



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND  
ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER

THE CANCER INSTITUTE

AN AFFILIATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
MARLENE AND STEWART GREENEBAUM  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

# The Changing Landscape of Medical Oncology

Kimberly W. Schlesinger, MD

Medical Oncology and Hematology

Medical Director, University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center Cancer  
Institute

November 7, 2019

# Disclosure

This presenter has no financial interest or other relationships with manufacturers of commercial products, suppliers of commercial services, or commercial supporters.

# The Changing Landscape of Medical Oncology

Kimberly W. Schlesinger, MD

Medical Oncology and Hematology

Medical Director, University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center Cancer Institute

November 7, 2019

# Objectives

- Examine the scope of systemic therapies available to oncology patients
- Discuss how changes in cancer management have impacted the patient experience
- Understand quality initiatives and their impact on contemporary oncology care
- Identify differences among the current generations and their expectations of care

# Evolution of Cancer Therapy

## Immunotherapy

1998 IL-2/melanoma  
2011 ipilimumab/melanoma  
2014 nivolumab & pembrolizumab/melanoma  
2015 nivolumab & pembrolizumab/lung cancer

## Targeted therapy

1997 rituximab/lymphoma  
1998 trastuzumab/Her2+ breast cancer  
2001 imatinib/CML

## Supportive therapy

1997 ondansetron approved  
1998 filgrastim approved

## Chemotherapy

1956: MTX used to cure stage IV choriocarcinoma  
1957: Bone marrow transplants (6 patients) published in NEJM  
1958: combination chemotherapy successfully used in acute leukemia

8/27/42 JD receives 'substance X' for lymphoma

## 1914-1918 WWI "chemists' war"

1917 mustard gas kills 10,000 people in Ypres, Belgium

## Radiation

1898 Pierre and Marie Curie identify radium as a source of radiation

## Surgery

1882: Halsted mastectomy, common until 1960s

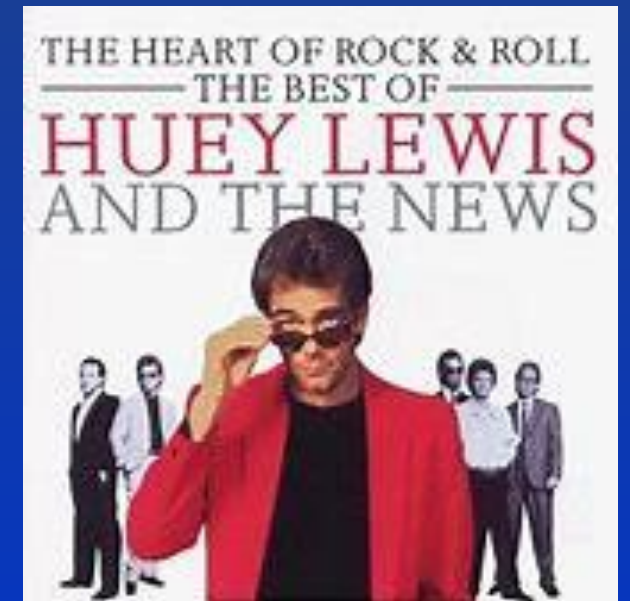
# Chemotherapy

- Systemic therapy impacting replication of rapidly dividing cells
- Relatively non-specific
- Side effects reflect 'collateral damage' to non-cancer cells
- Classic examples:
  - adriamycin
  - 5-fluorouracil
  - paclitaxel



# Gold Standard for New Agents

I want a new drug, One that won't make me sick  
One that won't make me crash my car, Or make me feel three feet thick  
I want a new drug, One that won't hurt my head  
One that won't make my mouth too dry, Or make my eyes too red  
I want a new drug, One that won't spill  
One that don't cost too much, Or come in a pill  
I want a new drug, One that won't go away  
One that won't keep me up all night, One that won't make me sleep all day  
I want a new drug, One that does what it should  
One that won't make me feel too bad; One that won't make me feel too good  
I want a new drug; One with no doubt  
One that won't make me talk too much; Or make my face break out  
  
