

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Biren Saraiya

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): saraiybi

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Rutgers University	BS/BS	05/96	Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School	MD	05/02	Medicine
UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Medicine	Residency	06/05	Internal Medicine
UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Medicine	Fellowship	06/08	Hematology and Oncology

A. Personal Statement

I am a medical oncologist with clinical and research expertise in genitourinary cancers, including prostate cancer. I have been a member of the Genitourinary (GU) Medical Team for most of my academic career. I am also an active member of the GU Disease Study Group and have led studies as site Principal (PI) for multiple cooperative groups, cancer therapeutics evaluation program (CTEP) and NIH sponsored, investigator initiated and industry sponsored studies. Further, during my tenure at Rutgers, I have served in multiple roles including Medical Director of a regional cancer center overseeing the delivery of cancer care for a hospital in which I provide oversight of 800+ cancer cases a year. Under my leadership, we grew the program volume and established quality programs such as multidisciplinary breast, thoracic and outpatient palliative care programs; all were integrated into routine oncological care. I have also led an oncology program in a physician led multidisciplinary group, Summit Medical Group, leading the effort to integrate radiation oncology and palliative oncology. My personal research interests center on improving patient-physician communications and improving patient centered care. With my colleagues, we have started palliative care research group (PCRG) at Rutgers that consists of 40+ faculty and clinicians from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, School of Public Health, School of Communications, and Institute of Health. I am principal investigator and MPI on two pilot studies that are funded by the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence that are focused on development and testing interventions to reduce financial toxicity and improve cancer caregiving outcomes. In addition, I have collaborated with Dr. Kinney for the past 2.5 years on her ongoing NCI-funded R01 randomized trial that is testing Tai Chi Qigong vs. an exercise intensity matched intervention in fatigued men with cancer where most of the study participants have prostate cancer. These experiences will be brought to bear on this highly significant, practice changing research project. I look forward to working with the stellar team that Drs. Kinney and Schwartz have assembled.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

2018 - Present	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
1996-1999	Systems Engineer, Intelligent Network Design and Engineering, Bellcore/Telcordia Technologies, Red Bank, New Jersey

2001-2007	Instructor: Physical Diagnosis for Medical Students (MS III), Case Based Learning (MS II), Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ
2005-2015	Director and Instructor, Hospice and Palliative Medicine Elective for 3 rd and 4 th year medical students, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ
2006-2015	Activity Director, Palliative Care Symposium, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ
2008-2015	Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
2008-2015	Facilitator: Patient Centered Medicine – longitudinal course for our students over 4 years - facilitate group of 10-12 students on a weekly basis for 2 years at a time, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ
2008-2015	Affiliate Member, Institute of Health, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
2009-2011	Investigational Review Board Committee, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ
2011-2015	Medical Director, CINJ Hamilton – Satellite practice of CINJ with 3 medical Oncologists
2015-2018	Division Chief, Hematology Summit Medical Group, Berkeley Heights, NJ

Honors

2004 – 2005	Sister Marie DiPazzi Award for scholarship, humanism and professionalism
2005	Gold Humanism Honor Society
2011	Research Mentorship Award, Department of Medicine, RWJMS

C. Contributions to Science

1. Clinical Research – Prostate Cancer

As clinical GU medical oncologist, I have been part of multiple national studies serving as site principal investigator. These studies span from Phase 1 to phase III and cancer therapy evaluation program (CTEP), to cooperative group to industry sponsored studies.

- Apolo, AB, Nadal, R., Girardi, DM, Niglio SA, Ley L., Cordes LM, Steinberg SM, Ortiz OS, Cadena J., Diaz C., Mallek M., Davarpanah NN, Costello R., Trepel JB, Lee MJ, Merino MJ, Bagheri MH, Monk P., Figg WD, Gulley JL, Agarwal PK, Valera V., Chalfin HJ, Jones J., Streicher H., Wright JJ, Ning YM, Parnes HL, Dahut WL, Bottaro DP, Lara Jr PM, **Saraiya B**, Pal SK, Stein MN, Mortazavi A. *Phase I study of Cabozantinib and Nivolumab Alone or with Ipilimumab for Advanced or Metastatic Urothelial Carcinoma and Other Genitourinary Tumors*. J Clin Oncol ePub Sept 18, 2020
- Kim, IE, Kim, S, Srivastava, A., **Saraiya, B.**, Mayer, T., Kim, WJ., Kim, IY., *Similar incidence of DNA damage response pathway alterations between clinically localized and metastatic prostate cancer* BMC urology 19 (1), 33, 2019
- (Invited Editorial) Parikh, RR., **Saraiya, B.**, *Multidisciplinary care in high-risk prostate cancer is the new standard of care*, J Clin Oncol. 2019 May 10;37(14):1143-1147.
- (Abstract) Shindler, B, Kim, S, Patel HV, Srivastava A, Mayer TM, Saraiya, B, Singer EA. *Factors associated with clinical trial participation for patients with prostate cancer*: J Clin Onc 38 no. 29_suppl Oct 20, 2020 p. 96

2. Integration of Palliative Care into Routine Oncological Care

I have focused on integration of palliative care into routine oncological care since the beginning of my academic career. I worked with Drs. Buss and Hui in 2010-11 to prepare and present the concept of integration of palliative care into phase 1 clinical trials. This nascent concept was presented at Annual Meeting of American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine in 2011. After the publication of Dr. Jennifer Temel's landmark study of early palliative care integration into routine oncological care, I worked at local levels to both integrate palliative care and spread the word across the local region to advocate for integration of palliative care.

