

Luz Maria Rodriguez, M.D., F.A.C.S
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Surgical Oncologist & Colorectal Surgeon
Medical Officer & Program Director



Dr. Luz Maria Rodriguez is a board -certified general surgeon and a dual fellowship trained surgical oncologist and colorectal surgeon. She works at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP). Prior to joining the DCP she spent nearly a decade as a translational physician-scientist in the Genetics Branch at the NCI. Her lab studied genome-wide gene expression profiles in colonic mucosa of populations at risk. This expression profiling created a foundation for biomarkers of early colon cancer detection and prevention. She developed a Clinical Cancer Genetics Program devoted to risk surveillance, assessment, genetic testing, counseling, prevention and targeted intervention for individuals at increased risk for specific cancers. These protocols involved testing and the identification of biomarkers that might be candidate for intermediates endpoints in treatment and prevention trials.

At DCP, Dr. Rodriguez supports ongoing clinical trial efforts of the NCI Division of Cancer Prevention early Phase 0-II prevention trials through protocol development, scientific review, strategic planning, and consultation on public and global practices. DCP early phase clinical trials mission is to fill the void between preclinical studies and Phase III. Placing emphasis on intervention effects on at-risk tissue-intensive tissue collections(e.g.biopsies), invasive biomarker monitoring. Dr. Rodriguez, oversees chemopreventive and treatment trials in organ sites such as the liver, pancreas, stomach, colon using study agents such as vaccines, Simvastatin, Berberine, Curcumin, Metformin, Erlotinib and Aspirin.

Dr. Rodriguez is a senior staff /faculty surgeon at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUSH) and Walter Reed Military Medical Center (WRMMC) for the past 18 yrs. serving domestic and foreign military families in the area of GI diseases, pelvic floor disorders and breast. She also trains medical students, residents and fellows in surgery and oncology.