One that won't make me nervous, Wondering what to do?  
One that makes me feel like I feel when I'm with you



-“I Want a New Drug”, Huey Lewis and Christopher John Hayes, 1983



# Targeted Therapy

- Typically specific to proteins with limited expression on or inside cancer cell
- Less collateral damage but still potentially significant side effects
- Examples:
  - tamoxifen: oral agent, prevents dimerization of estrogen receptor in breast cancer patients
  - bevacizumab: IV anti angiogenesis agent
  - olaparib, rucaparib: oral PARP inhibitors used in ovarian, breast, prostate patients with BRCA mutations
  - brentuximab vedotin: IV antibody-drug conjugate targeting CD30 in lymphoma
  - venetoclax: oral BCL-2 inhibitor for CLL & AML





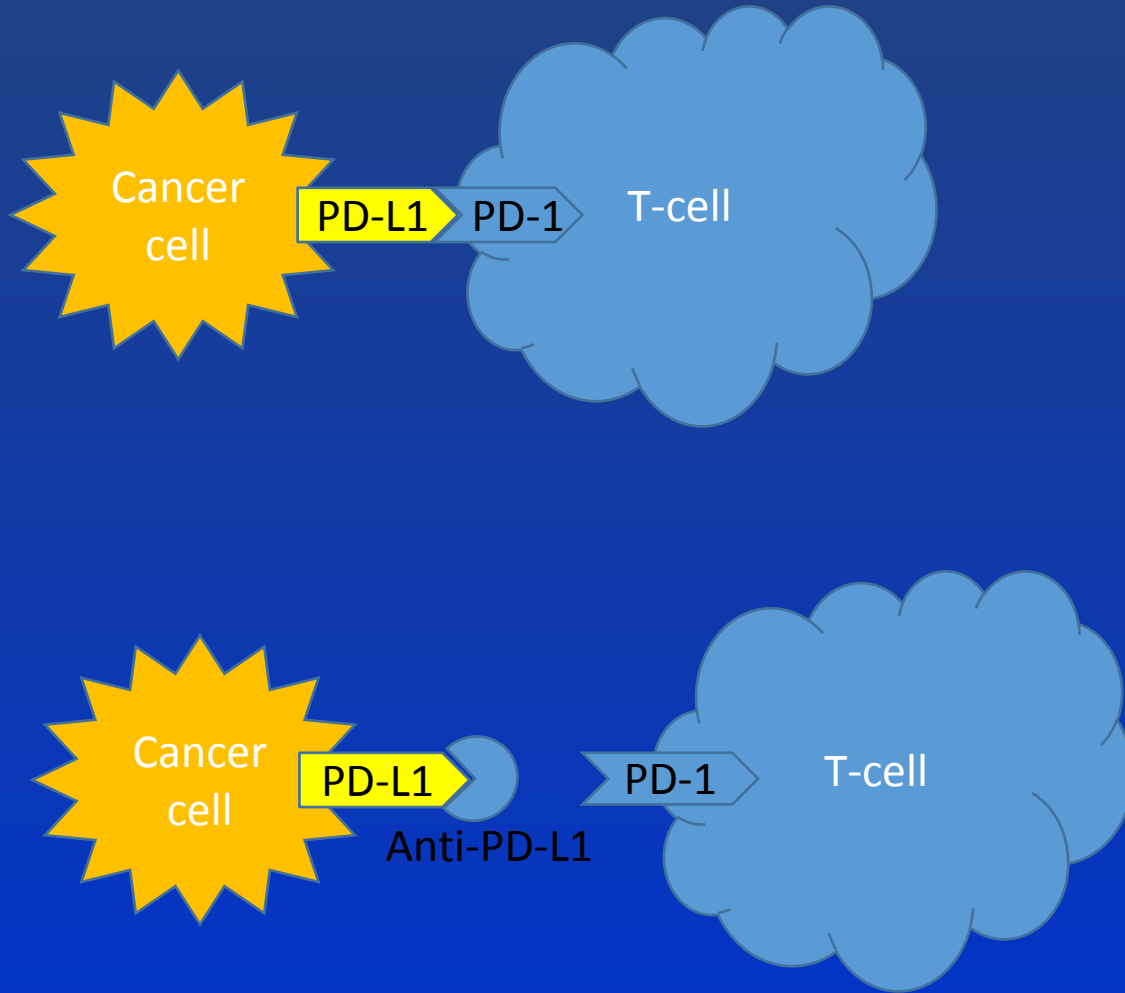
# Immunotherapy

- Manipulates the immune system to identify and attack the cancer cell
- Side effects reflect over-active immune system or auto-immunity
- Has evolved over time
  - Promoting/increasing the natural immune response, relatively non-specific
    - Interferon, IL-2
  - Tumor specific immune response with checkpoint inhibitors
    - Ipilimumab, nivolumab, pembrolizumab, others



# Blocking PD-L1/PD-1 interaction

releases the immune system to recognize and kill the cancer cell



