Banner MDAnderson

Making Cancer History*

Medical Physics Biographical Statements



Phoenix Locations



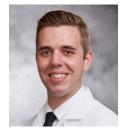
Amir Sadeghi, PhD, DABR Radiation Oncology Physics Regional Director

Amir, Sadeghi, PhD, DABR is the division Chief of Medical Physics in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Banner Health organization. He is certified by American Board of Radiology and Assistant Professor at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Dr. Sadeghi received a PhD in medical physics from the University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio and is board-certified by the American Board of Radiology (ABR) in Therapeutic Radiologic Physics. During the last 20 years of his active involvement in Oncology, he has attained experience and practiced in both the technical and clinical aspects of this field while working closely with leading radiation oncologists and medical physicists. Through most of his career he has held positions in management and leadership in Oncology. He has served as a liaison for equipment-developing companies, providing direction for their R&D departments. As a result, he has been involved with many FDA clearance approvals for companies. He supervised the delivery of the first clinical Partial Breast Irradiation in the country.

His contributions to research and training have impacted both the application and academic realms of Oncology. His financial skills have been very effective in bringing over a \$1,000,000 of nonprofit funds to the institution to support a variety of research and teaching programs. As a result, he has been able to fund and mentor MS and PhD students while running a medical physics residency program. He developed a program that provides scholarships and teaching sessions. Today, these programs and scholarships have been established in major hospitals in the U.S. and Canada; there are prospects of international expansion.

His experience and background have assisted the leadership program in Medical Physics. To ensure an effective leadership, he has developed short term goals to make sure that all the clinics operate under the same guidelines and solidify a united and strong Medical Physics program for each clinic. In the long-term plan, he has worked diligently to be instrumental in obtaining funding for research and training at our cancer center. In addition, he also works side by side with other leaders at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center to achieve the highest goals for our cancer center.



Derek Fetters, DMP, DABR Location: Banner MD Anderson at Banner Gateway Medical Center

Derek Fetters is a board-certified clinical medical physicist for the Gateway campus and the director of the CAMPEP-accredited medical physics residency program. He received his BS in physics from the University of Louisville in 2012 and his professional doctorate in medical physics (DMP) from Vanderbilt University in 2017. His residency was completed at Vanderbilt and Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. He started his career in Dayton, Ohio before joining Banner in 2019. His current interests include SRS and SBRT planning, process standardization and improvement, and resident education. He is also the director of the early career program for the AAPM Spring Clinical Meeting. Outside of work, he is a passionate hockey and music fan, avid reader of history, and aspiring home cook.



Mary Esther Braswell, MS, DABR Location: Banner MD Anderson at Banner Gateway Medical Center

Mary Esther Braswell is a certified medical physicist, primarily at the Gateway campus. Her clinical projects include machine QA, which she oversees for all four Phoenix locations, SRS planning, Y-90 treatments, and radiation safety. Mary Esther has a master's of medical physics from Duke University. She started at Banner MD Anderson in the residency program in 2018 and was hired as a staff physicist after completion in 2020. Outside of work, Mary Esther enjoys fine arts, specifically, musical theatre. She is involved with a local community theater, both on stage and backstage. She enjoys seeing Broadway touring shows at ASU Gammage and attending performances by the Phoenix Symphony.



Vi Nhan Nguyen, PSM, DABR Location: Banner MD Anderson at Banner Gateway Medical Center

Mr. Nguyen is a clinical medical physicist a Gateway campus. He graduated with a professional science master's (PSM) in medical physics from the University of Arizona in 2014, followed by the completion of the medical physics residency at the University of Louisville in 2016. He started his professional career in North Carolina and Ironwood Cancer and Research Centers in Arizona before joining Banner in 2024. His interests include brachytherapy, treatment planning and linac quality assurance. Outside of his professional pursuits, he enjoys playing poker, mountain biking, hiking, camping, and cooking.



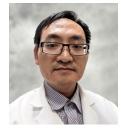
Thaddeus Sokolowski, MS, DABR Location: Banner MD Anderson at Banner Gateway Medical Center

Thaddeus Walter Sokolowski is a clinical medical physicist for the Gateway campus. He graduated from McMaster University in Ontario, Canada with a MS in Health and Radiation Physics. He started his medical physics professional career at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas in the early 90's. During his assignment at Baylor and now at Gateway in Phoenix, he assisted in all aspects of radiation therapy, medical dosimetry, and medical physics training. His current professional interests include, external beam radiotherapy and small field dosimetry, Linac QA, in-vivo dosimetry and HDR treatment planning.



