

2024 American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Roundtable  
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES****Barbara Ackerman***Patient Advocate*

Barbara is a patient of Dr. Pasi Janne at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. In 2020, she was diagnosed with stage four NSCLC with an EGFR mutation that had already spread to her liver and bones. The cancer was discovered from a routine x-ray ordered by her chiropractor.

Barbara was initially treated with Osimertinib (Tagrisso) which was effective for 8 months. She is now on her fifth line of treatment with the investigational drug MRTX1719 for patients with solid tumors that contain the gene mutation MTAP Deletion.

Barbara grew up in a suburb of Boston and worked in Sales Communication at Reebok, creating company catalogs and newsletters. She is currently retired and lives with her husband in Plymouth, MA. Barbara is lucky to have two sisters living nearby because they are also her best friends. She's the proud mother of two daughters, and has two wonderful grandchildren.

Barbara is an avid golfer and enjoys yoga, pilates and maintains an active lifestyle.

**Mitchell Anderson***American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative (ALCSI)*

Mitchell Anderson is a senior at Brigham Young University majoring in microbiology. Mitchell is from Salt Lake City and will be applying to medical school in June. Mitchell is currently the president of the BYU ALCSI chapter and has worked as an intercollegiate director helping manage 15 or so chapters for the last year and a half. He found a passion for lung cancer screening awareness after becoming connected with Dr. Jeffrey Yang for a summer internship. He looks forward to pursuing this passion as pursues his goal of becoming a physician that makes a difference.

**Stella Aslibekyan, PhD***23andMe, Inc.*

Dr. Stella Aslibekyan is a Principal Scientist and the head of the Real World Evidence team at 23andMe, Inc. Prior to joining 23andMe in 2018, Dr. Aslibekyan was a tenured faculty member at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She earned her undergraduate honors degree in Human Biology from Stanford (2005), followed by training at the Harvard School of Public Health (SM in Epidemiology, 2008) and Brown University (PhD in Epidemiology, 2011). Throughout her research career, she has focused on the "nature and nurture" question-- how do genes and the environment together determine disease risk? As part of the 23andMe lung cancer study team, Dr. Aslibekyan hopes to bring together rich genetic and phenotypic data to learn new insights and inform future treatment and risk prediction strategies.

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**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES****Peter B. Bach, MD, MAPP***Chief Medical Officer, Delfi Diagnostics*

Dr. Peter Bach is a health services researcher and pulmonary physician whose widely published work has focused on lung cancer epidemiology, cancer screening, and pharmaceutical policy. He is the Chief Medical Officer of DELFI Diagnostics, a cfDNA cancer screening company with a marketed high sensitivity low-cost lung screening blood test. He has published > 150 peer-reviewed papers, and is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars.

DELFI DIAGNOSTICS was founded in 2019, and is developing a new class of liquid biopsy tests for early detection based on altered genome-wide fragmentation profiles, also known as "fragmentomes," representing aberrant packaging of DNA in cancer cells. By applying advanced machine learning algorithms, these fragment patterns are detectable at a very low sequencing cost.

Delfi is using this technology to develop highly sensitive and specific cancer detection assays intended for wide and cost-effective distribution and adoption.

**Angela Barry***GO2 for Lung Cancer*

Angela Barry has been with GO2 for Lung Cancer for 10 years, currently serving as Director of Quality Screening and Program Initiatives and working with the Centers of Excellence program to advance best practices implementation and drive patient-centered care delivery across the lung cancer continuum, from screening and early detection through diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

The Kentucky Center for Smoke-Free Policy—UK College of Nursing recognized her in 2020 with the Timothy W. Mullett, MD, Lung Cancer Prevention Award. She previously managed the Kentucky Department for Public Health's Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program and has an MA from the University of Virginia.

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**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES****Julie A. Barta, MD, ATSF**  
*Thomas Jefferson University*

Dr. Barta is Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and Lead for the Korman Respiratory Institute's Lung Cancer, Screening, and Nodules Program at Jefferson. Dr. Barta graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 2008 and completed her Internal Medicine residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, followed by a clinical fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York and a research fellowship focused on biomarkers of invasion in lung adenocarcinoma. Upon joining the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine faculty at Jefferson in 2015, Dr. Barta's translational research focused on elucidating the gain of function role of mutant p53 in lung carcinogenesis, supported by a grant from the American Cancer Society.

In her clinical role, Dr. Barta has developed centralized Lung Cancer Screening (LCS) and Lung Nodule Programs across the 18-hospital Jefferson Health Enterprise. She has expanded the LCS mission to include population science research collaborations and community outreach tailored to underserved groups in Philadelphia, and she has served as PI for multiple industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials in the LCS and Lung Nodule Programs at Jefferson.

Dr. Barta has a committed research focus on early detection of lung cancer. She received an Outstanding Young Investigator Award in 2021 from the Prevent Cancer Foundation, as well as additional research funding from industry and from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Dr. Barta's recent publications and current projects focus on defining lung cancer risk, improving LCS uptake and adherence, and investigating diagnostic strategies for early detection. Dr. Barta is also active at the national level, serving in leadership roles for the American Thoracic Society and the ACS National Lung Cancer Roundtable.

