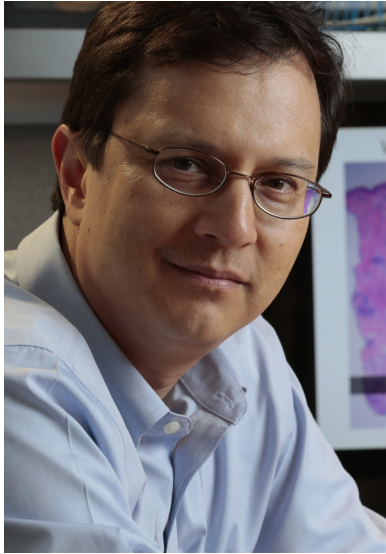


Paul Nghiem, M.D., Ph.D.



- ▶ Affiliate Investigator, Clinical Research Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- ▶ Director, Skin Oncology Clinical Program, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
- ▶ George F. Odland Endowed Chair in Dermatology, Head of Dermatology, Professor of Dermatology/Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Oral Health Sciences and Pathology, University of Washington

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- ▶ Dr. Nghiem is discovering new ways to prevent and treat skin cancers by studying the systems that control cell division. These systems help prevent cells with damaged DNA from reproducing and, when they malfunction, can affect cells' chances of becoming cancerous.
- ▶ One part of such systems is an enzyme called ATR. Dr. Nghiem demonstrated that caffeine can protect against the cancer-causing effects of ultraviolet light by interfering with ATR and leading damaged cells to self-destruct. He is now investigating the mechanisms behind this effect, with the goal of gaining insights into ways to harness these mechanisms to better prevent skin cancer.
- ▶ Dr. Nghiem is one of the world's foremost experts on a rare, deadly and difficult-to-treat skin cancer called Merkel cell carcinoma. His research has identified genetic mutations that may drive MCC and shed light on how a specific virus may trigger tumor development.
- ▶ As a pioneer of immunotherapy for MCC, his team leads an early-phase clinical trial that uses MCC patients' own immune cells to target the cancer. Another ongoing trial explores the use of a molecule designed to stimulate patients' immune systems. Encouraging initial results suggest that immunotherapies may be potent strategies for treating this disease.
- ▶ Dr. Nghiem has studied methods to differentiate and treat different types of skin inflammation, including graft-vs.-host disease (when transplanted tissues attack the body) and eczema.
- ▶ As a practicing physician, Dr. Nghiem treats patients with melanoma, MCC and other skin cancers at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Dr. Nghiem earned his Ph.D. and M.D. in 1994 from Stanford University. Before coming to Fred Hutch and UW in 2006, he was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and treated skin cancer patients at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.
- ▶ Among other honors, Dr. Nghiem was elected in 2014 to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and received the American Cancer Society Legacy & Leadership Award: Find Cures Award in 2012. He has held the George F. Odland Endowed Chair in Dermatology at UW since 2015.