- Hui, D, Buss, M., **Saraiya B.**, *Phase 1 and Palliative Care: The Unnecessary Dilemma*. (2011) Journal

of Pain and Symptom Management January 2011; 41(1): 223

- b. **Grand Rounds Speaker: RWJUH Somerset** “*Integrated Palliative Care into Routine Oncological Care*” Cancer Center Grand Rounds Speaker, December 2, 2012

3. Improving Communication Skills in Clinical Practice

While working with the Oncotalk faculty, we had the privilege to contribute in a special Cancer Journal issue focusing on palliative care. Along with collaborators from Oncotalk Teach and the faculty, I published two review articles. Articles reflect some of the challenges oncologists face in having discussions about prognosis and provided a road map for oncologist based on the fundamental skill set of Oncotalk. These are some of the same skills that we will be highlighting in the VOICE 2.0 intervention. I have also focused on original work in communication skills using technology such as “google chat.”

- a. **Saraiya B**, Arnold R, Tulsy JA. Communication skills for discussing treatment options when chemotherapy has failed. *Cancer J.* 2010;16(5):521-3. Epub 2010/10/05. doi: 10.1097/PPO.0b013e3181f28800. PubMed PMID: 20890150.
- b. Campbell TC, Carey EC, Jackson VA, **Saraiya B**, Yang HB, Back AL, Arnold RM. Discussing prognosis: balancing hope and realism. *Cancer J.* 2010;16(5):461-6. Epub 2010/10/05. doi: 10.1097/PPO.0b013e3181f30e07. PubMed PMID: 20890141.
- c. **Saraiya, B.**, Avvento, P., Google Chat as an Online Innovative Personalized Communication Skills training Program (2013) *J Pain and Symp Mgmt* 2013 45(2); 389

4. Collaborating with Social Scientists

My journey in academic medicine started working with Howard Leventhal PhD at Rutgers Institute of Aging and his students. We analyzed audio recordings of patient and caregiver interviews on end of life care. During this time, I also served as a mentor to Dr. Bodnar-Deren’s work for her PhD. In the second phase of my academic career, my work has been with Drs. Paul Duberstein and Dr. Login George.

- a. **Saraiya B**, Bodnar-Deren S, Leventhal E, Leventhal H. End-of-life planning and its relevance for patients' and oncologists' decisions in choosing cancer therapy. *Cancer.* 2008;113(12 Suppl):3540-7. Epub 2008/12/06. doi: 10.1002/cncr.23946. PubMed PMID: 19058149; PMCID: PMC2606925.
- b. (Submitted) George LS, Matsoukas K., McFarland DC, Bowers JM, Doherty MJ, Atkinson TM, Kozlov E, **Saraiya, B**, Prigerson HG, Breitbart W. *Interventions to Improve Prognostic Understanding in Advanced Stages of Life Limited Illness: A Systemic Review*
- c. (Accepted) Grafova, IB, Manne SL, Bandera EV, **Saraiya B**, Llanos AAM, Devine KA, Hudson, SV, Paddock LE, Tsui J, Elliott J, Stroup AM, Duberstein PR. *Financial hardship among cancer survivors in Southern New Jersey Supportive Care in Cancer.* 2021

D. Research Support

New Jersey Health Foundation Saraiya(PI) 02/01/2020-12/31/2022
Feasibility Study of an Oncologist Communications Intervention: Enhancing Values and Options In Cancer Care (eVOICE) and Its Impact on Patients and Caregivers

Aim: This project evaluated feasibility and acceptability of triadic intervention of oncologist, patients and caregiver dyad and a new caregiver module.

Role: Principal Investigator

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey- 2021 Cancer Health equity Center of Excellence Pilot Award
Saraiya (PI) 03/01/2021-03/01/2024
Exploring Patient and Caregiver Perspectives and Experiences with Financial Toxicity

Aim: Our aim is to understand financial toxicity (FT) in patients with hematological malignancies. The project looks to developing an intervention that includes optimal screening, counseling and education to improve patient and caregiver outcomes. This project will conduct purposive interviews with patients, caregivers, clinicians and administrators with focus on patients at high risk for developing FT based on retrospective survey.

Role: Principal Investigator

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey- 2020 Cancer Health equity Center of Excellence Pilot Award
Duberstein (PI) 03/01/2021-03/01/2024

A Pilot of the VOICE 2.0 Caregiver Intervention: Latinx and African American/Black Participants

Aim: This project evaluates feasibility and acceptability of triadic intervention of oncologist, patients and caregiver dyad and a new caregiver module with focus on Latinx and Black Patients. This project includes English and Spanish speaking patients.

Role: Co-Investigator