**Regina Barzilay**  
*MIT Jameel Clinic*

Regina Barzilay is a School of Engineering Distinguished Professor of AI & Health in the Department of Computer Science and the AI Faculty Lead at MIT Jameel Clinic. She develops machine learning methods for drug discovery and clinical AI. In the past, she worked on natural language processing. Her research has been recognized with the MacArthur Fellowship, an NSF Career Award, and the AAAI Squirrel AI Award for Artificial Intelligence for the Benefit of Humanity. Regina is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Vickie Beckler, MBA, RN***AstraZeneca*

Vickie J. Beckler, MBA, RN, is a registered nurse and lung program implementation expert. She is the US Lung Ambition Director for AstraZeneca. Vickie spent 4 ½ years at Medtronic where she worked with centers across the nation to help develop and grow lung screening and incidental lung nodule programs using best practice, efficient workflow processes, and risk management strategies. She spent 12 years at Wellstar Health System in Atlanta where she built one of the highest lung screening volume programs in the nation.

She co-authored the National Framework for Excellence in Lung Cancer Screening and Continuum of Care with the Lung Cancer Alliance in 2012 which won the Celgene Innovation Impact Award and was a nurse researcher for the I-ELCAP Lung Cancer Screening clinical trial. She received her MBA from the University of West Georgia and BSN from Georgia Highlands College. She is certified in Design Thinking through MIT and is a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. She is a member of the Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Control Workgroup, the Georgia Lung Roundtable, and the National Lung Roundtable. Among her awards and honors, she is a Biden Cancer Center Initiative FiERCE Award nominee and past recipient of the American Lung Association's Resilience in Healthcare Award.

**Donnita Butler***Patient Advocate*

Donnita is originally from Maine and relocated to the Washington D.C. metro area while serving in the U.S. Navy. She retired in 2017 after a 38-year career in Information Technology with the Navy and Army, transitioning to civil service after the birth of her sons. Donnita enjoys outdoor activities like paddleboarding, kayaking, hiking, backpacking, and camping. A proud grandmother of two, she cherishes the joy her grandchildren bring to her life.

In 2023, Donnita faced a lung cancer diagnosis after missing annual screenings due to COVID disruptions and the birth of two grandchildren. A low-dose CT scan revealed a 1.8cm nodule, and she underwent robotic resection surgery, with pathology confirming stage 1A2 Adenocarcinoma. Biomarker testing later identified a KRAS G12C mutation. Despite risk factors such as tobacco use, family history, asbestos exposure, and high radon areas, Donnita is grateful for timely medical intervention.

Now focusing on her health, she advocates for regular lung cancer screenings and mental health support, aiming to inspire others to prioritize their well-being.

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**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES****Lisa Carter-Bawa, PhD, MPH, APRN, ANP-C, FAAN, FSBM**  
*Center for Discovery & Innovation at Hackensack Meridian Health*

Dr. Lisa Carter-Bawa (formerly Carter-Harris) is a behavioral scientist and nurse practitioner. She is the Director of the Cancer Prevention Precision Control Institute at the Center for Discovery & Innovation at Hackensack Meridian Health in New Jersey and the Deputy Associate Director of Community Outreach & Engagement in the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center Consortium.

Dr. Carter-Bawa's research focuses on the many factors that influence the decision-making process in lung cancer screening decisions as well as actual screening behavior. She has a particular passion for understanding how stigma influences the decision to screen, or not, for lung cancer. She has co-designed and developed tailored interventions that support lung screening awareness, decision-making and screening uptake with particular attention to addressing health equity in lung cancer screening. Her research has been continuously funded for more than a decade by the National Cancer Institute, American Lung Association, and New Jersey Commission on Cancer.

She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a Fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine. She is also an Associate Editor of *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* and currently serves on the editorial boards of *Nursing Research*, *Health Psychology*, and the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. Dr. Carter-Bawa is the Chair of the Stigma & Nihilism Task Group of the ACS NLCRT and a new member of the ACS NLCRT Steering Committee. She has also served on the President's Cancer Panel as an invited member of the Lung Cancer Screening Task Group and the Scientific Panel on Surveillance of Shared Decision-Making for Lung Cancer Screening for the CDC as well as numerous academic and national committees aimed at improving cancer prevention, early detection and decreasing inequities in care.

**Neel Chudgar, MD**  
*Center for Discovery & Innovation at Hackensack Meridian Health*

I am a thoracic surgeon at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York and serve as Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, and Associate Director of Clinical and Translational Research for thoracic surgery through the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. I have a particular interest in the biology of early-stage lung cancers and seek to identify means of improving early detection. I am actively investigating incidental pulmonary nodules to ensure potential lung cancers are not lost to follow-up, and have developed an institutional lung nodule clinic within an underserved patient population. I am also engaged in expanding lung cancer screening at Montefiore-Einstein with a specific focus on improving the adherence rate in patients who are eligible. On the patient side, I believe it is imperative to identify potential barriers to care and I seek to better understand how we can improve ease of access for patients with or at risk of lung cancer.

