

Nakia Spencer, MS Associate Scientist IV

IACS-6274, a Potent and Selective Inhibitor of Glutaminase (GLS1) Being Developed for KEAP1/NFE2L2 Mutant NSCLC and ASNS-low Ovarian Cancer Patients

Nakia Spencer joined The TRACTION platform at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in 2012. In her current role, she has contributed to the advancement of a diverse portfolio of translational biology and drug discovery and development programs. Her research efforts focus on defining novel translational strategies through comprehensive mechanistic biology. In partnership with the Institute for Applied Cancer Science within the Therapeutics Discovery Division, Nakia has contributed to the advancement of multiple programs through discovery and development, including advancement of IACS-6274 into Phase 1 clinical trials in patients with unmet medical need.

Prior to joining MD Anderson, Nakia was a research associate in cellular immunology at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation where she studied the role of macrophages in B cell lymphomagenesis and the role of lymphoma microenvironment in mediating drug resistance. Nakia completed her graduate thesis work in the Laboratory for Equine and Comparative Orthopedic Research at Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Veterinary Medicine and received her Master's Degree in Biology from Southern University and A&M College. Nakia's research has been published in multiple journals and she is a co-inventor on multiple patents and patent applications related to her research. She is an active member of the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) and an In-patient Advocate and New Volunteer Trainer at MD Anderson Cancer Center.