



OSF HEALTHCARE

ANNUAL  
RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM

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Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center  
1306 N. Berkeley Ave., Peoria, Illinois

Keynote speaker – Jun Zhang, MD, PhD

*Building the Bridge: How Translational Research Shapes the Future of Medicine*

**Target Audience:** Physician and non-physician scientists/investigators,  
research support personnel and those interested in research

**Purpose/Objectives:** Describe and explain processes and strategies for protecting human subjects through examples of responsible conduct of research. Explore use of big data for research within our research enterprise as well as strategies to implement our research findings. Provide professional development for members of research teams, including novice and seasoned investigators.



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# ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

- 7:30 a.m.** Registration begins
- 7:45 a.m.** Posters staffed for viewing, discussion and collaboration
- 9:15 a.m.** Welcome and prayer  
*Mike Cruz, MD, chief operating officer, OSF HealthCare*  
*Stephanie Madrigal, MBA, CHRC, CCRP, director, Research Administration, OSF HealthCare*
- 9:30 a.m.** Selected platform presentations
- 10:30 a.m.** Building the Bridge: How Translational Research Shapes the Future of Medicine  
*Keynote Speaker – Jun Zhang, MD, PhD, vice president, Oncology Research, OSF HealthCare Cancer Institute*
- 11:30 a.m.** Awards ceremony
- 11:45 a.m.** Closing comments and adjourn morning session
- Noon** Lunch
- 12:30 p.m.** Clinical Trial Trends 2026  
*Sandra Smith, senior vice president, Clinical Solutions & Strategic Partnering, WCG*
- 1:15 p.m.** AI in the Balance: Weighing the Opportunities and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Clinical Research  
*Donna Snyder, MD, executive physician, WCG*
- 2 p.m.** Improving the Research Infrastructure of OSF HealthCare:  
 The Research Applications Team, Epic Research Pipeline and REDCap  
*Ryan Klute, research application administrator, OSF HealthCare*  
*Cody Adams, informatics manager, OSF HealthCare*
- 3 p.m.** Research Jeopardy  
*Co-hosts: Greg Manship, DBE, CIP, and Stephanie Madrigal*
- 3:20 p.m.** Closing comments and adjourn

# ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## Jun Zhang, MD, PhD

Thoracic Oncology | Translational Cancer Research | Microbiota and Immunity

Jun Zhang, MD, PhD, is an internationally recognized physician-scientist and academic leader in thoracic oncology and translational cancer research. He serves as the Petrakis Endowed Chair and vice president of oncology research at OSF HealthCare Cancer Institute, where he leads strategic scientific initiatives and advances precision oncology across the enterprise. He is also professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and adjunct professor at the Translational Genomics Research Institute.

Dr. Zhang completed his medical training at the Xiangya School of Medicine, earned a PhD in Cancer Biology from Louisiana State University and pursued postdoctoral research at Harvard Medical School and the University of California San Francisco, followed by a hematology/oncology fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine. His career integrates foundational discovery with clinical translation, exemplified by his leadership in developing innovative translational research and investigator-initiated trials and advancing microbiota-informed cancer therapeutics.

He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, including many in high-impact journals such as Cancer Cell, Nature Communications, Clinical Cancer Research, JAMA Oncology, Molecular Cancer, Annals of Oncology and The New England Journal of Medicine. A dedicated member of the global oncology community, Dr. Zhang contributes to AACR, ASCO, ESMO, IASLC and Sigma Xi. He is frequently invited to serve as a peer reviewer for premier journals – including Nature Medicine, Journal of Clinical Oncology and The New England Journal of Medicine – as well as for major funding agencies such as the NIH and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Dr. Zhang's research program centers on three interconnected pillars: the role of the microbiota and its extracellular vesicles in lung cancer biology and immunotherapy; mechanisms of therapeutic resistance and the identification of cancer vulnerabilities for innovative treatment strategies; and the design of novel translational and interventional studies for thoracic malignancies. His work continues to shape emerging ideas at the interface of tumor immunology, microbiome science and precision medicine.