## Checkpoint Inhibitors are Approved for:

Bladder  
Breast  
Cervical  
Colorectal  
Cutaneous squamous cell  
Gastric  
Head/neck cancer  
Hepatocellular  
Lung cancer (small and non-small cell)  
Lymphoma  
Melanoma  
Merkel cell  
Renal cell  
MSI-H or dMMR tumors

# Translational Research

- Bench to Bedside... and Back
- Basic science
- Therapeutic clinical trials
  - Physician
  - Patient
  - Research team
  - Clinic team
  - Large group/cooperative trials
  - Pharmaceutical trials
  - Investigator initiated trials

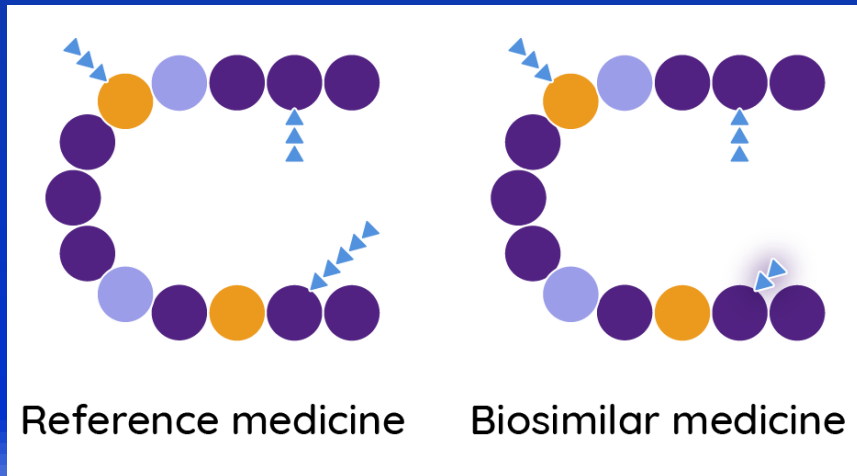
# FDA Approvals Over Time

	Total new cancer drugs	Biosimilars	Supplemental indications	Total FDA approvals (all disease states)
2019	10 (as of 10/9/19)			30 (as of 10/9/19)
2018	19	6	38	59
2017	16	2		46
2016		(3 in non-oncology setting)		22
2105		1		45

The Cancer Letter 1/25/19  
[www.fda.gov/files/drugs](http://www.fda.gov/files/drugs)

# Biosimilar and Interchangeable Products

- Produced using biotechnology in a living system (microorganism, plant or animal cell)
  - Vaccines
  - Therapeutic agents:
    - filgrastim: growth factor used to prevent neutropenia with chemotherapy
  - Monoclonal antibodies:
    - rituximab: agent targeting surface protein (CD-20) on the surface of certain cancer cells