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**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES****Terri Conneran***KRAS Lung Cancer Patient Survivor; Founder, KRAS Kickers*

With five cancer recurrences, Terri Conneran began the journey to battle stage III lung cancer at diagnosis in 2017. Return of her lung cancer prompted a second opinion, that identified her KRAS G12D biomarker. With a desire to become an informed patient, she started KRAS Kickers as a virtual community global patient empowerment group to connect KRAS Knowledge + Research + Advocacy = Survivorship for any KRAS cancer.

In 2020, during the COVID pandemic, KRAS Kickers connected people online for any cancer types internationally building community, with side-by-side learning. Encouraging education to participate in every part of the equation. KRAS Kickers is the go-to hub bringing leading doctors, researchers, and advocates to the patient community to learn about new developments and clinical trials. Working to overcome all gaps, barriers, KRAS holes for better healthcare outcomes literacy, and education.

Hope shared, is hope multiplied. It takes us all to kick cancer's KRAS!

**Dusty Donaldson***LiveLung*

Dusty Donaldson is Founder and Executive Director of LiveLung, a 501c3 nonprofit serving the lung cancer community. She also is President of the Lung Cancer Action Network (LungCAN), a collaborative association of lung cancer nonprofit organizations and patient advocacy groups. In 2016, she co-authored the book “The ABCs of Lung Cancer for Patients and Advocates,” and is working on the 2nd Edition soon to be released. Dusty has been a reviewer for lung cancer research proposals for ASCO’s Conquer Cancer Foundation and the Congressionally Directed Medial Research Program’s Lung Cancer Research Program. She is a contributing writer for [www.lungcancer.net](http://www.lungcancer.net) and serves on the National Lung Cancer Roundtable’s Survivorship & Stigma & Nihilism Task Groups. In 2022, she received the IASLC Patient Advocate Educational Award. Prior to being diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer in 2005, Dusty was a journalist and public relations professional. She earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in journalism.

**Jessica Donington***University of Chicago*

Dr. Donington is Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Section of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Chicago. She obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and medical degree from Rush University. She completed surgical training at Georgetown University, cardiothoracic training at Mayo Clinic, and a surgical oncology fellowship in the Surgical Branch of the NCI. She was on faculty at Stanford and NYU prior to her current position at the University of Chicago.

She has expertise in multimodality therapy for locally advanced lung cancer, lung cancer clinical trials, and treatment for medically high-risk patients early-stage lung cancer. She is co-chair for the Thoracic Malignancy Steering Committee for the NCI, vice chair of the Council for Education for the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the surgical chair for the NRG Oncology Lung Group and a Director for the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. She is a past president of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association, the New York Society for Thoracic Surgery, and the Women in Thoracic Surgery.

**Linda Dowling, BSN, RN, OCN***Lung Screening Network*

Following her mother's diagnosis and death from lung cancer, Linda Dowling made a mid-career change study nursing. She worked in oncology nursing and navigation at several Chicagoland healthcare organizations, where she learned about lung cancer screening. In 2015 she moved to Rush University Medical Center to launch their lung cancer screening program, helping build and evolve the program until her retirement in 2021. Since then, she's volunteered her time to help oversee her passion project - the Lung Screening Network.

**Chris Draft***Chris Draft Family Foundation (CFFF)*

Chris Draft is the Founder, President, and CEO of the Chris Draft Family Foundation (CFFF) whose mission has been to empower families to lead healthy lifestyles. He is also the Co-Founder of Team Draft, leading the creation of a national campaign that is changing the face of lung cancer. He is an internationally recognized speaker, community leader, and family and character advocate who serves as an NFL Ambassador and a national spokesperson on many health-related issues, including the care and treatment of asthma, from which he suffers, and lung cancer, the disease that claimed the life of his wife, Keasha in 2011.

In 1998, he was drafted by the Chicago Bears, ultimately spending 12 years in the NFL. In addition to the Bears, Chris played for the San Francisco 49ers, Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, St Louis Rams, Buffalo Bills, and Washington Redskins, finishing his NFL playing career in 2010. In 2006, while with the Carolina Panthers, Chris established the Chris Draft Family Foundation, which focuses on several primary initiatives that stress the importance of family, education, healthy lifestyles, character development, personal responsibility, self-discipline, and physical fitness. His playing career has earned him a national platform to become a powerful community advocate across the country using his skills as a leader and speaker, and to act on his compassion for helping those less fortunate. Chris was and continues to be the face to the community within every stop of his career.

**Debra S. Dyer, MD, FACR***National Jewish Health*

Dr. Dyer is a fellowship trained cardiothoracic radiologist and Professor of Diagnostic Radiology at National Jewish Health, a chronic respiratory disease hospital in Denver Colorado. Throughout her career, Dr. Dyer has been committed to Quality Improvement in Diagnostic Radiology. She has implemented numerous Quality Improvement initiatives including programs in radiation dose reduction, the appropriate utilization of imaging and lung nodule management. She was instrumental in the creation of the National Jewish Health Lung Nodule Registry for incidental lung nodules, the first of its kind in the United States.

