

Judy Varner, Ph.D.

Judy Varner is Professor in the Departments of Pathology and Medicine and leader of the Solid Tumor Therapeutics Program at the Moores Cancer Center. She is also a founder and organizer of the Myeloid Network.

Dr. Varner earned her bachelor's degree with honors in chemistry from Duke University and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Basel, where she specialized in membrane proteins and cell adhesion mechanisms.

Her research focuses on the role of inflammation in cancer, with particular emphasis on how cell adhesion proteins, endothelial cells, and myeloid cells drive tumor progression. Her laboratory has uncovered novel mechanisms underlying tumor growth and developed innovative therapeutic strategies targeting myeloid cells for the treatment of cancer and infectious diseases. Her work has been published in leading journals, including *Cancer Cell*, *Nature*, and *Cancer Discovery*.

Dr. Varner currently serves as Chair of an NIH review panel and has previously chaired multiple review panels for the NIH, AACR, and major research foundations. Her honors include a Fulbright Fellowship, the AACR-Landon Foundation Innovator Award for International Collaboration, the Lustgarten Foundation Innovator Award for Pancreatic Cancer Research, the V Foundation Award for Translational Cancer Research, and multiple Curebound Foundation Awards for Cancer Research. She has maintained continuous NIH funding since 1997.