Tomasz Bista, MS Location: Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix

Tomasz Bista is a clinical medical physicist for the University campus. He started his professional career at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago in the early nineties. During his 11-year endeavor at Northwestern, he completed training in radiation therapy, medical dosimetry, and medical physics. His current interests include stereotactic radiosurgery, stereotactic body radiotherapy, external beam radiotherapy, and treatment planning beam modeling. Outside his professional responsibilities, he enjoys music, sports and spirituality.



Hua Deng, PhD, DABR Location: Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix

Dr. Deng is a clinical medical physicist for the University Medical Center campus. His interests include statistical modeling of radiation therapy effects, optimization of quality assurance procedures. He graduated from the University of Miami with a PhD in Physics and received medical physics training at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was an assistant professor with the University of Nebraska Medical Center prior to joining Banner. He enjoys meditation and hiking.



Ray Alraqati, MS, DABR Location: Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center at Banner Thunderbird

Ray Alraqati got his master's degree from University of Cincinnati in 2006. He was a locums medical physicist for six years, gaining a wide range of experience with various modalities and equipment, before joining Banner Health in September of 2024. He is married with 3 kids. Outside of work he enjoys traveling, soccer, and swimming.



Stephen Sapareto, PhD, DABR, FAAPM Therapeutic Medical Physicist

Stephen Sapareto is a past Director of Physics for Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center and founder/ past Director of the Medical Physics Residency program at Banner MD Anderson. Now in retirement, Dr. Sapareto continues to provide medical physics services to the department and remains engaged in the residency program. He has contributed to the AAPM as a member of the Science Council, Chair and member of the Biological Effects Committee and served on the Board of Directors (2011-2014) and was the first President of the Arizona Chapter of the AAPM which he helped create in 2010. Dr. Sapareto is an examiner for the ABR and a surveyor for ACR accreditation. He has trained numerous students and residents and has over 55 peer reviewed publications.



Lindsay Chen, PhD, DABR Diagnostic Medical Physicist

Dr. Lindsay (Lingyun) Chen is the Medical Physicist at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, specialized in Diagnostic Imaging and Nuclear Medicine. She obtained her PhD in Medical Physics at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Diagnostic Physics Residency training at Mayo Clinic. Her clinical service includes development and supervision of QC/QA program of CT, MRI, NM, PET and Mammography; Optimization, management standardization of imaging protocol; Supervision of the preparation, handling, and disposal of radionuclides; management of patient radiation dose. Her research interests are focused on improving quantification of radionuclide biodistribution in nuclear medicine theranostics exams to improve patient care. She is actively involved in professional committees, such as Breast Tomosynthesis Subcommittee, QIBA FDG-PET Biomarker Committee and QIBA Lung Density Biomarker Committee, and she serves as a referee for journals of Medical Physics and Applied Clinical Medical Physics.

Colorado Locations



Elaine Dziemianowicz, MS, DABR Location: Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center at McKee Medical Center

Elaine is the Physics Lead for Banner Northern Colorado locations. She graduated from University of Pennsylvania with a BA and master's in medical physics and completed her residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. She has over 10 years of clinical experience as a physicist, including HDR brachytherapy, linac-based SRS/SBRT, special procedures, treatment planning, and facility accreditation. Elaine's special interests include quality improvement and resident education. Outside work, Elaine enjoys mountain biking, skiing, climbing, cycling to work, reading, cooking, and camping with her husband and three kids.



Ali Kakakhel, MS

Location: Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center at North Colorado Medical Center

Ali Kakakhel is a medical physicist with his bachelor's degree in physics from Colorado State University and a his master's degree from Wayne State University. Interests within radiation oncology include quality improvement, high dose rate brachytherapy, stereotactic radiosurgery, 3D printing for constructing treatment and QA devices, and clinical analytics and scripting. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with family, tabletop gaming, programming, hiking, and biking.

Medical Physics Residents



Jared Taylor, PhD Location: Banner MD Anderson at Banner Gateway Medical Center

Jared Taylor is a second-year medical physics resident at the Gateway campus. He majored in physics at Pacific Union College. He then graduated from Louisiana State University with a PhD in physics, where his research was focused on space radiation shielding optimization. He enjoys watching and playing sports, working out, and reading. He has started golfing since moving to Arizona, and still thinks he will break 100 one day.



David Hellmann, MS Location: Banner MD Anderson at Banner Gateway Medical Center

David Hellmann is a first-year medical physics resident at the Gateway campus. He holds a bachelor's in physics from Northern Kentucky University and a bachelor's in nuclear engineering from the University of Tennessee. While at UT, he discovered a passion for the radiological sciences and radiobiology. This led him to stay there to complete his master's in medical physics with a focus on utilizing Monte Carlo transport codes to model high-energy x-ray beams. After graduation, he worked for Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Colorado as a medical physics assistant before becoming a resident in Arizona. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his two young children, biking, and camping.