

Deborah Ricci, Ph.D.**Johnson & Johnson**

Deborah Ricci graduated from the University of California with a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics with focused research in the regulation of gene expression by antisense RNA technology in transgenic mice. She completed post-doctoral training, in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Research focused on understanding the mechanism of antisense oligodeoxynucleotide action in patients admitted to Gene Therapy clinical trials. She has over 18 year's pharmaceutical experience at both Bristol-Myers Squibb and Janssen Pharmaceuticals and is currently the Biomarker Lead for the Prostate DAS. She is responsible for the oversight of development, implementation and execution of biomarker strategies in alignment with DAS goals. A major goal of the DAS is to be best in industry (AR-Axis focus). Current biomarker support focuses on understanding resistance mechanisms to compounds targeting the AR-Axis including Zytiga and ARN509. Further focus is on translation of assay results from tumor biopsies to "liquid biopsies" (CTC, plasma) which will allow real time monitoring aimed at guiding compound development and informing combination treatments considering that biopsies are not taken as standard of care. Another major goal is to identify gene classifiers that select homogeneous high risk populations more accurately than clinical features increasing the active surveillance population and providing science based rationale not to further treat with surgery or XRT. Selection of these patients will allow efficient movement to the early disease space and potentially shorter clinical trials as patients will reach their endpoints more quickly. Recent focus centers in strategies to characterize the disease particularly to allow for patient enrichment strategies for compounds outside of the AR-Axis, most notably selection strategies for immunotherapy. Tumor antigens are being identified to allow for vaccine development with the intent of disease prevention.

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