With a special interest in Lung Cancer Screening CT, Dr. Dyer serves as the Medical Director of the Lung Cancer Screening Program at National Jewish Health. She is the Immediate Past Chair of the American College of Radiology Lung Cancer Screening Steering Committee. Dr. Dyer serves as a current Co-Chair of the Colorado Lung Cancer Task Force of the Colorado Cancer Coalition. She is the current Vice Chair of the Early Detection of Lung Cancer Implementation Task Group of the National Lung Cancer Round Table. Dr. Dyer has participated in numerous research studies and published several peer-reviewed articles on lung cancer screening and lung nodule management.



**Farhood Farjah, MD, MPH, FACS***University of Washington*

Farhood Farjah, MD, MPH, FACS, is a thoracic surgeon, scientist, and educator. He is a Professor of Surgery and the Endowed Chair in Lung Cancer Research at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle. Farhood's clinical expertise is in thoracic oncology, minimally-invasive surgery, and endoscopy. His research interests are in quality improvement, risk-prediction, and comparative-effectiveness with an eye towards improving patient outcomes and the value of care.

Farhood has received funding from the National Cancer Institute, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and CHEST Foundation. He mentors the next generation of clinicians and scientists through his roles as faculty within the UW Cardiothoracic Surgery and General Surgery Residency Programs and as Associate Medical Director for the UW Surgical Outcomes Research Center. Farhood serves as a volunteer for several professional organizations, including the National Lung Cancer Roundtable, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American College of Chest Physicians, and Thoracic Surgery Foundation.

**Narjust Florez, MD***University of Washington*

Dr. Narjust Florez is originally from Venezuela, she graduated first in her medical school class at the Universidad Catolica Nordestana in the Dominican Republic. She completed her internal medicine residency at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (selected as the most scholarly resident in the Department of Medicine in 2015 and 2016) and fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where she was Chief Fellow from 2018 -2019.

She is a thoracic medical oncologist and the Associate Director of The Cancer Care Equity Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In 2022, Dr. Florez also became the first Latina to hold an Associate Editor position in Oncology as the new Associate Editor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at JAMA Oncology. Dr. Florez's clinical interests include targeted therapy for lung cancer and the care of women and young patients with lung cancer, including their unique aspects of cancer survivorship.

**Adam Fox***Medical University of South Carolina*

Dr. Adam Fox is a pulmonologist at the Medical University of South Carolina who has a clinical and research focus in thoracic oncology. His research focuses on improving precision medicine treatment selection and delivery for patients with lung cancer.

**Steven Fu, MD, MSCE**

*Associate Chief of Staff for Research, Minneapolis VA; Director, VA HSR Center for Care Delivery and Outcomes Research; Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical School*

Dr. Fu completed undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his MD degree at Jefferson Medical College and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. He subsequently pursued a General Internal Medicine Fellowship and obtained a Master's of Science Degree in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. At the Minneapolis VA Health Care System, Dr. Fu is currently the Associate Chief of Staff of Research (ACOS-R) and the Director of the Center for Care Delivery and Outcomes Research (CCDOR), a VA Health Systems Research Center of Innovation (COIN). Dr. Fu is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School and a member of the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center.

Dr. Fu is an internationally recognized expert in tobacco cessation and health equity and is a past co-Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Health Disparities Network of the Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco (SRNT). He is a leader in the treatment of tobacco dependence among diverse racial/ethnic minority groups, and among our nation's military Veterans. His research is focused on identifying and implementing best practices for improving the delivery and utilization of tobacco dependence treatments among diverse and vulnerable populations.

**Michael Gieske, MD**

*St. Elizabeth Healthcare*

Dr. Michael Gieske graduated from University of Louisville Medical College in 1984, then completed his Family Medicine Residency at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Edgewood, Kentucky in 1987. In 2022, he left his Family Medicine practice of 36 years to fully commit his efforts as St. Elizabeth Medical Center Director of Lung Cancer Screening, and related policy, advocacy, and research. He has worked with his team at St. Elizabeth Healthcare to build one of the most successful lung cancer screening programs in the country. He is dedicated to raising awareness of lung cancer and lung cancer screening, bringing hope to individuals with lung cancer and at risk for lung cancer.

**Angela Gonnella, LMSW***Lung Cancer Community Navigator Manager | GO2 for Lung Cancer*

Angela Gonnella, LMSW, is the Lung Cancer Community Navigator Manager at GO2 for Lung Cancer. A Licensed Master Social Worker, Angela has extensive experience working with individuals and families across the cancer continuum. Having experience as the Director of Clinical and Support Services, she provided emotional and social support to those impacted by cancer and their loved ones. She facilitated and oversaw support groups and programs, helping patients and families navigate the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. Angela also has hospital-based knowledge from her time at the local children's hospital, where she provided Social Work services to pediatric hematology/oncology and nephrology patients and their families.

