

22<sup>nd</sup>

INTERNATIONAL  
**ULTMANN**  
**CHICAGO**  
**LYMPHOMA**  
**SYMPOSIUM**

# CAR-T cells in Follicular Lymphoma

---

Nirav Shah, MD MS  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin

# Disclosure Summary

Role	Relationship	Company/ies
Advisory Board	Advisor	Gilead-Kite, BMS-Juno, Miltenyi Biomedicine, Lilly Oncology, Incyte, Abbvie, Cargo, Beigene, Kite, Allogene, Astrazeneca, Genentech, Ipsen, and Galapagos
Research Funding	Researcher	Miltenyi Biotec, Lilly Oncology, Genentech
Scientific Advisory Board	Founder	Tundra Therapeutics

# Three CD19 CARs in Lymphoma 2025

	Axi-Cel/Brexu-Cel	Tisa-Cel	Lisa-Cel
Construct	CD28, CD3 $\zeta$ , FMC63 binding domain	4-1BB, CD3 $\zeta$ , FMC63 binding domain	4-1BB, CD3 $\zeta$ , FMC63 binding domain Fixed 1:1 ratio of CD4: CD8 T-cells
Vector	retrovirus	lentiviral	lentiviral
Lympho-depletion	<u>Lymphoma</u> Flu: 30 mg/m <sup>2</sup> x 3D Cy: 500 mg/m <sup>2</sup> x 3D	<u>Lymphoma</u> Flu: 25 mg/m <sup>2</sup> x 3D Cy: 250 mg/m <sup>2</sup> x 3D  Or Bendamustine 90 mg/m <sup>2</sup> x 2 days	<u>Lymphoma</u> Flu: 30 mg/m <sup>2</sup> x 3D Cy: 300 mg/m <sup>2</sup> x 3D
Approval	DLBCL, PMBCL, FL, MCL, B-cell ALL	Pediatric ALL and adult DLBCL, FL	DLBCL, tFL, PMBCL, HGBL, FL, MCL, CLL

# Multiply Relapsed Follicular Lymphoma

A litany of treatment options are available in the third line plus patient population

## SUGGESTED TREATMENT REGIMENS<sup>a,b,c</sup>

THIRD-LINE AND SUBSEQUENT THERAPY	
Subsequent systemic therapy options include second-line therapy regimens ( <a href="#">FOLL-B 2 of 6</a> ) that were not previously given.	
<b>Preferred regimens (in alphabetical order)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• T-cell engager therapy<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Bispecific antibody therapy<sup>l,m</sup><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◊ Epcoritamab-bysp</li><li>◊ Mosunetuzumab-axgb</li></ul></li><li>▶ Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy<sup>n</sup><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◊ Axicabtagene ciloleucel (CD19-directed)</li><li>◊ Lisocabtagene maraleucel (CD19-directed)</li><li>◊ Tisagenlecleucel (CD19-directed)</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	<b>Other recommended regimens</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EZH2 inhibitor<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Tazemetostat<sup>l</sup> (irrespective of EZH2 mutation status)</li></ul></li><li>• BTK inhibitor (BTKi)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Zanubrutinib<sup>l</sup> + obinutuzumab</li></ul></li><li>• Loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl + rituximab (category 2B)<sup>k</sup></li></ul>

## THIRD-LINE CONSOLIDATION THERAPY

### Useful in Certain Circumstances

- Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) in selected cases<sup>o</sup>