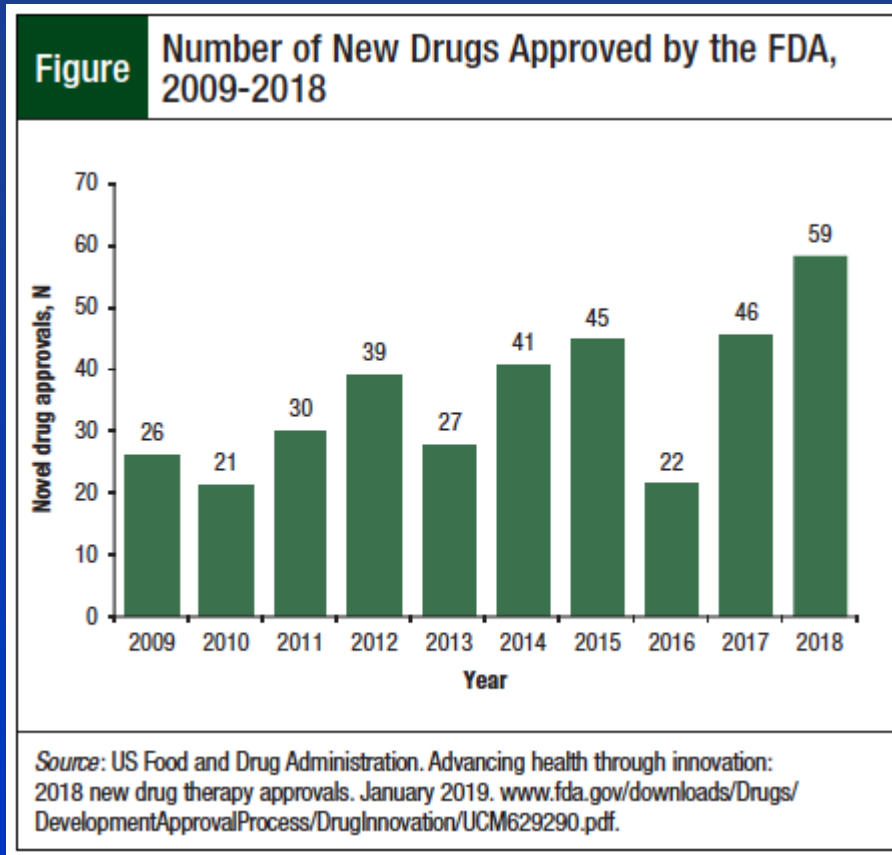
[www.epgonline.org](http://www.epgonline.org)



Across all disease states

# 2018 FDA approvals were highest since 1996

(when 53 new drugs were approved)



32% of the 2019 new approvals were first-in-class agents

58% of the new approvals address rare or 'orphan' diseases

73% of new drug approvals were processed through expedited categories (fast track, breakthrough, priority review, or accelerated approval)



**2018:  
You can  
teach  
an old dog  
new tricks**





# What the FDA ‘looks at’ has also changed

- Metastasis-free survival
  - Overall survival: includes time with recurrent disease
  - Progression free survival: time period of stable disease
- Minimal residual disease
  - “what’s left” after a course of therapy – mainly used in setting of leukemia or myeloma and based on sophisticated analysis of bone marrow biopsy results
- Disease and biology specific indications
  - 2017: FDA approved an agent based on common biomarker (pembrolizumab and PD-L1 expression)

# Impact of New Agents

- Side effect profile & Quality of life
  - Onset of side effects: Immediate, acute, sub-acute, late onset
  - Duration of side effects: short term, long term, permanent
  - More specific/less global
- Administration
  - IV, IM, SQ, self administered SQ, oral
- Financial toxicity
  - Increasingly complicated (co-pays, deductibles, co-insurance)
  - Real concerns of job loss, debt, bankruptcy

- *Generally* better tolerated
- Different side effect profile
- Less 'classic' febrile neutropenia
  - Fewer hospitalizations
- More 'maintenance' therapy

- More therapies self administered at home
  - Less 'chair' time in clinic
- Evolving education & follow-up