Since joining GO2 for Lung Cancer, she has taken a leadership role in spearheading the regional demonstration project in New York, aiming to increase the uptake of lung cancer screening. Angela is a dedicated advocate for those impacted by cancer, with a particular focus on lung cancer awareness and early detection.

**Rian M. Hasson, MD, MPH, FACS***Brigham and Women's Hospital*

Dr. Rian M. Hasson, MD, MPH, FACS, is a thoracic surgeon and the inaugural Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) for the Department of Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Born and raised in Southern California, she earned her undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley, attended USC Keck School of Medicine, and completed her training at Brigham and Women's Hospital, The Ohio State University, and Mayo Clinic.

Prior to her arrival at Brigham and Women's, she served as director of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center lung cancer screening program, and co-founder and co-director of the Lung Health and Pulmonary Nodule Clinic. Her current clinical focus is on lung and esophageal oncology, and with a passion for health equity rooted in family experiences, her current research focuses on urban disparities in lung cancer screening, particularly within Black/African American/Caribbean populations.

In her new role, she strives to emphasize the link between patient access, health outcomes, and diversity, aiming to improve recruitment, retention, and inclusivity at all levels. Beyond medicine, she enjoys family time, international travel, cooking, and art.

**Louise Henderson, PhD, MSPH***University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Louise Henderson, PhD, MSPH, is a Professor of Radiology in the School of Medicine and Program Co-Lead of Cancer Epidemiology in the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests focus on evaluating the net benefits of cancer screening in real world settings, incorporating biomarkers to improve risk prediction and outcomes, and assessing the comparative effectiveness of new cancer screening and surveillance tools.

**Kristin Higgins, MD***City of Hope – Atlanta*

Kristin Higgins, M.D., is chief clinical officer for City of Hope® Cancer Center Atlanta, where she oversees clinical care and hospital operations. Dr. Higgins — who was inspired to pursue medicine by her mother’s career as a nurse — also holds the position of professor of radiation oncology, with a particular focus on lung cancer.

Prior to joining City of Hope, Dr. Higgins spent 15 years at Emory University, where she built an international reputation as a lung cancer expert, developing numerous clinical trials focused on combination radiotherapy treatments for patients with non-small cell and small cell lung cancer. Her many research leadership positions include serving as principal investigator of NRG/Alliance LU005, an international, phase 3 clinical trial investigating the use of immunotherapy alongside standard chemoradiation for small cell lung cancer patients.

After earning her medical degree at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Dr. Higgins completed an internship in internal medicine and a residency in radiation oncology, both at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina, which named her chief resident. She then moved to Atlanta, where she spent 15 years at Emory University, earning an international reputation for her expertise in lung cancer.

Dr. Higgins is a member of multiple boards and committees in the lung cancer advocacy community, including the National Lung Cancer Roundtable Survivorship Task Group and the NRG Oncology Lung Cancer Core Committee, and the board of directors for NRG Oncology and RTOG Foundation. She has also co-chaired the World Conference on Lung Cancer and is the author of more than 150 peer-reviewed publications. Her work has been recognized by numerous awards, including the ASCO Bradley Stuart Beller Foundation Merit Award, the Radiological Society of America’s Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award and Emory’s Clinic Gold Provider.

**Tom Houston, MD***American Academy of Family Physicians*

Dr. Houston, adjunct Professor of Family Medicine at The Ohio State University, is a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency in family medicine and was chief resident.

After a 10-year career in academic family medicine, he led the American Medical Association's tobacco control and public health advocacy programs. From 2003 to 2005, Dr. Houston held the Jim Finks Endowed Chair in Health Promotion at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, with joint professorships in public health and family medicine. After Hurricane Katrina, he and his family moved to Columbus, Ohio where he worked in cardiac rehabilitation and prevention services at McConnell Heart Health Center.

He has retired from clinical medicine, but is active in medical editing, writing, and consultation. He has authored numerous articles, chapters, and monographs on tobacco control and preventive medicine subjects, and has made many presentations on these subjects at national and international conferences. He currently represents the AAFP on the steering committee of the National Lung Cancer Roundtable. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Preventive Medicine and the Institute of Medicine of Chicago and is past president of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians.

**Michael Hu***Patient Advocate*

Michael Hu, a resilient lung cancer survivor since March 2022, is an enthusiastic advocate for lung cancer awareness and research. Drawing from a diverse professional background, Michael has held roles as a project manager for a large telecommunications company, a local director for a human rights non-profit, and a biomedical researcher.

Currently residing in Philadelphia with his wife and two young children, Michael's life centers around his family. He enthusiastically participates in lung cancer advocacy whenever the opportunity arises, leveraging his personal journey and professional expertise to support patients and promote research for improved therapies and outcomes. As a dedicated member of Alk Positive Inc., Michael passionately contributes to the community.

In his personal life, Michael cherishes creating lasting memories with family and friends. He is also exploring new hobbies such as Aerogardening and keeping dwarf shrimp.

**Arif Kamal, MD, MBA, MHS, FACP, FAAHPM, FASCO***American Cancer Society*

Dr. Arif Kamal serves as the first-ever chief patient officer for the American Cancer Society. In this role, Dr. Kamal drives coordinated efforts to accelerate progress against cancer through the organization's patient, caregiver, and healthcare professional mission initiatives.

