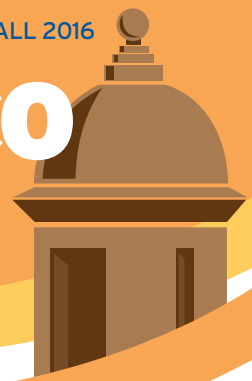


# from Moffitt to Puerto Rico



A Newsletter from the Puerto Rico Advisory Council for Moffitt Cancer Center



## Moffitt Cancer Center Tops Southeast, No. 6 in Nation Based on U.S. News & World Report



Moffitt Cancer Center is number 6 on U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals for Cancer rankings. This is up from number 18 last year and makes Moffitt the top ranked cancer hospital in the Southeast and in the state of Florida. The U.S. News Best Hospitals rankings, now in their 27th year, recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients, those whose illnesses include underlying conditions, difficult procedures and other medical issues. Moffitt has been nationally ranked by U.S. News since 1999. Of the 902 hospitals overall evaluated for cancer care in the United States, Moffitt's ranking places it in the top 1 percent.

The Best Hospitals rankings include areas such as patient survival, how often certain procedures are performed, infection rates, and nurse staffing. Factors that boosted Moffitt's ranking to number 6 include its achievement of nurse Magnet® recognition and its continued superior outcomes.

In March 2015, Moffitt earned the American Nurses Credentialing Center's prestigious Magnet® designation recognizing our nursing excellence. Serving patients from all 50 states and more than 130 countries, Moffitt boasts patient outcomes that beat the national average. Moffitt is one of 47 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers and the only one based in Florida.

U.S. News also ranks Moffitt in the top 4% in Urology in the U.S., and high performing in Gastroenterology and GI surgery, colon cancer surgery, and lung cancer surgery.

U.S. News evaluates nearly 5,000 hospitals nationwide. For 2016, 153 hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty, while 1,628 received a high performing rating in one or more specialties, procedures or conditions. In rankings by state and metro area, U.S. News recognized hospitals that were high-performing across multiple areas of care.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Hablemos de cáncer: Educational Event



Physicians and health care professionals from Moffitt Cancer Center and the Ponce School of Medicine will discuss cancer prevention, screenings, early detection and health disparities with the community at this free event. Participants also will have an opportunity to receive free cancer screenings.

**Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017**

**8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Location: Universidad Católica Pontifical Ponce, Puerto Rico**

Space is limited. Lunch will be provided.  
To RSVP call 787-840-2575, ext. 2566  
or email [psm-mcc.partnership@moffitt.org](mailto:psm-mcc.partnership@moffitt.org).



Javier F. Torres-Roca, M.D.

### MEET THE DOCTOR

**Javier F. Torres-Roca, M.D.** is an Associate Member and Director of Research in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center. He also serves as Associate Professor of Oncologic Sciences in the University of South Florida's College of Medicine. A

graduate of the University of Puerto Rico Medical School, he completed research fellowships in immunology and genetics at the Institut Pasteur in Paris and Stanford University in California. He subsequently trained in radiation oncology at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Torres-Roca's research interests include the development of genomic strategies to personalize radiation therapy for individual patients. His clinical interests are in genitourinary and cutaneous malignancies.

Since 2002, Dr. Torres-Roca has been a member of the clinical faculty at Moffitt with a sub-specialty in urological malignancies. He also is the founder and chief scientific officer of Cvergenx, Inc., a personalized medicine company that is commercializing the first genomic molecular diagnostic tool to predict a tumor's radiosensitivity.

# Facing a Cancer Diagnosis

IN THE  
**SPOTLIGHT**

## *A testimonial from Keylla Hernandez*

A pain on the right side of her body prompted Puerto Rico native Keylla Hernandez to see her physician. A series of tests confirmed the unthinkable, stage four lung cancer that had metastasized to her liver and bones. The then 42-year-old morning news anchor for WAPA TV in Puerto Rico was devastated by the news. She had two beautiful children, a thriving career, and many hopes and dreams for the future of her family. As a public figure in Puerto Rico, Keylla did not try to hide her diagnosis. Instead, she shared the news with her loyal viewers. The entire country immediately rallied around her with an outpouring of prayers and support.

