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Dr. Rugo is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she directs Breast Cancer and Clinical Trial Education. Her research interests include novel therapies for advanced breast cancer, immune modulation to restore chemotherapy sensitivity, evaluation of circulating cells as novel markers of response and resistance to therapy, neoadjuvant therapy, and supportive care.

She is an investigator in the national multicenter ISPY2 trial, and is the principal investigator of a number of clinical trials. She is 1 of 3 recipients of a Komen Promise Award, receives funding from the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and serves on a number of steering committees for national and international trials. Dr. Rugo is a member of the ALLIANCE Breast Core Committee and the Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium, is the UCSF representative to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines Committee, and serves on several committees for the American Society of Clinical Oncology. She has published many peer-reviewed papers and has given presentations on a variety of breast cancer and supportive care-related topics.

With a summa cum laude undergraduate degree from Tufts University, Dr. Rugo received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed both a residency in internal medicine and fellowship in hematology and oncology at UCSF. In addition, she completed a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship in immunology at Stanford University. She received the Cancer Care Physician of the Year Award in 2010.