# Axicabtagene ciloleucel

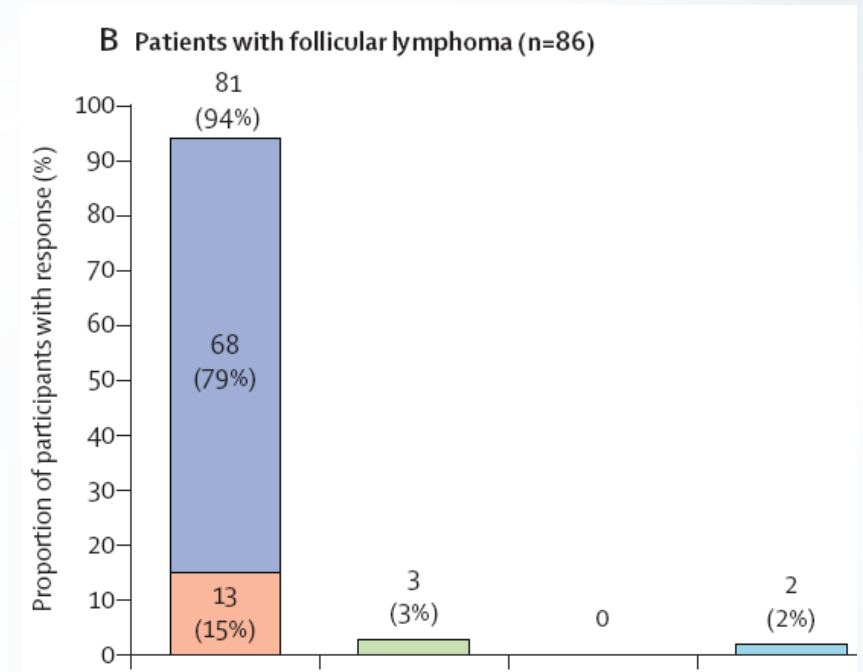
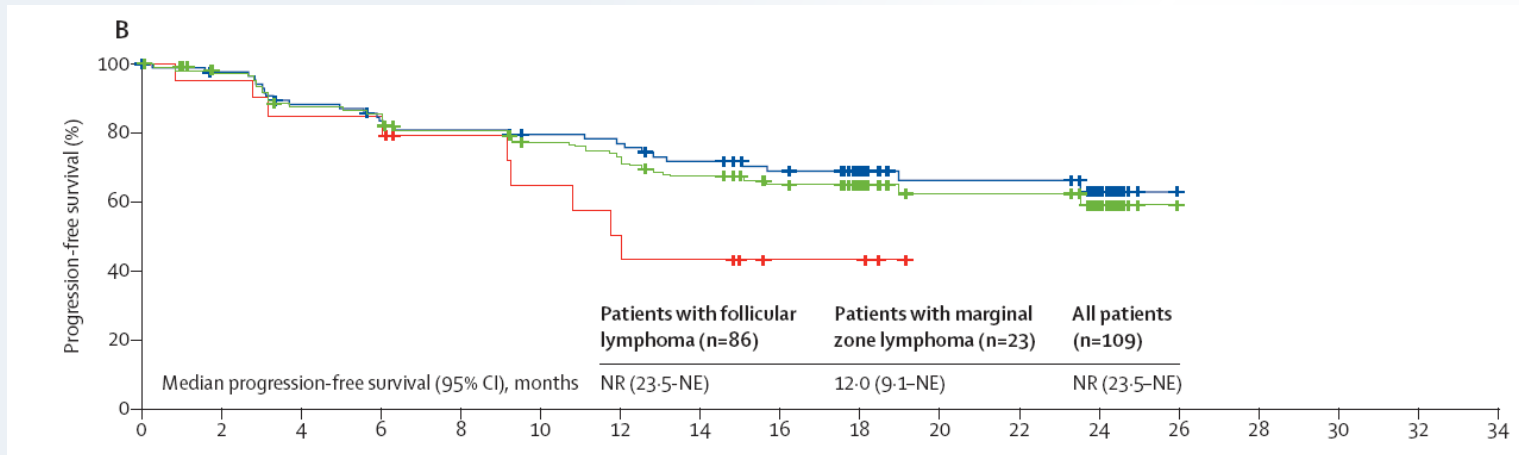
ZUMA-5 was a single-arm, multicenter phase II trial for axi-cel in patients with relapsed FL and MZL that had failed 2+ lines of therapy

- 124 patients had Follicular lymphoma
- Median age was 60 years
- Majority of these patients had 3+ lines of therapy
- 52% had high tumor bulk by GELF criteria

Patients with follicular lymphoma (n=124)	
(Continued from previous column)	
Previous lines of therapy	
Median†	3 (2-4)
≥3 previous lines of therapy	78 (63%)
Previous PI3K inhibitor	34 (27%)
Previous autologous stem-cell transplantation	30 (24%)
Previous anti-CD20 mAb and alkylating agent	123 (99%)
Previous anti-CD20 mAb single agent	39 (31%)
Previous alkylating single agent	16 (13%)
Previous lenalidomide	38 (31%)
Relapsed or refractory subgroup‡	
Refractory to last previous therapy	84 (68%)
POD24 from initiating first anti-CD20 mAb-containing therapy§	68 (55%)

