

Carol M. Baldwin Foundation Distinguished Lecturer

Suzanne D. Conzen, M.D.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

***“Context-Dependent Role of Glucocorticoid Receptor in
Breast Cancer Subtypes.”***

The Carol M. Baldwin Foundation and The Upstate Cancer Center are proud to welcome Dr. Conzen as to our retreat as our distinguished lecturer. She is a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and Andrea L. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research at UT. She specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. An established physician-scientist with multiple National Cancer Institute grants, Dr. Conzen’s research focuses on the role of the glucocorticoid receptor in prostate, breast, and ovarian cancers. She will be speaking on her research focused on mechanisms of glucocorticoid receptor activity in breast, prostate, and ovarian cancer.



Dr. Conzen notes, “I am a physician-scientist and breast medical oncologist who leads an NIH-funded laboratory studying mechanisms of tumor initiation and progression. My laboratory identified glucocorticoid receptor (GR) signaling as a pathway involved in tumor progression. These findings have led to clinical trials examining antagonism of GR-mediated tumor cell survival pathways in breast, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancer.”

At UTSW, Dr. Conzen established a program to integrate mentoring and training of basic and clinical blood disorder and cancer trainees. Her laboratory uses both animal modeling and molecular approaches to study GR signaling contributing to the development and progression of cancer. Current projects include (1) understanding how GR-mediated stress physiology (following androgen deprivation) drives prostate cancer and in breast cancer, produces divergent effects in ER+ versus ER- breast cancer through nuclear receptor crosstalk; (2) defining tumor cell intrinsic GR signaling pathways that mediate immune cell interactions; and (3) using ChIP-sequencing to determine how novel GR modulators alter chromatin association and subsequent gene expression in tissue-specific contexts.

Dr. Conzen’s team was the first to bring GR antagonism to clinical trials, in collaboration with colleagues Drs. Nanda & Fleming (breast/ovarian) and Szmulewitz (prostate cancer). As a result of these discoveries, she has led several multidisciplinary projects, including two Challenge Awards from the Prostate Cancer Foundation, a Chicago Prostate Cancer SPORE Project and a P50 (Center for Interdisciplinary Health Disparities Research) Project.