Dr. Kamal oversees the organization's cancer support network, patient navigation services, educational programs, patient and caregiver lodging and transportation, 24/7 contact center, digital patient support resources, and organizational efforts that impact the full cancer continuum across 20,000 global communities.

Prior to joining the American Cancer Society, Dr. Kamal served as an oncologist, researcher, and innovative leader at Duke University and the Duke Cancer Institute. He is an associate professor of medicine and population health at the Duke University School of Medicine, and he recently served as the physician quality and outcomes officer at the Duke Cancer Institute.

Dr. Kamal has authored more than 225 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts and is passionate about facilitating conversations, increasing awareness, and advocating for advancements in all areas of patient care. Dr. Kamal lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with his wife and two children.

**Alina Keshwani***American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative (ALCSI)*

Alina Keshwani is a sophomore at the University of Michigan majoring in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience with an intended minor in Entrepreneurship. Alina is the co-president and co-founder of the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative chapter at Michigan and actively participates in the national team as well.

After graduating from U-M, Alina plans to attend medical school and work in the healthcare field. Her work involves research, outreach, and advocacy leadership with Dr. Jeffrey Yang to ultimately improve patient care. Specifically, through her studies and volunteer efforts, Alina has developed a strong commitment to advancing public health and education, striving to make an impact both locally and nationally.

**Alisha Keshwani***American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative (ALCSI)*

Alisha Keshwani is a sophomore at the University of Michigan studying Biology, Health, and Society and Science, Technology, and Society with a concentration in Medicine. Originally from Iowa, Alisha has been working with Dr. Jeffrey Yang and the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative (ALCSI) since 2022. She has since founded a chapter of ALCSI with Alina Keshwani as her co-founder and Dr. Ella Kazerooni as their faculty advisor at the University of Michigan.

Through her outreach work at the University of Michigan as well as advocacy and research with Dr. Yang, Alisha has grown to become extremely passionate raising awareness for lung cancer and, more broadly, improving access to healthcare.

**Woojin Kim, MD***ACR*

Woojin Kim, MD, is the Chief Medical Officer at the ACR DSI, Chief Medical Information Officer at Rad AI, and a musculoskeletal radiologist at the Palo Alto VA. He was Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer at Equium Intelligence, acquired by Rad AI in 2022.

Dr. Kim was the CMIO at Nuance Communications from 2016 to 2019. He co-founded Montage Healthcare Solutions, which was acquired by Nuance in 2016. Previously, Dr. Kim served as Interim Chief of the Division of MSK Imaging at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Kristen H. Kimball, M.S., M.E.M.***Advocate, Educator*

Kristen retired from the faculty of the University of Connecticut's Physiology and Neurobiology Department, where she formerly taught Anatomy and Physiology to students entering the health care professions; and continues to Comparative Physiology online each summer. She received her undergraduate and Master of Science degrees from the University of Connecticut and her Master of Environmental Management degree from Yale University. She also spent a few years as a physical therapist after graduating college.

Kristen's husband David was diagnosed with Stage 4 EGFR+ lung cancer in May 2012. The news was a shock for everyone, as Dave was 59 and otherwise the picture of health. Dave's lung cancer path benefitted from multiple clinical trials. Thanks to Dr. Lecia Sequist and her team at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Dave was able to enjoy seven wonderful years with his family; meeting two new grandchildren and staying busy as ever building furniture, restoring his 1960 Triumph, traveling, and advocating for lung cancer research.

Kristen continues Dave's lung cancer work today through volunteering for multiple organizations. She is Secretary of The White Ribbon Project's board of directors and is a research advocate for the Lungevity Foundation, Lung Cancer Research Foundation and MGH. This past summer, she was able to join the first cohort of caregivers admitted to the CDMRP's Lung Cancer Research Program as Consumer Reviewers. Finally, she is incredibly grateful to be a member of the NLCRT Survivorship Task Group, where she can continue to advocate for all to have the quality of life that Dave was able to preserve throughout his trajectory.

**Dr. Silpa Krefft***Rocky Mountain Regional Veterans Administration Medical Center*

Dr. Krefft is an occupational pulmonologist and critical care physician. She completed training in Internal Medicine at Boston University Medical Center and then subsequently completed Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship and Occupational and Environmental Medicine training at the University of Colorado. She joined the faculty in the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at National Jewish Health in Denver, CO in 2016 as well as the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado in 2017.

Her primary clinical and research interests include exposure-related lung diseases (asthma, bronchiolitis, lung cancer) with a particular focus on deployment-related respiratory diseases in military service members who have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.



**Wassim Labaki, MD, MS***University of Michigan*

Wassim Labaki is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, medical director of the Lung Volume Reduction Program and co-chair of the COPD Quality Improvement Committee at the University of Michigan. He received his medical degree from Georgetown University. He then completed his internal medicine residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of Michigan where he also earned a master's degree in clinical research design and statistical analysis.