# ZUMA-5 Results

- ORR of 94% with CR rate of 79%
- 18 month PFS for the entire cohort was 65%
- Median PFS/OS/DOR were not met at the time of this publication



# 5-year follow-up from ZUMA-5

Presented at ASH 2024

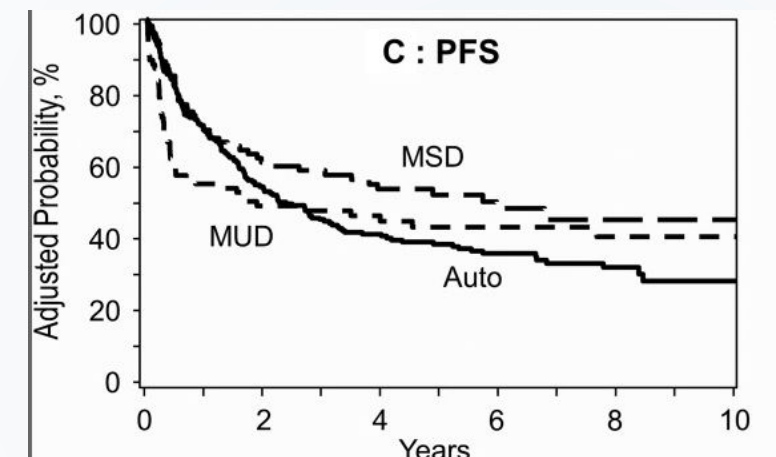
- Median Follow-up of 65 months presented
- Median PFS for FL patients was 57 months
- Median OS not reached, and 5-year OS was 69%
- For FL patients, 60-month cumulative incidence of progression or lymphoma-related death was 35% and cumulative incidence of non-lymphoma death was 15%.
- Perhaps premature in FL; but abstract suggested curative potential of CAR-T in Follicular lymphoma

Neelapu et al ASH 2024  
Smith et al Cancer 2018

While these numbers are impressive:  
a counterpoint

CIBMTR data for FL patients with early treatment failure demonstrate 5-year PFS of 38% and 5-year OS of 70% (*yet no one will call auto-HCT curative*)

Progression-free survival	239	
1 y		70 (64-76)
3 y		45 (38-52)
5 y		38 (32-45)
Overall survival	240	
1 y		89 (85-93)
3 y		79 (74-85)
5 y		70 (64-76)





# Toxicity

## **Cytokine release syndrome occurred in 78% of patients with FL**

- 6% had Grade 3+ CRS
- Median time to onset of CRS was 5 days after infusion
- 1 non-relapse mortality in high tumor burden FL patients who died of multi-organ failure

## **Neurological Events occurred in 56% of FL patients**

- Grade 1-2 in 41% of patients
- Grade 3-4 in 15% of patients
- Median time to neurological event is 7 days and median duration of toxicity was 14 days

Grade 3+ infections occurred in 18% of patients overall.



# Tisagenlecleucel, CD19 CAR-T cell therapy in R/R FL

- ELARA Trial is a Phase II, multicenter trial in R/R FL that has failed 2+ lines of treatment
- Primary endpoint was CR rate
- 97/98 patients received infusion
- Included patients with Grade 1, 2, or 3A FL
- Median lines of therapy was 4
- 25% of patients were 65+ years old

