

Lalitha K. Shankar, MD, PhD is at the Cancer Imaging Program at the National Cancer Institute, at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. Since joining NCI in 2002, she has served as an Advisor to the Associate Director of the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis and is currently the Acting Chief of the Clinical Trials Branch in the Cancer Imaging Program. The Clinical Trials Branch oversees all aspects of trials evaluating imaging and image-guided interventions from the Phase 0-Phase III trials. The branch activities includes programs such as The American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) – the imaging cooperative group the Phase I and II Clinical Trials Contract, provision of imaging expertise for ongoing trials of cancer therapeutics sponsored by NCI, trial related informatics and development of guidelines for all trial activities under the Cancer Imaging Program.

Her research interests involve the role of both functional and molecular imaging in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, as well as evaluating the performance characteristics of imaging modalities for optimal use in the management of the cancer patient. Her work involves establishment of and monitoring of clinical trials to evaluate imaging tracers and techniques, which aim to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Dr. Lalitha K. Shankar received her medical degree in Bangalore University, India and received her MS and PhD in Radiation Sciences at Hahnemann University, Philadelphia. She then trained in clinical Nuclear Medicine and completed fellowships in Positron Emission Tomography and Radio-immunodiagnosis and radio-immunotherapy at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the National Cancer Institute, she was a faculty member in the Department of Radiology at Georgetown University and at the Lombardi Cancer Center and also worked in the Division of Nuclear Medicine at Washington Hospital Center.