ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



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Making Cancer History[®]

The journey continues

For Eduardo A. Vega, M.D., a former research postdoctoral fellow in the department of Surgical Oncology, his gratitude to MD Anderson knows no bounds. His experience not only shaped his approach to research but also has provided continued mentorship, collaboration and inspiration.

"The roots of my journey into the intricate world of surgical oncology trace back to a profound desire—to make a difference in the lives of patients," Vega says.

Vega received his Doctor of Medicine degree in 2007 from the Universidad de los Andes in Santiago, Chile, and completed his residency in general surgery at Hospital Sotero del Rio in Santiago before making his way to MD Anderson in 2017. Following completion of his research postdoctoral fellowship in Surgical Oncology in 2019, he pursued a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery at Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center of Tufts University.

Today, Vega serves as an assistant professor of Surgery at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine in Boston, Mass., where he continues to leverage his expertise in surgical oncology. Vega also continues to collaborate with his mentor from MD Anderson, Jean-Nicolas Vauthey, M.D., professor, Surgical Oncology, conducting research through an international multicenter consortium focused on gallbladder cancer.

"MD Anderson provided an environment where aspirations met opportunities. The collaborative spirit within the institution fostered an atmosphere of growth and learning that continues to shape my career," Vega says.

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Vega encourages prospective students and trainees to embrace the opportunities they have for learning, growth and inspiration at an institution like MD Anderson.

"Seize every opportunity for learning, seek out mentorship from those who inspire you, and commit yourself wholeheartedly to the pursuit of knowledge," Vega says. "MD Anderson provides an unparalleled environment for growth, and every challenge is a stepping stone in your professional journey."

"As I stand at the crossroads of past experiences and future endeavors, the impact of mentorship, both in Chile and at MD Anderson, remains with me," Vega adds. "The journey is ongoing, the challenges are many, but the inspiration derived from those who guided me—the luminaries of the past and the mentors of today—propels me forward."

In his free time, you can find Vega enriching the landscape of medical literature and actively participating in editorial roles. He currently serves as an Early Career Editorial Member for the British Journal of Surgery and Annals of Surgical Oncology, an opportunity presented to him by Charles Balch, M.D., professor, Surgical Oncology, another valuable connection made during his time at MD Anderson.

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