

Christina Annunziata, MD, PhD
Senior Vice President Extramural Discovery Science
American Cancer Society

At ACS since 2023

As Senior Vice President of [Extramural Discovery Science \(EDS\)](#), Christina Annunziata, MD, PhD, leads a team of scientific directors and staff to identify the most innovative and promising research from research grant applications to end cancer as we know it for everyone.

In addition to leading the grant [Peer Review](#) process at the American Cancer Society (ACS), Annunziata builds and fosters critical relationships with cancer researchers across the nation and with international scientific communities.

Research focus and accomplishments

Annunziata has been a leader in innovative cancer research in the laboratory and in clinical trials. Her laboratory established the NF-kappaB signaling pathway as important for ovarian cancer stem cells and their progression. This work led to an investigator-initiated clinical trial using the SMAC mimetic class of drugs, which has now moved to a multi-center trial to test the efficacy of SMAC mimetic in combination with standard chemotherapy for patients with chemo-refractory, recurrent ovarian cancer.

She also developed the field of intraperitoneal cellular immunotherapy. This is a type of immunotherapy where the patient's own cells are engineered to attack cancer cells. Since ovarian cancer grows predominantly in the abdomen, Annunziata reasoned that the therapy would be most effective if administered directly to the site of the cancer. She tested different types of cells in the immune system – both innate and adaptive – along with cytokines to support the immune cells. The next steps will be to combine the components to maximize their anti-cancer activity.

In addition to her research, Annunziata has chaired scientific peer review committees for both laboratory and clinical research grant proposals. These include committees across the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and the Department of Defense.

Professional organizations

- American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Evidence-Based Medicine Committee, Member
- ASCO, Grants Evaluation Panel, Member
- Department of Defense (DoD), Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), Ovarian Cancer Research Program, Programmatic Panel, Chair
- National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bench to Bedside Award Committee, Chair

Education

- Fellowship: Medical Oncology, National Cancer Institute
- Residency: Internal Medicine, Georgetown University
- MD, PhD: Cancer Biology, Georgetown University
- BS: Biology, Georgetown University

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CITED BY</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
<u>Frequent engagement of the classical and alternative NF-κB pathways by diverse genetic abnormalities in multiple myeloma</u> CM Annunziata, RE Davis, Y Demchenko, W Bellamy, A Gabrea, F Zhan, ... Cancer cell 12 (2), 115-130	<u>1125</u>	2007
<u>Combination targeted therapy with sorafenib and bevacizumab results in enhanced toxicity and antitumor activity</u> NS Azad, EM Posadas, VE Kwitkowski, SM Steinberg, L Jain, ... Journal of clinical oncology: official journal of the American Society of ...	<u>376</u>	2008
<u>Efficacy and safety of avelumab for patients with recurrent or refractory ovarian cancer: phase 1b results from the JAVELIN solid tumor trial</u> ML Disis, MH Taylor, K Kelly, JT Beck, M Gordon, KM Moore, MR Patel, ... JAMA oncology 5 (3), 393-401	<u>338</u>	2019
<u>Germline and somatic tumor testing in epithelial ovarian cancer: ASCO guideline</u> PA Konstantinopoulos, B Norquist, C Lacchetti, D Armstrong, RN Grisham, ... Journal of clinical oncology: official journal of the American Society of ...	<u>288</u>	2020
<u>Safety and clinical activity of the programmed death-ligand 1 inhibitor durvalumab in combination with poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase inhibitor olaparib or vascular endothelial ...</u> JM Lee, A Cimino-Mathews, CJ Peer, A Zimmer, S Lipkowitz, ... Journal of Clinical Oncology 35 (19), 2193	<u>244</u>	2017
<u>Tumour-elicited neutrophils engage mitochondrial metabolism to circumvent nutrient limitations and maintain immune suppression</u> CM Rice, LC Davies, JJ Subleski, N Maio, M Gonzalez-Cotto, C Andrews, ... Nature communications 9 (1), 5099	<u>235</u>	2018
<u>Phase I/Ib Study of Olaparib and Carboplatin in BRCA1 or BRCA2 Mutation-Associated Breast or Ovarian Cancer With Biomarker Analyses</u> JM Lee, JL Hays, CM Annunziata, AM Noonan, L Minasian, JA Zujewski, ... Journal of the National Cancer Institute 106 (6), dju089	<u>216</u>	2014
<u>Nuclear factor κB transcription factors are coexpressed and convey a poor outcome in ovarian cancer</u> CM Annunziata, HT Stavnes, L Kleinberg, A Berner, LF Hernandez, ... Cancer 116 (13), 3276-3284	<u>181</u>	2010
<u>Prexasertib, a cell cycle checkpoint kinase 1 and 2 inhibitor, in BRCA wild-type recurrent high-grade serous ovarian cancer: a first-in-class proof-of-concept phase 2 study</u> JM Lee, J Nair, A Zimmer, S Lipkowitz, CM Annunziata, MJ Merino, ... The Lancet Oncology 19 (2), 207-215	<u>175</u>	2018
<u>Itaconic acid mediates crosstalk between macrophage metabolism and peritoneal tumors</u> JM Weiss, LC Davies, M Karwan, L Ileva, MK Ozaki, RYS Cheng, ... The Journal of clinical investigation 128 (9), 3794-3805	<u>174</u>	2018

