

Steven R. Patierno, Ph.D.
Executive Director
The George Washington University Cancer Institute

Biographical Sketch

As Executive Director of the GW Cancer Institute, Dr. Patierno oversees a comprehensive urban oncology center of over 70 clinicians and scientists dedicated to advancing cancer research, expanding cancer outreach and education, and enhancing the quality of patient care. Central to the mission of the GW Cancer Institute, is understanding the local and national challenge of the unequal burden of cancer and eliminating cancer health disparities in Metropolitan Washington DC. For his city-wide leadership in this area Dr. Patierno has received a Distinguished Public Service Award by the Breast Cancer Resource Committee and the Stoddard Community Service Award by Family and Child Services of Washington DC. He recently Co-Chaired the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) Think Tank on “The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved”. For more information on the GW Cancer Institute see www.gwcancerinstitute.org

Dr. Patierno attended the University of Connecticut where his research on mechanisms of immune suppression earned him the Kappa Psi Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research. He earned his doctoral degree at the Graduate School of Biomedical Science, University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, and the MD Anderson Cancer Institute, working on the genetics of cancer causation. He was awarded the prestigious Rosalie B. Hite Graduate Fellowship in Cancer Research. Dr. Patierno moved to the University of Southern California (USC) Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center as an NIH-funded post-doctoral fellow, where he continued to conduct research in molecular and cellular oncology. He then joined The George Washington University Medical Center, in Washington DC, where he is currently Executive Director of the GW Cancer Institute, founding Director of the Molecular and Cellular Oncology Program, Professor of Pharmacology, Genetics and Urology in the School of Medicine and Health Science, and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health in the School of Public Health and Health Services.

Dr. Patierno’s own research laboratory has focused on lung, prostate, breast and skin cancer, where he has made major contributions to our understanding of the role of genetic damage in the balance of cell death and survival. He is internationally recognized as a leading expert in cancer causation and carcinogenesis and his laboratory has enjoyed uninterrupted funding from the NIH for nearly 18 years. In addition, Dr. Patierno’s laboratory has explored the mechanisms of development of cancer cell resistance to chemotherapy, and the development of bio-therapeutics that control the metastatic spread of cancer. Dr. Patierno’s laboratory discovered the anti-cancer activity of a protein that is the subject of eleven U.S patents and currently under commercial development by a bio-pharmaceutical company as a molecularly targeted cancer therapeutic. In 1999, Dr. Patierno received the GWU Distinguished Researcher Award.

Recently, Dr. Patierno's research and outreach portfolio has expanded to include a \$3.1M grant from the National Cancer Institute to establish the DC City-Wide Patient Navigator Research Program, to assist African American and Latina women overcome access barriers to cancer health care and evaluate the efficacy of patient navigation. He also received a major grant from the Amgen Foundation to launch the GW Cancer Institute's Community by Community Cancer Control Campaign that includes community-based participatory research (see www.gwcancer.com for more information).

Dr. Patierno is the author of over 90 scientific journal articles and book chapters. He is an accomplished teacher and mentor to many graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and medical residents and fellows, and was the founding Director of the GW Molecular and Cellular Oncology Ph.D. Program. Dr. Patierno also played a key role in the founding of the GW School of Public Health and Health Services (now fully accredited with more than 700 students) and the GW Institute of BioMedical Sciences, the umbrella institute for seven biomedical graduate programs. He serves on the editorial board of a number of scientific journals, has chaired many review panels for the National Institutes of Health and other government agencies, and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of several bi-pharmaceutical companies.