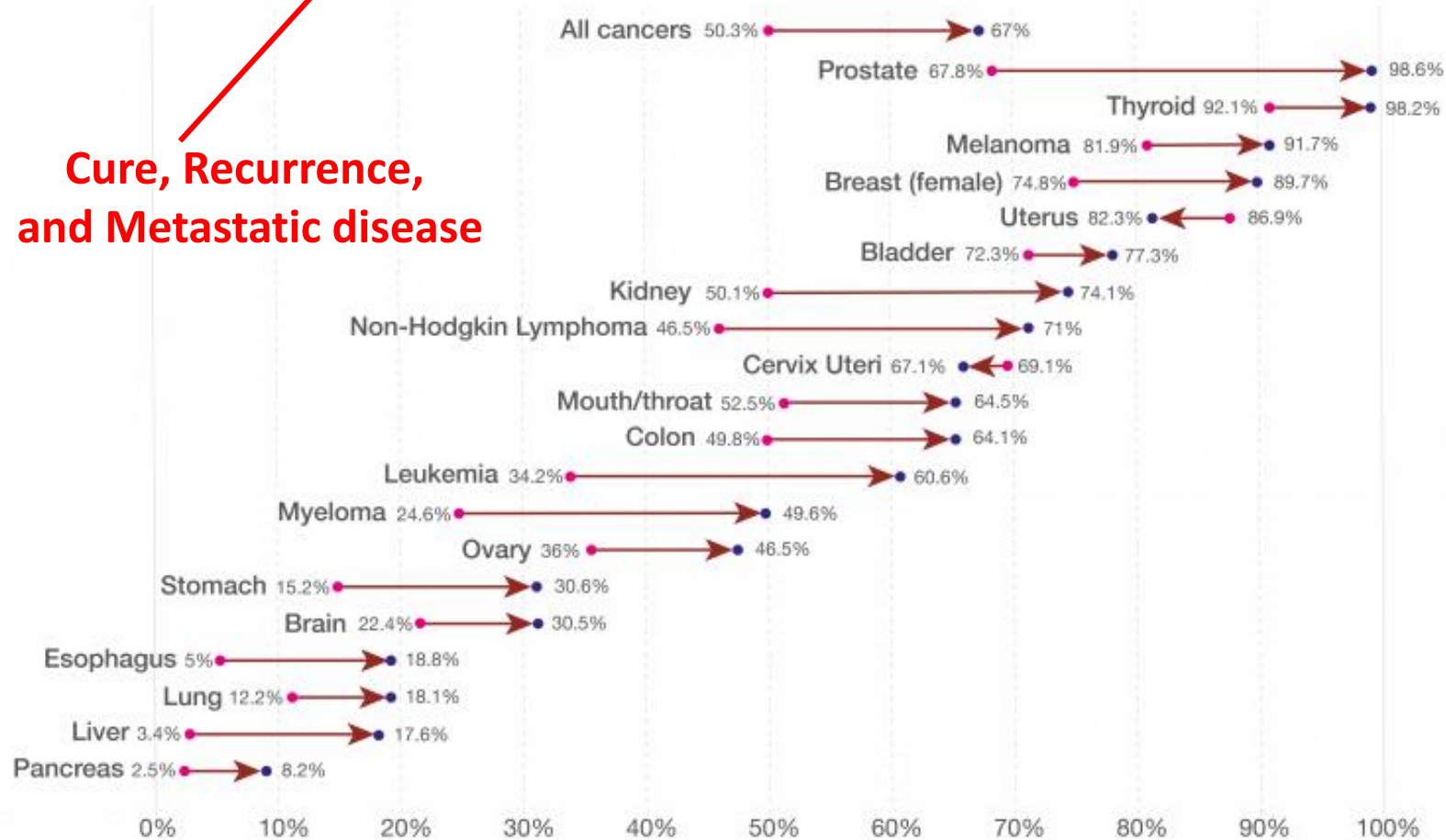
- Staff hired/devoted to address financial issues for both patient and clinic
  - Financial counseling
- Aggressive research for grants, free-drug/drug replacement, etc..

# Five-year cancer survival rates in the USA

Our World  
in Data

Average five-year survival rates from common cancer types in the United States, shown as the rate over the period 1970-77 [●] and over the period 2007-2013 [●]: 1970-77 [●] → 2007-2013 [●]  
This five-year interval indicates the percentage of people who live longer than five years following diagnosis.

