



4TH LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON LUNG CANCER

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



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I am a surgical and molecular pathologist with a strong record of scientific achievements in the study of lung and gastrointestinal cancers that includes more than 200 peer-reviewed papers and several book chapters. I am the Director of the Thoracic Molecular Pathology Laboratory of the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology and the director of the M. D. Anderson Lung SPORE tissue bank. My laboratory is furnished with state-of-art equipment for tissue processing, immunohistochemistry, fluorescence in situ hybridization, image analysis, tissue microdissection, molecular pathology, and tissue culture. One of my major research interests is elucidation of the molecular abnormalities involved in the early pathogenesis and progression of lung cancer. My research interests also include identification of molecular markers for prognosis, identification of new molecular targets, validation of biomarkers for targeted therapy, and identification of molecular markers associated with metastasis development. A major aspect of my efforts involves overseeing correlative laboratory biomarker studies for lung cancer prevention and therapy trials and preclinical studies of animal lung carcinogenesis.

In lung cancer, I have been instrumental in the development of the current working model of the sequential molecular abnormalities in the pathogenesis of squamous cell carcinoma of the lung and in establishing the early molecular pathogenesis of EGFR-mutant lung adenocarcinomas. I have established an invaluable tissue bank resource for thoracic malignancies with more than 2000 frozen and archival lung cancer and pleural mesothelioma specimens, and a database of clinical and other information associated with these patient samples. I also coordinate the distribution of specimens for molecular analysis to several institutional and national research projects, including the Department of Defense and NCI-funded studies. Under my direction, this tissue bank continues to collect and process specimens obtained from patients in a multitude of lung and other thoracic neoplasia settings.