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CITED BY</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
<u>Radiation therapy for cervical cancer: executive summary of an ASTRO clinical practice guideline</u> J Chino, CM Annunziata, S Beriwal, L Bradfield, BA Erickson, EC Fields, ... Practical radiation oncology 10 (4), 220-234	<u>150</u>	2020
<u>Combination of PARP inhibitor olaparib, and PD-L1 inhibitor durvalumab, in recurrent ovarian cancer: a proof-of-concept phase II study</u> EJ Lampert, A Zimmer, M Padget, A Cimino-Mathews, JR Nair, Y Liu, ... Clinical Cancer Research 26 (16), 4268-4279	<u>144</u>	2020
<u>Activation of NF-κB signaling by inhibitor of NF-κB kinase β increases aggressiveness of ovarian cancer</u> L Hernandez, SC Hsu, B Davidson, MJ Birrer, EC Kohn, CM Annunziata Cancer research 70 (10), 4005-4014	<u>144</u>	2010
<u>Reed-Sternberg cell genome expression supports a B-cell lineage</u> J Cossman, CM Annunziata, S Barash, L Staudt, P Dillon, WW He, ... Blood, The Journal of the American Society of Hematology 94 (2), 411-416	<u>131</u>	1999
<u>The sumoylation pathway is dysregulated in multiple myeloma and is associated with adverse patient outcome</u> JJ Driscoll, D Pelluru, K Lefkimmatis, M Fulciniti, RH Prabhala, PR Greipp, ... Blood, The Journal of the American Society of Hematology 115 (14), 2827-2834	<u>124</u>	2010
<u>Proteasome inhibitors increase tubulin polymerization and stabilization in tissue culture cells: a possible mechanism contributing to peripheral neuropathy and cellular ...</u> MS Poruchynsky, DL Sackett, RW Robey, Y Ward, C Annunziata, T Fojo Cell Cycle 7 (7), 940-949	<u>116</u>	2008
<u>Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase as a novel therapeutic target in cancer</u> CM Annunziata, J O'Shaughnessy Clinical Cancer Research 16 (18), 4517-4526	<u>114</u>	2010
<u>Proteomics in clinical trials and practice: present uses and future promise</u> NS Azad, N Rasool, CM Annunziata, L Minasian, G Whiteley, EC Kohn Molecular & Cellular Proteomics 5 (10), 1819-1829	<u>114</u>	2006
<u>Rapid image deconvolution and multiview fusion for optical microscopy</u> M Guo, Y Li, Y Su, T Lambert, DD Nogare, MW Moyle, LH Duncan, ... Nature biotechnology 38 (11), 1337-1346	<u>113</u>	2020
<u>Characterization of ovarian cancer cell lines as in vivo models for preclinical studies</u> L Hernandez, MK Kim, LT Lyle, KP Bunch, CD House, F Ning, ... Gynecologic oncology 142 (2), 332-340	<u>107</u>	2016