Cure, Recurrence,  
and Metastatic disease



Based on data by Journal of the National Cancer Institute; Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program.  
The data visualization is available at [OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org). There you find research and more visualizations on this topic.

Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the authors Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser.

# Patients are living longer with metastatic disease (and yes, with better quality of life)

- Colon cancer:
  - Median survival      1990: 14 months      2019: 30 months
- Breast cancer:
  - Median survival ER+ 1990: 32 months      2019: 57+ months
  - Median survival ER- 1990: 14 months      2019: 33 months
- Lung cancer (non-small cell):
  - Median survival:      1990: <6 months      2019: 24+ months
- Melanoma
  - Median survival:      1990: 6-9 months      2019: 36 months (34% are alive at 5 years)
- Myeloma:
  - Median survival      1990: 3 years      2019: 6+ years

# Current and Post-treatment Statistics

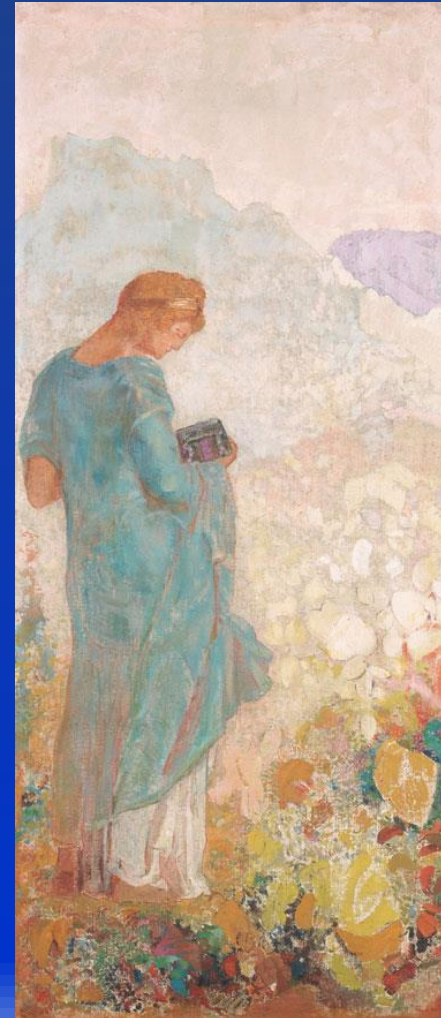
- 2019: 16.9 million people living with active cancer or a history of cancer
  - Roughly 5% of the total US population
  - 64% of survivors are  $\geq 65$  years old
- 2029: expected to grow to an estimated 21.7 million people
- By 2040, roughly 75% of survivors will be  $\geq 65$  years old

# Cancer Survivorship

- “Survivorship” defined as period of time from diagnosis to death
  - Coined 1985 essay by Dr. Fitzhugh Mullan
- Language of cancer continues to evolve over time
  - Studies suggest that patients embrace different terms over the course of their treatment
- *War* is a common metaphor but is increasingly less universally accepted
- Patient, warrior, ninja, hero, fighter, thriver, veteran...
  - No single term is universally accepted
  - Different patient groups embrace or promote different terms

# Growing Demographic with Unique Needs: cancer as a chronic disease

- Metastatic disease versus adjuvant setting
- Surveillance
- Work force/financial
- Interpersonal relationships