His research interests include the study of metabolomics and chest imaging biomarkers to understand COPD phenotypes and progression. He is also an investigator in several COPD clinical trials and observational studies.

**Stephanie Land, PhD***National Cancer Institute*

Stephanie Land, Ph.D., (she/her/hers) is a Program Director and Statistician in the Behavioral Research Program Tobacco Control Research Branch (TCRB) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Her areas of focus are tobacco use among patients in the settings of cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship. She serves on the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Tobacco and Cancer Subcommittee and the IASLC Tobacco Control and Smoking Cessation Committee.

Dr. Land is the NCI lead for the [Smoking Cessation At Lung Examination \(SCALE\) Collaboration](#), a collaboration that is sharing data and methods across eight funded projects to pursue research on cessation interventions that are efficacious and feasible in lung cancer screening clinics. She is also the NCI lead for the [Cancer Center Cessation Initiative \(C3I\)](#), and the past Director of Tools and Resources for the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) - University. Dr. Land is a member of the National Lung Cancer Roundtable. Additionally, she is a member and past chair of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences Clinical Trials Coordination Group. Formerly, she was a member of the NCI Special Studies Institutional Review Board, Associate Editor for the Journal of Clinical Oncology, and a member of the NCI Clinical Trials Stewardship Committee.

Before joining NCI in 2011, Dr. Land was co-founder and director of the Reduce Smoking and Exposure to Tobacco (ReSET) Center and a Research Associate Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Land was a statistician in the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Lung and Thoracic Malignancies Program from 1999-2011 and served as the lead statistician for the Lung Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) from 2002-11. Dr. Land earned a doctorate in statistics from Stanford University.

**Brandon Leonard, MA***LUNGevity Foundation*

Brandon Leonard is Senior Director of Government Affairs for LUNGevity Foundation. In this role, he leads LUNGevity's legislative policy activities, including outreach to Congress and state legislatures, analyzing bills, and developing policy statements and letters. He also coordinates LUNGevity's Early Lung Cancer Policy Coalition and represents the organization on numerous other coalitions. Brandon co-manages the LUNGevity Action Network, a platform to engage the lung cancer community with educational events, articles, and advocacy opportunities.

Before joining LUNGevity, Brandon served as Associate Director of Congressional Relations at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), where he led legislative activities and organized events to engage the cancer and broader medical research communities. Previously, Brandon served as Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at Men's Health Network, leading policy and advocacy activities for the organization. After receiving a Governor's Fellowship in 2004, he served in the office of the Governor of Virginia working to advance the Commonwealth's community integration policies for people with disabilities. He also served as a program officer at the Foundation for Sustainable Development. Brandon earned his MA in international development from the George Washington University and a BA in foreign affairs and Spanish from the University of Virginia.

**Katie McMahon***American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)*

Katie (Catherine) McMahon is the Principal, Policy Development – Prevention for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. By engaging advocates across the country to make their voices heard, ACS CAN advocates for legislative and regulatory solutions that will end cancer as we know it, for everyone. Katie provides in-depth analysis for legislative and regulatory priorities at all levels of government and develops public policy positions for cancer prevention, including screening and early detection, tobacco control, diet and physical activity, and vaccination. Katie previously worked at ACS CAN as a Senior Policy Analyst.

Prior to re-joining ACS CAN, Katie was a Consultant Public Health Advisor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As a Public Health Advisor, Katie provided public policy expertise to senior staff on prevention initiatives, such as Communities Putting Prevention to Work; led the redevelopment of Let's Move! Cities, Towns, and Counties; and provided support for several strategic action plans, including Tobacco Control Strategic Action Plan and the Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. Prior to ACS CAN and HHS, Katie worked as a Research Manager at the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids on a variety of tobacco control issues including tobacco taxes, smoke-free laws, prevention and cessation funding, Food and Drug Administration legislation and the Department of Justice case against the tobacco industry. Katie received her undergraduate and Masters of Public Health degree from the George Washington University.

**Hiren Mehta, MD***UNC Rex Cancer Care*

Meet Dr. Hiren Mehta, a dynamic and trailblazing physician redefining lung health and critical care. A proud graduate of Ross Medical School, Dr. Mehta's journey has taken him through rigorous training in Internal Medicine-Pediatrics and a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Vidant Medical Center and East Carolina University. Today, he stands at the forefront of innovation as a key figure in early lung cancer detection and treatment with UNC Rex Pulmonary Specialists and UNC Rex Cancer Care.

As the Medical Director of Bronchoscopy and the Lung Nodule Program, Dr. Mehta has transformed UNC Rex into a national teaching hub for advanced bronchoscopic technologies, including robotic, navigational, bronchoscopy, Electromagnetic Fluoroscopic Navigational Bronchoscopy (ENB) and Endobronchial Ultrasound (EBUS). Collaborating with leading companies such as Intuitive Ion, Medtronic, he drives innovation, education, and groundbreaking advancements in early lung cancer detection, empowering physicians nationwide.