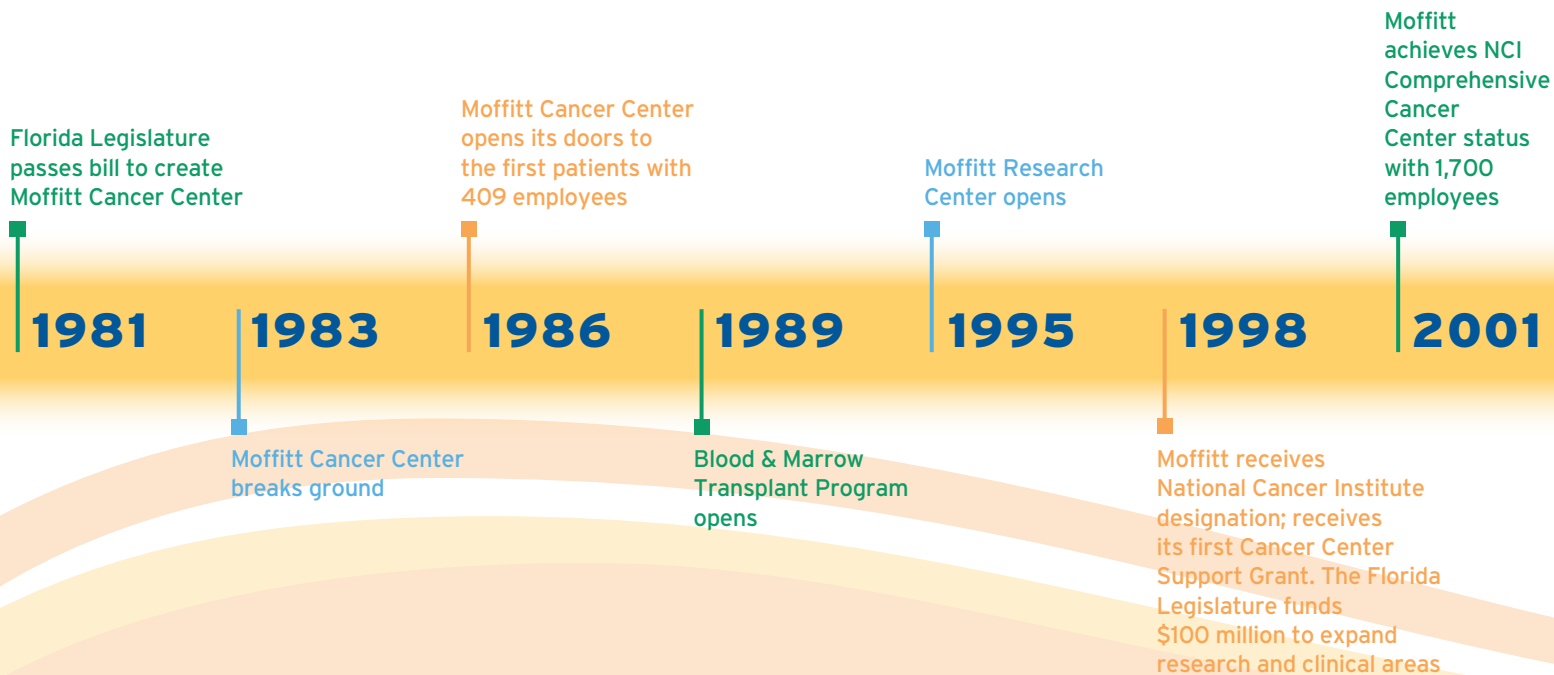


Keylla's primary care physician on the island recommended she seek treatment in Tampa and referred her to Dr. Scott Antonia in the Thoracic Oncology Department at Moffitt Cancer Center. She began a targeted mutation therapy that has proven very successful for her. She credits her strong faith and the support of her family, colleagues and her entire community with her success and lives by the motto that a positive attitude is the best medicine. She has remained on-air during her treatment, however she's completely changed her outlook on life and tries to eliminate stress and maintain a healthy diet.

## Moffitt Cancer Center Celebrates 30 Years of Courage

**30 YEARS**  
OF COURAGE

Over the past 30 years, Moffitt Cancer Center has seen exponential growth, in terms of newly created space and the development of new clinical and research programs and initiatives. We've highlighted some of the key milestones here.



# CANCER PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION

The Puerto Rico Advisory Council for Moffitt Cancer Center hosted its 10th lunch 'n learn event in April. Moffitt experts Dr. Nagi Kumar and Dr. Karen Fields spoke to a group of more than 100 attendees about



new advances in research for cancer prevention. Thank you to Advanced Home Health for sponsoring the event.



## WHAT MAKES MOFFITT DIFFERENT?

(Below are three examples. You'll see more in future issues!)

**# 1 Moffitt Cancer Center has been awarded the National Cancer Institute's highest designation – Comprehensive Cancer Center.** Only four percent of cancer research institutions in the United States have received the prestigious designation. Comprehensive Cancer Center status recognizes robust clinical, basic and population science research; team science; scientific leadership; education programs; and research focused on benefiting the community. Moffitt is the only Comprehensive Cancer Center based in the state of Florida and one of only 47 NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the U.S. This was Moffitt's 4th consecutive renewal since 2001.

