

# Biography

## **PAULA M. FRACASSO, MD, PH.D.**

*Hovey Dabney Professor of Urology  
Cancer Center  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia*

Dr. Paula M. Fracasso arrived at the University of Virginia on September 1<sup>st</sup> as the Penniston Family Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology/Oncology. She serves as the Section Chief of Medical Oncology and the Deputy Director of the Cancer Center. In her role as Section Chief, Dr. Fracasso works with Dr. Geoffrey Weiss, Division Chief, to spearhead the recruitment of new faculty in medical oncology and continue her clinical and laboratory work in early drug development. As Deputy Director of the Cancer Center, she works to develop clinical trials, the infrastructure to support these trials, and provided mentorship to other clinical investigators.

Dr. Fracasso came from Washington University in St. Louis, MO, where she was Associate Professor in Medicine, Attending Physician at Barnes Jewish Hospital, and Leader of Developmental Therapeutics at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center. As leader of Developmental Therapeutics, she oversaw and managed their early phase clinical trials program.

Dr. Fracasso received her undergraduate degree from the College of the Holy Cross and her medical and graduate degrees from Yale University. She completed medical residency training at Beth Israel Hospital, postdoctoral training in cancer research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and fellowship training in Medical Oncology at Tufts-New England Medical Center. In 1991, she joined the faculty at Washington University.

Dr. Fracasso specializes in design and conduct of early phase clinical trials, especially in the treatment of women's malignancies. She currently is principal investigator of a NIH supported research grant (R21) related to treatment of women with breast cancer, and she chairs the NIH Gynecologic Oncology Group Phase I Working Group. She has served as study chair in over 30 institutional and pharmaceutical studies, NCI Phase II contract studies and cooperative group studies. She has authored numerous publications and presents nationally and internationally on topics related to drug development and novel therapies for gynecologic and breast cancers.

As Deputy Director of the Cancer Center, Dr. Fracasso has a leading role in the formulation of the programmatic structure and strategic planning for the Cancer Center. A central focus of her efforts will be in the expansion of developmental and translational therapeutics. In development of this program she draws on the basic science resources of the University and engage the activities of all the clinical disciplines involved in cancer care -- including medical, surgical, and radiation oncology, as well as radiology and psychosocial disciplines.