



Arta M. Monjazez, M.D., Ph.D.

Philosophy of Care

Cancer is not a disease that occurs in a vacuum and thus I focus not only on treating the cancer but also on assisting patients with the nutritional, social, emotional, and spiritual issues which are often ignored in modern medicine. I believe strongly in a multidisciplinary team approach to cancer including open lines of communication with both my patients and fellow physicians. Although I employ aggressive cutting edge anti-cancer treatments I am also respectful of and willing to incorporate holistic and alternative medicines into patient care. Ultimately I strive to treat each patient with the same respect and diligence I would an ailing member of my own family.

Clinical Interests

Dr. Monjazez is a clinician scientist performing cutting edge clinical and basic science research. He is an internationally recognized expert in cancer immunotherapy. His research is focused on understanding how the immune system can be harnessed to fight cancer and how radiotherapy can be used to promote anti-tumor immune responses. Through his own personal research and national leadership roles in cancer immunotherapy he is able to translate his research into the clinic offering patients novel treatment strategies for cancer.

Dr. Monjazez has a clinical focus on the treatment of gastrointestinal malignancies (including esophageal cancer), sarcoma, melanoma and breast cancers. He specializes in various radiotherapy techniques including intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), image guided radiation therapy (IGRT), stereotactic body radiotherapy (SAR / SBRT) and high dose rate brachytherapy. Dr. Monjazez is a principal investigator on a number of clinical trials testing novel cancer immunotherapy approaches and sees patients with various types of cancers for consideration of these trials.

Title

Professor
CCSG Staff Investigator for Cancer Immunotherapy Laboratory of Cancer Immunology

Specialty

[Radiation Oncology](#), [Cancer](#)

Department

[Radiation Oncology](#)

Division

Radiation Oncology

Center/Program Affiliation

[UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)

Address/Phone

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, 4501 X St. G-140 Sacramento, CA 95817
Phone: 800-362-5566

Additional Phone

Clinic Phone: 916-734-5810
Clinic Referral Phone: 800-362-5566



Arta M. Monjazez, M.D., Ph.D.

Physician Referrals: 800-4-UCDAVIS (800-482-3284)

Education M.D., Wake Forest University (Bowman Gray School of Medicine), Winston-Salem NC 2010
Ph.D., Wake Forest University (Bowman Gray School of Medicine), Winston-Salem NC 2003
B.A., UC Berkeley, Berkeley CA 1997

Internships Harbor – UCLA Medical Center, Torrance CA 2005

Residency Wake Forest University (Bowman Gray School of Medicine), Winston-Salem NC 2010

Professional Memberships American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology

Honors and Awards Dean's Award for Excellence in Team Science, UC Davis, 2017
Sacramento's Top Doctors – Sacramento Magazine, 2016
NCI PD-L1 Development Project Team, 2015
NCI NRG Oncology Committee on Immunotherapy and Immunomodulation, 2014
NIH Association for Clinical and Translational Science – Outstanding Abstract Award, 2013

Select Recent Publications Demisse R, Damle N, Kim E, Gong J, Fakih M, Eng C, Oesterich L, McKenny M, Ji J, Liu J, Louie R, Tam K, Gholami S, Halabi W, Monjazez A, Dayyani F, Cho M. Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy-Based Systemic Treatment in MMR-Deficient or MSI-High Rectal Cancer: Case Series. J Natl Compr Canc Netw. 2020 Jul;18(7):798-804. doi:10.6004/jnccn.2020.7558. PMID:32634770.

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Naik A, Monjazez AM, Decock J. The Obesity Paradox in Cancer, Tumor Immunology, and Immunotherapy: Potential Therapeutic Implications in Triple Negative Breast Cancer. *Front Immunol*. 2019 Aug 14;10:1940. doi:10.3389/fimmu.2019.01940. eCollection 2019. PMID: 31475003.

Wang Z, Aguilar EG, Luna JI, Dunai C, Khuat LT, Le CT, Mirsoian A, Minnar CM, Stoffel KM, Sturgill IR, Grossenbacher SK, Withers SS, Rebhun RB, Hartigan-O'Connor DJ, Méndez-Lagares G, Tarantal AF, Isseroff RR, Griffith TS, Schalper KA, Merleev A, Saha A, Maverakis E, Kelly K, Aljumaily R, Ibrahimi S, Mukherjee S, Machiorlatti M, Vesely SK, Longo DL, Blazar BR, Canter RJ, Murphy WJ, Monjazez AM. Paradoxical effects of obesity on T cell function during tumor progression and PD-1 checkpoint blockade. *Nat Med*. 2019 Jan;25(1):141-151. doi:10.1038/s41591-018-0221-5. Epub 2018 Nov 12. PMID:30420753.

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