**Table 1 | Baseline demographic and disease characteristics of all treated patients**

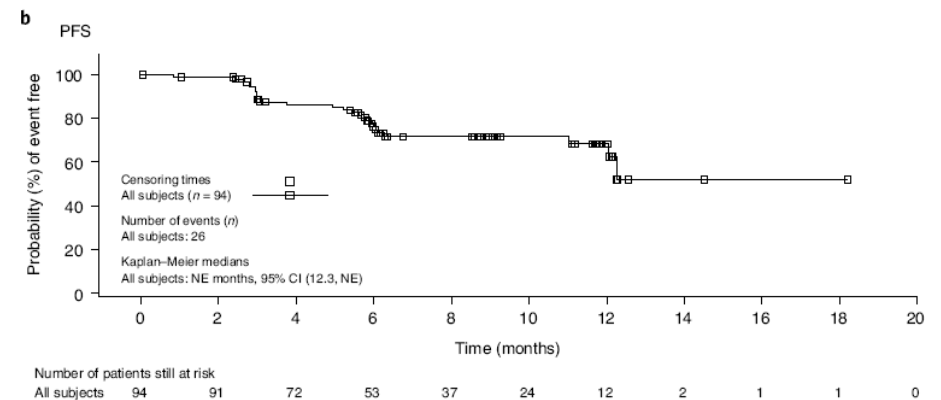
Parameter	Infused patients, n = 97
Median age (IQR), years	57.0 (49–64)
≥65 Years, n (%)	24 (24.7)
Male, n (%)	64 (66.0)
Female, n (%)	33 (34)
ECOG PS ≥1 before infusion, n (%)	41 (43.3)
Stage at study entry III–IV, n (%)	83 (85.6)
Bone marrow involvement at study entry, n (%)	37 (38.1)
Bulky disease at baseline, n (%)	62 (63.9)
FLIPI high (≥3) at study entry, n (%)	58 (59.8)
Median no. of previous therapies (range)	4 (2–13)
>4 lines of therapy, n (%)	27 (27.8)

# Outcomes for Tisa-cel in R/R FL

- Primary Endpoint of CR rate was 65.5%
- Overall response rate was 81%
- Among 31 patients who achieved a PR, 15 converted to a CR'
- Patients with POD24 had low CR rate of 59% versus 88%
- 12-month PFS was 67%
- Among patients who achieved a CR, estimated 12-month PFS was 67%

**Table 2 | Best overall response in the EAS and per-protocol population<sup>a</sup>**

Parameter	Per-protocol set, n = 85		EAS, n = 94	
	Local assessment	IRC assessment	Local assessment	IRC assessment
Best overall response, n (%)				
CR	64 (75.3); 95% CI, 64.7-84.0	62 (72.9); 95% CI, 62.2-82.0	68 (72.3); 95% CI, 62.2-81.1	65 (69.1); 95% CI, 58.5-78.3
PR	14 (16.5)	12 (14.1)	17 (18.1)	16 (17.0)
SD	2 (2.4)	3 (3.5)	3 (3.2)	3 (3.2)
PD	5 (5.9)	8 (9.4)	6 (6.4)	9 (9.6)
UNK				1 (1.1)
Overall response rate (CR + PR), n (%)	78 (91.8); 95% CI, 83.8-96.6	74 (87.1); 95% CI, 78.0-93.4	85 (90.4); 95% CI, 82.6-95.5	81 (86.2); 95% CI, 77.5-92.4



# Tisa-cel Toxicity

## Cytokine release syndrome occurred in 49% of patients

- Grade 3+ CRS in NO patients(Lee Scale)
- Median time to onset of CRS was 4 days after infusion
- 34% received tocilizumab and only 6% received steroids
- 4 patients admitted to ICU and needed vasopressor support

## Neurological Events occurred in 37% of FL patients

- Grade 1-2 in 33% of patients
- Grade 3-4 in 4% of patients
- Median time to neurological event is 9 days

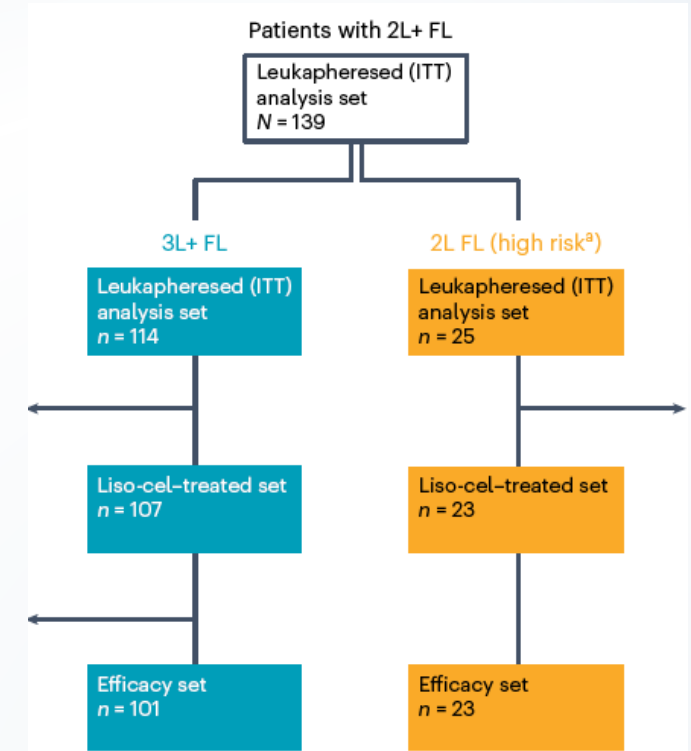
**Grade 3+ infections occurred in 5.2% of patients overall.**

