

Faculty Feature: Mylynda B Massart, MD

At UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh, we strive to build a strong, exceptional faculty base to help us achieve our goals of producing groundbreaking research and top-level education across a variety of disciplines. Thanks to dedicated faculty like **Dr. Mylynda B. Massart**, who work to improve the lives of countless people in countless communities, we are able to not only uphold our reputation, but also work to improve our education, research and clinical practices every day.

Dr. Massart joined UPMC and Pitt in 2014 as a family medicine physician and assistant professor of family medicine. She has continually sought to integrate genetics and primary care with precision medicine, a field that both Pitt and UPMC have emphasized with the establishment of the Institute for Precision Medicine—the specialty program that first attracted Dr. Massart to the University.

“Immediately, the response from the Department of Family Medicine was supportive to my passion for genetics and my mission to advance the integration of genetics within Family Medicine,” she said. “This was the place I needed to be to manifest this vision.”

Over the years, Dr. Massart has grown in her affiliation with UPMC and Pitt. In 2017, Dr. Massart joined the Clinical and Translational Science Institute—leveraging her participation into a co-core directorship of the Community PARTners Core—as well as the All of Us Pennsylvania research program as a co-investigator. In 2019, she assumed the role of Associate Director for Clinical Services at the Institute for Precision Medicine.

Dr. Massart brings passion for teaching and education not only to her work as an assistant professor at Pitt, but also to her clinical positions and research. Through collaboration with Pitt School of Pharmacy Associate Professor Philip Empey and the Mellon Foundation, she has created a new version of the Test2Learn program, which will teach whole genome sequencing to clinicians to encourage the use of genetics in the primary care workforce.

“My vision is that genetics will expand to become a tool utilized in all health much like imaging as a diagnostic tool,” she said. “I am looking forward to sharing our passion and expertise around genomics through this course.”

As a physician, Dr. Massart always maintains the goal of improving quality of care—and quality of life—for her patients, which she pursues in her work in end-of-life care as medical director of Bethany Hospice, in her previous efforts to care for underserved populations as medical director at the UPMC Matilda H. Theiss Family Health Center and now as creator of the UPMC Primary Care Precision Medicine Clinic. By creating a hybrid visitation model in the clinic, she and her team can provide both virtual and home visits for all patients looking to undergo a variety of genetic related screening and testing.

Looking toward the future, Dr. Massart aims to continue her clinical and teaching work at UPMC and Pitt as well as her research regarding the implementation of precision medicine, pharmacogenomic-guided

prescribing of antidepressants, expanding neurogenetic testing at UPMC and research inclusivity and community-engaged research.

“Primary care and family medicine are especially well-suited to meet the expanding needs for genetics services as we cover a complete spectrum of health care across the lifespan,” Dr. Massart said. “We are looking to achieve funding toward expanding equitable access to emerging precision medicine technologies in our underserved clinic populations.”