# Potentially Five Generations in Contemporary Oncology Practices

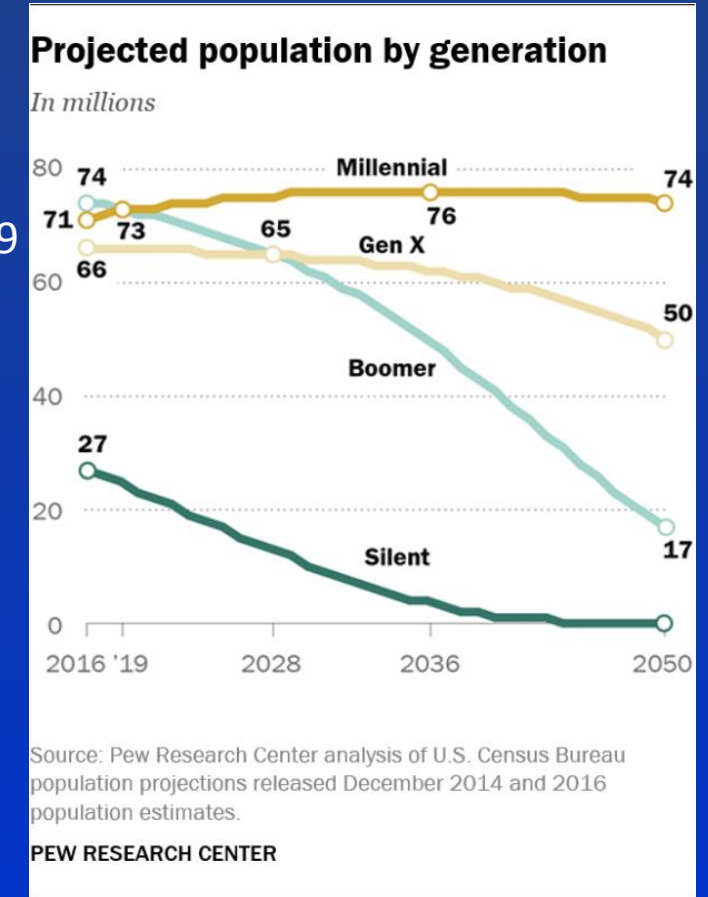
Traditionalists/Silent Generation (1928 – 1945) ages 74-91 in 2019

Baby Boomers (1946 – 1964) ages 55-73 in 2019

Generation X (1965 – 1980) ages 39-54 in 2019

Millennials (1981 – 1996) ages 23-38 in 2019

Generation Z (1997 – 2012) ages 22-7 in 2019



# Influences on Generations

	<u>World Events</u>	<u>Technology</u>	<u>Other key features</u>
<b>Traditionalists (ages 74-91)</b>	WWII	Radio, print media, early T.V., “adapted” to technology	Stability and security
<b>Baby Boomers (ages 55-73)</b>	Vietnam War, sexual revolution	T.V., radio, print media “acquired” technology	Personal growth, high divorce/remarriage rates
<b>Generation X (ages 39-54)</b>	Fall of Berlin Wall, Iron Hostage Crisis, Operation Dessert Storm	T.V., VCR, rapidly evolving digital “assimilated”	Smaller generation, more formal education, flexible
<b>Millennials (ages 23-38)</b>	9/11, immigration, great recession	Digital is “integral” to life	Less formal education, politically liberal, lower marriage/fertility rates
<b>Generation Z (ages 22-7)</b>	Post 9/11	Digital from birth	Anticipated to be highly educated

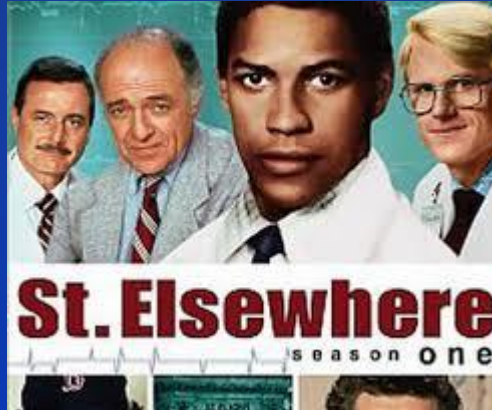
# Patient Expectations Vary According to Generation

- Higher patient satisfaction has been linked with patient age across several studies, several sub-specialities, and several countries
  - Life experience versus expectations versus patient/physician interaction
- Expectation, integration, and acceptance of technology varies
  - Appointment reminders
  - On-line appointments versus phone
  - Access to medical records and providers
- “Shared appointments” are being trialed in some settings (non-oncology)
- Expected and delivered care
  - Patient prepping