**# 2 Becker's Hospital Review's 100 Hospitals and Health Systems with Great Oncology Programs** Moffitt Cancer Center has once again been named to the 2016 edition of Becker's Hospital Review's 100 Hospitals and Health Systems With Great Oncology Programs. Moffitt has appeared on every version of the list, featuring hospitals and health systems leading the nation in cancer care, since Becker's Hospital Review began publishing it in 2012.

**# 3 Diversity Inc's list of Top 10 Hospitals, Healthcare Systems** Moffitt earned sixth place on Diversity Inc's 2016 Top 10 Hospitals and Healthcare Systems list, which tracks the nation's top companies when it comes to hiring, retaining and promoting women, minorities, people with disabilities, LGBT and veterans.

Moffitt is ranked No. 6 cancer hospital in the nation and is listed in U.S. News & World Report as one of the "Best Hospitals: for cancer care since 1999"

**2003**

The new Muriel Rothman outpatient clinic building and the Vincent A. Stabile Research buildings open

M2Gen®, Moffitt's first wholly-owned subsidiary is created

**2006**

**2009**

Moffitt adds the faculty office building, home to a new radiation oncology center, clinical lab space and a 36-bed bone marrow transplant unit

Moffitt at International Plaza opens

**2011**

**2015**

Moffitt McKinley Outpatient Center opens and Moffitt earns Magnet Recognition® for its nursing excellence

**2016**

# Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences And Moffitt Cancer Center Partnership

## STUDENT PROFILES

The Ponce School of Medicine (PSM) and Moffitt Cancer Center (MCC) Partnership program is a collaborative effort that promotes education, research, and training opportunities for young scientists and medical students in the area of cancer investigation in the Puerto Rican population. The main goal of the PSM-MCC Partnership Training/Career Development Core is to increase the number, competence and success of these cancer professionals. The Core provides Ph.D. and medical students the opportunity and funding to complete basic and translational laboratory research projects at either Ponce Health Sciences University (PSM) or Moffitt.



### Angel R. Nunez-Marrero | Barranquitas, PR

**College/University:** Ponce Health Sciences University

**Degree:** M.S., Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Sciences

**What is your message to other students in Puerto Rico:** Moffitt cancer research is impressive. I really recommend this summer program to other students since this experience is excellent. You will learn many different things, enjoy working in a great cancer-research environment, and improve your skills.

### Henry Thomas | Miami, FL

**College/University:** Ponce Health Sciences University

**Degree:** M.D.

**How was your experience at Moffitt:** It was a very challenging, yet rewarding experience. The research background I have gained at Moffitt will help me understand the clinical aspect of medicine better, and will ultimately make me a better practitioner of medicine for my future patients.

### Jaileene Perez-Morales | Aguadilla, PR

**College/University:** University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Cornell University; Ponce Health Sciences University

**Degree:** B.S. Industrial Engineering; M.E. Biomedical Engineering; Ph.D. Candidate Biomedical Sciences

**What is your message to other students in Puerto Rico:** Apply to the U54 summer research program, you will not regret it. You will build a network of people that will help you and guide you along your academic and research path.

### Lizmarie Tirado-Castro | Bayamón, PR

**College/University:** University of Puerto Rico - Río Piedras Campus; Ponce Health Sciences University

**Degree:** B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology

**What is your message to other students in Puerto Rico:** If you have this opportunity, do not take it for granted. This program opens so many doors for you and I assure you it will be a summer well spent.

### Nizvette García Soto | Gurabo, Puerto Rico

**College/University:** University of Health Sciences, Antigua

**Degree:** M.D.

**My experience at Moffitt:** I can describe my experience at Moffitt Cancer Center as an incomparable and marvelous experience. This summer research experience has been a growing process in which I have been able to learn new concepts and reinforce what I had learned. It was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never regret.



## GET INVOLVED! JOIN THE PUERTO RICO ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Puerto Rico Advisory Council for Moffitt Cancer Center was established to raise awareness about cancer and Moffitt in Puerto Rico. If you would like to help further our efforts on the island, email us at [PuertoRico@Moffitt.org](mailto:PuertoRico@Moffitt.org) or call 1-800-456-3434, ext. INTL (4685). Visit [MOFFITT.org/PuertoRico](http://MOFFITT.org/PuertoRico) for more information.



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## Do You Have Questions Or Need An Appointment? We're Here To Help!

Call International Referral Services at 1-800-456-3434, ext. INTL (4685) or e-mail [InternationalReferrals@Moffitt.org](mailto:InternationalReferrals@Moffitt.org). For more information, visit [MOFFITT.org/International](http://MOFFITT.org/International).