
approach and target for cancer”

### Research Bio

**Dr. Buckanovich's** laboratory research has largely focused on ovarian cancer. His group studies the role of therapy resistant cancer stem like cells and their interaction with the host cells in the tumor microenvironment. His work places an emphasis on the identification of novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to ovarian cancer. Indeed, studies in his laboratory have resulted in the initiation of 5 translational clinical trials for the treatment of ovarian cancer. In addition to his laboratory studies, Dr. Buckanovich has a busy clinical practice, specializing in the treatment of ovarian and uterine cancers. He is currently the principal investigator of two clinical trials at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been an author or co-author of over 90 original research articles. In recognition of his work, Dr. Buckanovich received a Clinical Investigator Award from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, the National Institutes of Health New Innovator – Directors Award, Society of Gynecologic Oncology Best Basic Science Award, and he has been elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigators

### Publications

Cole AJ, Panesso-Gómez S, Shah JS, Ebai T, Jiang Q, Gumusoglu-Acar E, Bello MG, Vlad A, Modugno F, Edwards RP, **Buckanovich RJ**. “Quiescent Ovarian Cancer Cells Secrete Follistatin to Induce Chemotherapy Resistance in Surrounding Cells in Response to Chemotherapy”. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2023 May 15;29(10):1969-1983. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-22-2254. PMID: 36795892; PMCID: PMC10192102.

Cascio S, Chandler C, Zhang L, Sinno S, Gao B, Onkar S, Bruno TC, Vignali DAA, Mahdi H, Osmanbeyoglu HU, Vlad AM, Coffman LG, **Buckanovich RJ**. “Cancer-associated MSC drive tumor immune exclusion and resistance to immunotherapy, which can be overcome by Hedgehog inhibition”. *Sci Adv*. 2021 Nov 12;7(46):eabi5790. doi: 10.1126/sciadv.abi5790. Epub 2021 Nov 12. PMID: 34767446; PMCID: PMC8589308.

April  
26



**Ronald J. Buckanovich, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Professor of Medicine  
Director, Ovarian Cancer Center  
of Excellence  
Magee Women's Research Institute  
UPMC Hillman Cancer Center,  
University of Pittsburgh

April 26, 2024  
12:10 – 1 p.m.  
GBSF Auditorium  
Room 1005  
In-person presentation

Medical Microbiology  
and Immunology  
School of Medicine

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We hope to see you there!