ELIZABETH SHENKMAN, PhD, is the associate director for community outreach and engagement at the UF Health Cancer Center. She also is the chair of the department of health outcomes and biomedical informatics. Dr. Shenkman is a health outcomes researcher whose research focuses on: 1) determining which combinations of health care delivery, community and patient factors influence quality and outcomes of care; and 2) developing and testing corresponding evidence-based strategies to reduce disparities in health outcomes among underserved populations.

In recognition of both her community-engaged research and the use of large linked data sets to examine health outcomes, Dr. Shenkman received a Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) award for the OneFlorida Clinical Data Research Network. OneFlorida is comprised of nine different health system partners caring for over 12 million Floridians or approximately 50 percent of the population in the third largest state. The Floridians in this network include vulnerable populations who are rarely or minimally included in traditional clinical trials (e.g., those of lower socioeconomic status, racial and ethnic minorities, children, and older adults).

Using OneFlorida data, Dr. Shenkman is developing surveillance models and examining risk factors related to receipt of cancer screening for cervical, breast, colorectal and hepatocellular carcinoma. The surveillance models use health care claims, electronic health record, patient reported outcomes and geo-spatial data to better understand factors influencing patients’ cancer-related health risks and health outcomes. In addition, Dr. Shenkman is the co-chair of the PCORI-funded Cancer Collaborative Research Group, which focuses on generating cancer-related research throughout PCORI’s clinical data research network sites.

Dr. Shenkman also is a MPI for the All of Us Precision Medicine cohort development initiative in collaboration with the University of Miami, Emory University and Morehouse School of Medicine. Her particular focus on this project is participant engagement for rural white and African-American individuals.

Dr. Shenkman’s career spans 25 years. Her research has been funded by PCORI, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, NIH and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, among others. She has over 120 peer-reviewed publications in journals such as Pediatrics, Health Services Research, Clinical Epidemiology, Pediatric Blood and Cancer and the American Journal of Public Health. Dr. Shenkman is an elected member of the Society for Pediatric Research and the American Pediatric Society.