



“Impact of Biomedical Innovations for Women’s Health”

Nimmi Ramanujam, Ph.D.

Robert W. Carr Professor of Engineering
Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology
Duke University



Dr. Nimmi Ramanujam is the Robert W. Carr Professor of Engineering and Professor of Cancer Pharmacology and Global Health at Duke University and co-program leader of the Radiation Oncology and Imaging Program (ROIP) at the Duke Cancer Institute. Dr. Ramanujam’s research focuses on breast and cervical cancer. Her goals are to design innovations that enable complex referral services often reserved for hospitals to be accessible at the community/primary care level, develop technologies to see and treat women with early-stage disease in one visit and to develop tools that will make cancer treatment more effective and efficient. She founded the Center for Global Women’s Health Technologies (GWHT) in 2013 where she empowers trainees to create impactful solutions to improve the lives of women and girls globally. This center, since its inception, has catalyzed new research activities and the development and commercialization of several technologies that advance the prevention and treatment of cervical and breast cancer. She has created two companies Zenalux and Calla Health to commercialize her technologies.

Seminar Abstract: This talk will examine the intersection between the global burden of cancer, health disparities, and technology innovation. In the 21st Century, cancer has been a significant health and developmental challenge, contributing to suffering around the world. Like other noncommunicable diseases, cancer has created enormous health disparities. Today, it disproportionately affects populations in low- and middle-income countries, which account for the vast majority of cancer deaths. Using cervical cancer as a case study, Dr. Nimmi Ramanujam will discuss how new biomedical engineering solutions can extend the reach of health care to a broader, more diverse population and explain how these innovations can be disseminated for broad impact.

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