

In Memoriam
Kimberly Payne, PhD
(1961-2020)

Dr. Kimberly Payne's lifelong dedication to the health and wellness of children developed into a career in medical research spanning three decades. Inspired by the promise of translational research, the discovery of new therapies, and the hope for a cure to pediatric cancers, Dr. Payne began her career earning her doctorate in microbiology and immunology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She continued on to postdoctoral work at Children's Hospital Los Angeles further studying blood cell development and the immune system, later becoming an Assistant Professor at University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. In 2006, she joined the faculty at Loma Linda University School of Medicine where she served as an Associate Professor.



Since 2017, Dr. Payne served as the Director of Translational Research for Loma Linda University Cancer Center and School of Medicine where she has spearheaded efforts to discover new therapies and treatments for pediatric leukemia in Hispanic populations. Her work has led to substantial understanding of how pediatric leukemia affects different populations, and more critically, how to help these patients recover. So profound is this work that it has been selected to be a cornerstone of Loma Linda University Cancer Center's efforts to earn Comprehensive Cancer Center designation by the National Cancer Institute.

"Dr. Payne was an excellent scientist, teacher, conversationalist, idea-generator, collaborator, connector, and person. She was instrumental to advancing translational research at LLU. She will be missed," said Dr. Tamara Thomas, Dean, Loma Linda University School of Medicine.