**7 deaths on trial, 5 of progressive lymphoma and 1 due to CRS**

Events, n (%)	Infused patients N=97
CRS	47 (48.5)
Grade 1 or 2	47 (48.5)
Grade ≥3	0
In patients with CRS (n=47)	
Tocilizumab use during CRS	16 (34.0)
1 dose	8 (17.0)
2 doses	5 (10.6)
3 doses	3 (6.4)
Corticosteroids	3 (6.4)
Median time to onset, days (IQR)	4.0 (2–7)
Admitted to ICU, n (%)	4 (8.5)
Median total duration of ICU stay during CRS, days (range)	4.0 (2.5–5)
Patients with resolved events, n (%)	47 (100)

# Lisocabtagene maraleucel in follicular lymphoma

- Phase 2 TRANSCEND FL study of liso-cel CAR-T product
- Enrolled 3<sup>rd</sup> line + FL patients and small subset of high-risk 2<sup>nd</sup> line FL patients
- Key Demographics for 3+ line cohort
  - Median age 62 years
  - POD24=43%
  - Prior HSCT=31%
  - Bridging Chemotherapy=41%



# Response to Liso-cel

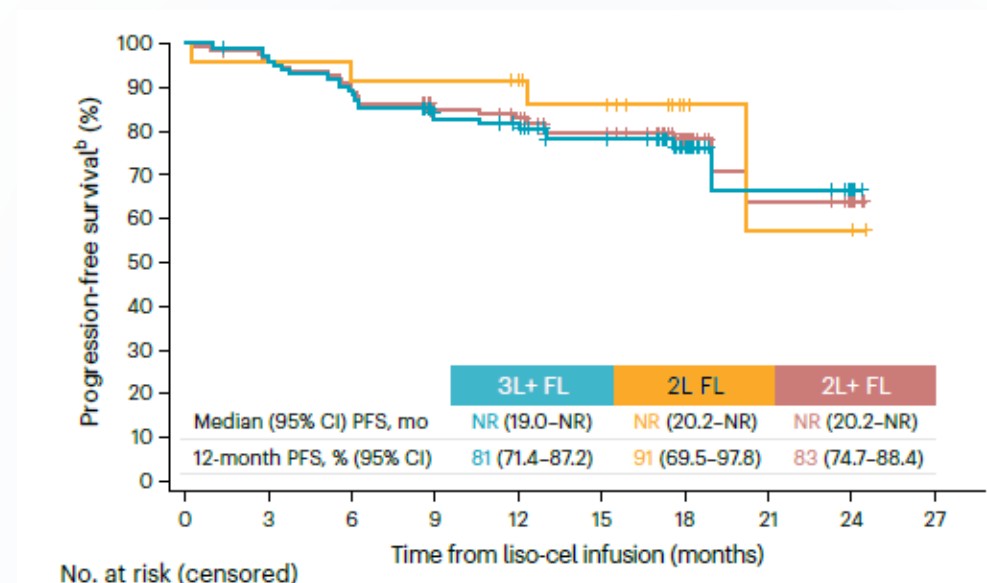
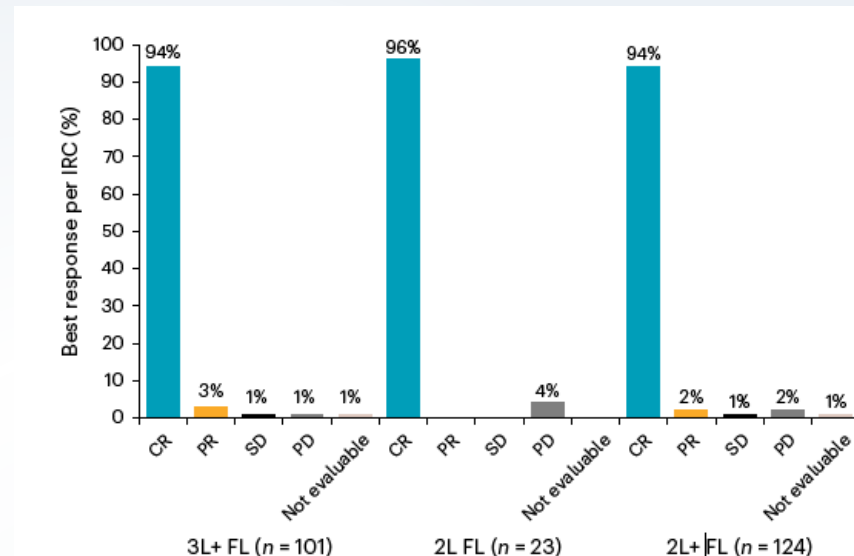
## 3<sup>rd</sup> Line+ FL

