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Hartford, CT

THE 37TH ANNUAL MARY MULREADY  
SULLIVAN ONCOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

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## Innovations in Cancer Care 2026: Biology, New Therapies and AI

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Thursday, May 21, 2026  
8AM to 2PM

Hartford Marriott Downtown  
200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103

Virtual attendance via zoom is available  
but in-person attendance encouraged

  
**Hartford  
HealthCare**  
Cancer Institute

80 Seymour Street  
P.O. Box 5037  
Hartford, CT 06102-5037

  
**Hartford  
HealthCare**  
Cancer Institute

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Sponsored by the Mary Mulready Sullivan  
Oncology Lectureship Fund

### Program Description

The microbiome plays a major role in human diseases. Our gut and oral microbiomes may directly influence carcinogenesis, exert various types of influences on cancer development and progression, impact effectiveness and adverse effects from various cancer therapies, modulate immunotherapy effectiveness, and alter cellular therapy effects.

Cell free DNA fragments can act as powerful biomarkers. Their presence may enable the care team to detect, diagnose, assess treatment effectiveness, and establish prognosis. Analyzing the circulating DNA through a “liquid biopsy” may help guide targeted therapy, track the progression of disease, detect disease recurrence, or assess the tumor burden.

Proton therapy is a highly precise form of radiation therapy that uses a beam of protons to treat the tumor area when surrounded by critical normal tissues. It deposits less radiation in the tissues adjacent to the tumor and is therefore most helpful in selected cancer sites.

The liver is a common site of primary or metastatic cancer progression, and a highly coordinated team is required to help provide personalized care for this patient population. New innovations in therapy include histotripsy, and other approaches.

Artificial intelligence is making meaningful inroads in the oncology space, including augmenting image assessment for cancer screening and diagnosis, assistance in pathology interpretation and assessment, analysis of large data sets for personalizing care, exploring clinical trial eligibility, or predicting adverse effects, and improving oncologist workflows, amongst many.

### Program Objectives

Express the potential benefits of proton therapy, including the cancer sites, patient populations, and specific scenarios where its use is beneficial.

Explain the use of cell free DNA liquid biopsy as a means for monitoring effectiveness of treatment and total amount of treatment needed.

Describe the potential for large language models to assess complex data sets and help support the delivery of personalized cancer care for patients.

Discuss the role of the gut microbiome in influencing tolerability and effectiveness of cancer therapy.

Expound on new innovations in liver directed cancer therapy such as histotripsy, including the role of the multidisciplinary team.

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### Symposium Fees

#### IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE:

Physicians: \$50

APRNs, RNs, Residents, Others: \$20

Students (registration required): \$0

#### VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:

All Participants: \$40

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**Registration Deadline: May 20, 2026**

#### Registration:

[https://hhchealth.cloud-cme.com/MMS\\_2026](https://hhchealth.cloud-cme.com/MMS_2026)

#### Parking

Parking is free at the Marriott, CT Convention Center Garage, 100 Columbus Blvd, Hartford

#### For questions:

Robin Jascowski

[Robin.jascowski@hhchealth.org](mailto:Robin.jascowski@hhchealth.org) or 860.972.2380

# Innovations in Cancer Care 2026: Biology, New Therapies and AI

<b>8–8:30 am</b>	<b>Registration and exhibits</b>
<b>8:30–8:45 am</b>	<b>Greetings</b> <i>Peter Yu, MD and Ryan Sullivan, MD</i>
<b>8:45–9:25 am</b>	<b>Enhancing cancer care with the opportunities of proton therapy</b> <i>Helen Shih, MD, Mass General Brigham</i>
<b>9:25–10:05 am</b>	<b>The gut microbiome: an overlooked partner in cancer treatment</b> <i>Diwakar Davar, MD, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center</i>
<b>10:05–10:35 am</b>	<b>Break and exhibits</b>
<b>10:35–11:15 am</b>	<b>AI support in cancer: what clinicians need to know about large language models</b> <i>Ramez Kouzy, MD, MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>
<b>11:15–11:55 am</b>	<b>Liquid biopsy for minimal residual disease assessment and therapy selection in solid tumors</b> <i>Adam Widman, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</i>
<b>11:55 am–12:30 pm</b>	<b>Lunch and exhibits</b>
<b>12:30–1:15 pm</b>	<b>Liver-directed therapies in interventional radiology: emerging technologies</b> <i>Ken Zhao, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</i>  <b>Liver cancer case discussion</b> <i>Oscar Serrano, MD, Transplant Surgery</i> <i>Adriana Blakaj, MD, Radiation Oncology</i> <i>Jay Thumar, MD, GI Medical Oncology</i> <i>Timothy Huber, MD, Radiology</i>
<b>1:15–1:55 pm</b>	<b>Panel discussion Q &amp; A</b>
<b>1:55–2 pm</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>

## Guest Faculty

**Helen Shih, MD, MS, MPH, AM, FASTRO**  
Vice Chair of New Technologies and Proton Therapy,  
Department of Radiation Oncology,  
Mass General Brigham  
Professor, Harvard Medical School

**Diwakar Davar, MD**  
Clinical Director, Melanoma and Skin Cancer Program  
Vice-Chief of Academic Affairs  
Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of  
Medicine, University of Pittsburgh  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Hillman Cancer Centre and University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center, University of Pittsburgh

**Ramez Kouzy, MD**  
Resident in Radiation Oncology  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Research collaborator with many labs, AI and Large  
Language Models

**Adam Widman, MD**  
Assistant Attending, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer  
Center, Breast Oncology  
PI Digital Oncology Program, MSKCC

**Ken Zhao, MD**  
Assistant Member, Interventional Radiology, Memorial  
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
Assistant Professor of Radiology, Weill Cornell Medical  
College - New York, NY

## Hartford HealthCare Faculty

**Oscar Serrano, MD**  
Transplant Surgery

**Adriana Blakaj, MD**  
Radiation Oncology

**Jay Thumar, MD**  
GI Medical Oncology

**Timothy Huber, MD**  
Radiology

## Continuing Medical Education

In support of improving patient care, Hartford HealthCare is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

### Physicians

Hartford HealthCare designates this live and live internet activity for up to **4.5 hours** of AMA PRA Category 1 credit™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

- **MOC for American Board of Internal Medicine:** Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to **4.5** Medical Knowledge MOC points in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

### Nurses

This activity is designated for a maximum of **4.5 ANCC contact hours**.

### Interprofessional Continuing Education

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive **4.5** Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit for learning and change.

### All Others

All other learners will receive a Certificate of Participation for **4.5** hours of education. Consult your professional licensing board regarding the applicability and acceptance of certificates of participation for educational activities certified by organizations accredited by Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education.

**Financial Disclosures:** Please see registration page for information on faculty and disclosures. All relationships with ineligible companies have been mitigated to limit real or perceived bias.