Copyright 2005 by Randy Glasbergen.  
www.glasbergen.com



**"I already diagnosed myself on the Internet.  
I'm only here for a second opinion."**



74% of Americans have a positive view of medical doctors

57% of Americans feel doctors usually care about their patient's best interests

-Pew Research Center, 8/2/19

70% of patients read on-line reviews

50% of patients used online information to choose a physician

Gen X and Millennials are more likely to use on-line reviews

Evolving data on management of on-line sites

-Medical Economics , 8/8/19

# Quality Initiatives in Oncology

- Assessing outcomes is challenging
  - Tremendous variation on individual levels
- Assessing adherence to practice guidelines is easier
- Standardization of care
- Clinical Pathways – championed by UPMC in early 2000's
  - Algorithms and pathways based on evidence, specialist input, and consensus
  - Generally 80% of patients fall into algorithm pattern
- National guideline and accreditation bodies
  - NCCN, CoC, NAPBC, others
- Future: reimbursement based on compliance with guidelines



# Physician Expectations Vary According to Generation

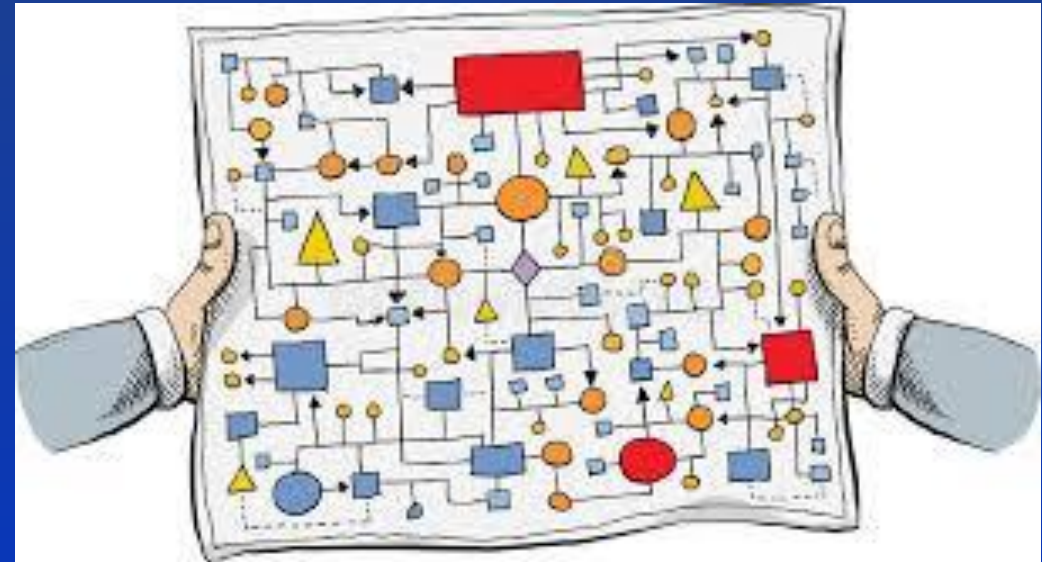
- Approximately 54% of practicing oncologists are  $\geq 65$  years old
- Changes in training programs impact expectation
  - 2003: 80 hour work week limitations
  - Younger physicians are trained in nuanced collaboration with more team/shared care
- Electronic medical records and tech impacts patient flow and physician style
  - “See and type”, voice recognition, scribes
- Majority of oncology positions are employed – private practice is increasingly uncommon
  - Recruiting private practice complicated by lower interest in the business aspect
- Early career physicians tend to favor positions with greater flexibility



# Medical Oncology Recertification Process

“work in progress”

- Earn 100 MOC points every 5 years and complete MOC test
- or-
- Two year assessment option (shorter version of the MOC)
- or-
- Cross your fingers and hope they make it easier before you need to prove you’re keeping up



“It was the best of times, ~~it was the worst of times,~~  
It was the age of wisdom, it as the age of foolishness,  
It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity,  
It was the season of light, ~~it was the season of darkness,~~  
It was the spring of hope, ~~it was the winter of despair.~~”

-Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