- Among 107 patients with 3<sup>rd</sup> line+ FL the ORR was 97% with CR rate of 94%
- Median PFS of patients was not reached
- 12-month PFS rate was 81%

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Line FL

- Similar ORR in 2L FL patients with ORR of 96%
- Median PFS not reached
- 12-month PFS rate was 91%

	ORR	CR rate
3L+ FL (n = 101)	97% (95% CI: 91.6–99.4) <i>P</i> < 0.0001 <sup>a</sup>	94% (95% CI: 87.5–97.8) <i>P</i> < 0.0001 <sup>a</sup>
2L FL (n = 23)	96% (95% CI: 78.1–99.9) <i>P</i> < 0.0001 <sup>b</sup>	96% (95% CI: 78.1–99.9) <i>P</i> < 0.0001 <sup>b</sup>
2L+ FL (n = 124)	97% (95% CI: 91.9–99.1) <sup>c</sup>	94% (95% CI: 88.7–97.7) <sup>c</sup>



# Liso-Cel Toxicity Profile

- Low-rates of Grade 3+ Toxicities outside of cytopenias
- 1 patient with Grade 3+ CRS
- Two patients required vasopressors
- 15% of patients had any grade neurotoxicity event. All grade 1-2 except 3 patients (grade 3=2%) with no Grade 4-5 events
- Grade 3+ infections in 5% of patients
- 12 deaths after Liso-cel, 4 due to disease progression, rest were non-relapse mortality events

**Table 2 | Most common TEAEs<sup>a</sup> (≥10%) in patients with 2L+ FL (liso-cel-treated set)**

TEAE, n (%)	2L+ FL (n=130)	
	Any grade	Grade ≥3
Neutropenia	85 (65)	76 (58)
CRS	75 (58)	1 (1)
Anemia	49 (38)	13 (10)
Headache	38 (29)	0
Thrombocytopenia	33 (25)	13 (10)
Constipation	26 (20)	0
Pyrexia	23 (18)	0
Diarrhea	22 (17)	0
Lymphopenia	20 (15)	17 (13)
Fatigue	19 (15)	0
Tremor	18 (14)	0
Leukopenia	18 (14)	15 (12)
Asthenia	16 (12)	0

# Conclusions

- Three different CAR T products are available for relapsed, refractory follicular lymphoma
- CD19 CAR-T offers a one-time treatment with now durable responses 5+ years after therapy.
- Is CAR-T curative? Likely for a subset of patients with FL, functional cures are likely.
- Need to weigh toxicity/efficacy balance in choosing among CAR-Ts and between CAR-T cell therapies and bispecific antibodies



# MCW Lymphoma Team



Kaitlin Annunzio  
Hem/Onc/BMT



Mehdi Hamadani  
Hem/Onc/BMT



Walter Longo  
Hem/Onc/BMT



Nirav Shah  
Hem/Onc/BMT



Suma Devata  
Hem/Onc



Malika Siker  
Radiation Oncology



Christopher Schultz  
Radiation Oncology



Keri Chaney  
Dermatology



Steve Kroft



Ali Harrington



Jessica Tomsula



Ashley Cunningham



Maria Hintzke

**Hematopathology**

## Lymphoma PA/NP Providers:

- Julie Pruett, NP
- Katie Zellner, PA
- Jenna Merry, NP
- Amy Detzner, NP

