

THIRD ANNUAL
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Tim Ahles, PhD

Tim Ahles received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the State University of New York at Albany. Following completion of his internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, he joined the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (1982). In 1986, he joined the Department of Psychiatry of Dartmouth Medical School. Over the next 20 years, he developed and directed the Center for Psycho-Oncology Research (1992-2006) which focused on quality of life and symptom management research in cancer patients. In April 2006, he moved to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to develop and direct the Neurocognitive Research Laboratory.

Dr. Ahles' research has focused on symptom management (eg., pain management) and quality of life in cancer patients. Over the last 15 years, his research has focused on cognitive side effects of chemotherapy in patients with breast cancer and lymphoma. These studies have included cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of chemotherapy-induced cognitive change utilizing neuropsychological assessments and structural and functional MRI, examination of genetic factors that increase risk for cognitive changes, and the evaluation of cognitive behavioral interventions. The goals of the Neurocognitive Research Laboratory at Memorial are to: 1) examine neuropsychological changes associated with cancer and cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, and radiation therapy; 2) evaluate potential mechanisms of cognitive change through studies utilizing imaging techniques (fMRI and PET) and evaluating potential biological mechanisms; and 3) develop a research program to evaluate medical and cognitive rehabilitation interventions.

Dr. Ahles has over 25 years of mentoring graduate and medical students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty on research projects related to psycho-oncology in general and cognitive effects of cancer and cancer treatments in particular.

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