

Narrative Biography: Sheetal Kircher, MD, FASCO

Training and Academic Role

Dr. Sheetal Kircher is a medical oncologist and health services researcher. She received her medical degree from Rush Medical College (2006), completed Internal Medicine residency at the University of Chicago (2009), and a Hematology-Oncology fellowship at Northwestern University (2011). She then completed a Health Services Research Fellowship at the Ann Arbor VA and earned a master's in Health Outcomes from the University of Michigan (2013). She is currently a Professor of Medicine in Hematology and Oncology at Northwestern University where she has been on faculty since 2013.

Clinical Care and Research

Dr. Kircher maintains an active oncology practice treating patients with gastrointestinal malignancies while leading initiatives to improve patient care across Northwestern Medicine. As Medical Director of the Survivorship Institute and Clinical Practice Director for Medical Oncology, she drives system-level innovation in survivorship services, care coordination, and clinical operations. She has implemented scalable, EMR-integrated models focused on value-based care, patient education, and quality improvement.

Health Services Research

Dr. Kircher has over 100 peer-reviewed publications

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1b9Zt9seVz5AP/bibliography/public/>). Her research focuses is on cancer care delivery, with consistent funding from federal and foundation sources. Current projects include an EMR-integrated care planning tool to improve care coordination and the NCI Moonshot STELLAR telehealth trial targeting modifiable risk behaviors in survivors.

Local and National Leadership

Locally, as Chair of Advocacy and Policy for the Illinois Medical Oncology Society (IMOS), she co-authored state legislation expanding biomarker testing coverage (HB1770) and medication reuse programs (IDROP). A follow-up bill (HB2346) advanced in 2025.

Nationally, she works closely with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in health services research and health policy. In 2024, Dr. Kircher was honored with the Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (FASCO) distinction, a prestigious recognition of her sustained contributions to the field. She is also a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Policy Advisory Committee.

Federal Policy Impact

From 2016–2022, Dr. Kircher led Northwestern's participation in the CMS Oncology Care Model (OCM), aligning clinical workflows with quality and cost goals. Her published work on financial counseling informed CMS-wide policy revisions. She now serves as a clinical experts advising on evaluation and reporting for CMS's Enhancing Oncology Model (EOM).