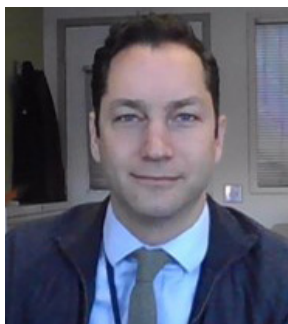


Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

July - September 2024

Spotlight Feature

SOLOMON GRAF, MD



Solomon Graf, MD, is a Staff Physician in Medical Oncology at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA Puget Sound), Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Washington (UW), and Associate Professor in the Clinical Research Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center (FHCC). He received his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine and completed internal medicine residency and fellowship in hematology and oncology at the UW. Dr. Graf attends in the VA Puget Sound's Medical Oncology and Marrow Transplant Services and is a member of the Hematologic Malignancies Section of the VA Oncology Clinical Pathways program.

Dr. Graf conducts clinical research around the development of novel, targeted cancer therapies and studying patient factors, including behaviors and supportive care, as they relate to cancer outcomes. With industry partnerships and collaborations with the UW/FHCC Lymphoma Group and the National VA Hematology Malignancy Research Group, and with essential support of SIBCR, Dr. Graf has been site PI on several pivotal studies of inhibitors of the Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTKi) that led to FDA approvals in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Mantle Cell Lymphoma. While a key advance in treating B-cell malignancies, BTKi's are standardly dosed indefinitely until intolerance or disease progression, often causing accumulating side effects and financial burden. As a next step to optimize their use, Dr. Graf is co-investigator on a VA CSR&D Merit Award "Benefit of Venetoclax Addition (Benefit VA) in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma" that will pragmatically evaluate in a multi-site, randomized study converting indefinite CLL treatment with a BTKi to fixed-duration treatment by adding the synergistically active drug venetoclax. Dr. Graf's collaborations with VA Puget Sound's Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) Investigators Jose Garcia, MD, PhD, and Lindsey Anderson, PhD, are aimed at maintaining and restoring fitness and function through the course of cancer management, and include the evaluation of testosterone replacement in patients with a history of cancer (PI: Garcia) and neuromuscular electrical stimulation in patients undergoing stem cell transplantation (PI: Anderson).

UPCOMING EVENT

R&D Seminar - Catherine A. Blish, MD, PhD, FIDSA, Professor of Medicine – Infectious Diseases, Stanford University School of Medicine; Associate Dean for Basic and Translational Research, Stanford University School of Medicine; Co-Director, Stanford MD-PhD program; Associate Director, Stanford Medical Scientist Training Program; Fellow, Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health (CIGH) - **August 6th, 2024**, Seminar: 12 PM to 1 PM, Junior Investigator Q&A Session: 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, VA Building 101-1E80-90 and Virtual - Title: *Natural Killer Cells in the Battle of Host vs. Pathogen*

ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you to those who attended SIBCR's Annual Members' Meeting on May 16th. For those who missed the meeting, highlights from it are listed in SIBCR's Annual Report, which can be found here: <https://sibcr.org/annual-report/>