

**Foundations to Practice:  
Pathophysiology of Cancer, Cancer Treatment Modalities, and the Immune System**

This course provides an overview of the principles and roles of various cancer therapies. Included are clinical trials, surgery, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, biological therapies, radiation therapy, stem cell transplantation, complementary therapy, a review of the pathophysiology of cancer, and the immune system.

This course is strongly recommended as a prerequisite for the Antineoplastic Therapy and Biotherapy Course.

All courses are sponsored by UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. The faculty consists of healthcare professionals with expertise in cancer care at UPMC.

**Time and Location:**

This course will be held both on the UPMC Shadyside campus in the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh, PA and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Exact class schedule and location will be provided in the confirmation letter sent one week prior to the class. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and lectures begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. The course concludes at approximately 4:30 p.m.

**Who Should Attend:**

This course addresses the needs of advanced practice providers, registered nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and other members of the healthcare team who care for oncology patients in the acute care, outpatient, extended care, rehabilitation, and home care settings. Other healthcare professionals involved in cancer care, or those who wish to expand their knowledge of cancer care, are also welcomed to attend.

**Continuing Education Credit:**

In support of improving patient care, the University of Pittsburgh 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.

**Registration Information:**

All UPMC employees are required to register for educational programs through Learning via HR Direct. Employees may access HR Direct by logging on the UPMC Infonet. A User Guide is available on the Infonet. Manager approval may be required for some programs for some employees. If you receive this notice when enrolling, please notify your manager of your interest in the program. Non-UPMC employees may register for the course by submitting a course registration form to the course director. Registration forms are located on the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Professional Education Website <https://hillman.upmc.com/health-care-professionals/education/courses>

The registration fee for this individual course live attendance is \$80 and virtual attendance is \$40. The registration fee for all five courses within the series is \$300 for live and \$150 virtual. For live courses, the registration fee includes program materials and morning and afternoon refreshments. Tuition is waived for employees of UPMC and UPMC affiliates.

Deadline for registration is one week before the course date.

Confirmation letters are emailed to all registrants one week prior to class. Confirmation letters contain directions to the site, information on parking, registration for CEU credit, as well as other details. If you have any questions, need more information, or do not receive confirmation prior to the course, contact Amy DiMaggio at [dimaggioa@upmc.edu](mailto:dimaggioa@upmc.edu).

**Cancellation Policy:**

- If you cannot attend any course for any reason, you need to directly notify the course registrar by calling 412-623-3651 and leaving a voicemail message or by emailing Amy DiMaggio at [dimaggioa@upmc.edu](mailto:dimaggioa@upmc.edu).
- If Pittsburgh Public Schools are closed due to treacherous road conditions prior to 6 a.m., our courses may be cancelled or adjusted to virtual attendance only. The course schedule is not changed by school delays.
- For class cancellations, an announcement will be available at 412-623-3651 and an email will be sent to class attendees.

The program sponsors reserve the right to make changes or cancel the program because of unforeseen circumstances.

**Personal Accommodations:**

Please indicate any personal accommodations you may need for the program, such as sign language interpreter, large print conference materials, Braille conference materials, wheelchair height tables, vegetarian meals, diabetic meals, accessible parking, or other. Please call 412-623-3651 or email Amy DiMaggio at [dimaggioa@upmc.edu](mailto:dimaggioa@upmc.edu) two weeks prior to the program if you need any personal accommodations to participate.

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## **Objectives**

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Identify the role of the Foundations to Practice Series in providing care to patients with cancer.
- Recognize characteristics of malignant disease.
- Describe the meaning of cancer disparity.
- Explain the role of different treatment modalities in treating patients with cancer.
- Recall the immune system's function in the development of cancer and treatment of cancer.
- Identify goals of treatment for patients with cancer.
- Recognize the role of clinical trials in treating with cancer.
- Demonstrate learning has occurred by receiving at least an 85% on the final quiz.

## **Course Content**

- Cancer Disparities
- Chemotherapy, Hormonal Therapy, and Biotherapy
- Clinical Trials
- Evaluating Complementary Therapies
- Goals of Treatment and Treating on Time
- The Immune System and Immunotherapy
- Introduction to Foundations to Practice Series
- Pathophysiology of Cancer
- Radiation Therapy
- Stem Cell Transplant and CAR T-Cell Therapy
- Surgery