

# Sultan Damgaci

**Born:** Turkey

**Currently:** Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Florida



I received my bachelor and master's degrees in Physics from Istanbul University, which is the oldest university in Turkey and dates back to the Ottoman Empire. It was something magical to sit in the classrooms of my ancestors. My worldview expanded beyond the walls of my home country as I moved abroad to do research in Germany. It was there, working on lung cancer, that I first felt I was doing work that contributed to people's lives.

Science is in our body, in the air we breathe, in the smallest cell and in all things around us. Like one of our famous Turkish poets, Nazim Hikmet, says, "Life is like planting an olive tree at the age of 70 and believing that it will grow and yield fruit." In science, we start things that may be completed by our grandkids, but we will definitely touch lives today or tomorrow.