His expertise spans far beyond technology—Dr. Mehta specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of sarcoidosis, asthma, and interstitial lung disease, while also championing lung cancer prevention strategies. As a board member of the Lung Cancer Initiative, he's deeply committed to research, patient advocacy, and education to combat lung cancer across the state. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine and is an active member of leading professional organizations like the ACCP, ATS, and SCCM. When he's not working, Dr. Mehta is an adventurer at heart. Alongside his wife and two daughters, he explores the world, immersing himself in cultures, cuisines, and experiences. He's also an avid runner and a creative cook, adding a personal zest to his life's recipe for success.

**Dr. Whitney Mendel, MSW, PhD***Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Dr. Whitney Mendel is a Community Outreach and Engagement Manager in Cancer Screening within the Department of Medicine at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her work is focused on improving lung cancer screening rates within the WNY communities and throughout the state.

She is also the Coordinator of the NYS Cancer Consortium's Lung Cancer Screening Action Team, a state-wide collaborative which seeks to mobilize multi-level resources to decrease lung cancer mortality by increasing lung cancer screening using guideline-driven, evidence-based strategies.

**Claudia Miller, BSN, RN, OCN, ONN-CG***Medical University of South Carolina*

Claudia Miller, BSN, RN, OCN, ONN-CG is a thoracic oncology nurse navigator at Hollings Cancer Center, Charleston, SC who has been a practicing Oncology nurse, predominantly in the lung cancer realm, since 2001. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Bachelor of Nursing Degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. Prior to entering nursing, Claudia earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and worked as a Certified Social Worker with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Claudia has been active in many professional organizations over the years including Academy of Oncology Nurse Navigators (AONN), Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and American Cancer Society (ACS) to advance clinical navigation. Claudia served as faculty for the ACS and National Lung Cancer Roundtable (NLCRT) Lung Cancer Biomarker Testing Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO), a statewide multidisciplinary team created to address barriers to care and discuss biomarker testing challenges. She has presented at several NLCRT Summits on the role of navigation in biomarker testing and featured in state and national (AONN) podcasts to promote and educate lung cancer nurse navigators.

Currently, Claudia serves as president of the Lowcountry ONS Chapter. She is involved in many community advocacy efforts including Dragon Boat Charleston, Hollings Cancer Center Lowvelo, American Lung Association Lung Force and hosting the Hollings Cancer Center annual GO2 Shine a Light on Lung Cancer event. She is a contributing author to the upcoming publication, *Oncology Nurse Navigation: Delivering Patient-Centered Care Across the Continuum*, Third Edition.

**Stacie Miller, RN, MSN, MPH***Moncrief Cancer Institute, UT Southwestern Medical Center*

Ms. Stacie Miller is the Oncology Clinic Manager at Moncrief Cancer Institute-UT Southwestern Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. She has been a registered nurse for over 20 years and began her work with cancer screening programs ten years ago. Her lung cancer screening program is focused on improving lung cancer screening rates and reduction of smoking cessation among uninsured and underserved individuals using strategic outreach approaches and patient navigation, funded by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. She has also been involved in the implementation of process improvement protocols for various cancer screening initiatives within a safety-net health system.

She has received recognition in nursing excellence for leadership and quality. She has experience in building partnerships and collaborations among multidisciplinary teams to develop and deliver cancer screening programs. Her special interest is in program development to improve quality and access to health care for underserved populations.

**Jennifer Minnix, PhD***University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

Dr. Jennifer Minnix received her PhD in clinical psychology from Florida State University in 2005. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Behavioral Science at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the Research Director of Tobacco Research and Treatment Program (TRTP).

She has been an investigator/ co-investigator on more than 15 NIH and industry-sponsored clinical trials for smoking cessation with a variety of vulnerable populations including pregnant women, cancer patients and survivors, high risk individuals who smoke and are eligible for lung cancer screening, and individuals with behavioral health disorders. She has extensive expertise in the implementation, tailoring, fidelity, and quality of behavioral health interventions for smoking cessation.

Dr. Minnix is also the faculty co-lead for the MD Anderson Quitline, a tobacco treatment clinical service designed to disseminate the highly successful, state-of-the-art, and empirically supported clinical model of MD Anderson's TRTP.

**Drew Moghanaki, MD, MPH***UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology*

Dr. Drew Moghanaki is Professor, Chief of Thoracic Oncology, and the Stanley Iezman and Nancy Stark Endowed Chair in Thoracic Radiation Oncology Research at the UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology. He has a joint appointment in the Veterans Health Administration where he leads over \$50 million in lung cancer early detection and clinical trial activities, including the VA Partnership to Increase Access to Lung Screening (VA-PALS) and phase III randomized clinical trial evaluating SBRT for operable stage I lung cancer (VALOR). He is a member of the steering committee and scientific advisory boards of the National Lung Cancer Roundtable, LUNgevity Foundation, and GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer.

**Timothy W. Mullett, MD, MBA, FACS***University of Kentucky*

Timothy Mullett, MD, MBA, FACS, is a professor of surgery in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Kentucky (UK). He received his medical degree and surgical training at the University of Florida, and has served on faculty at UK for the past 28 years. Although he has experience in cardiac surgery and transplantation, Dr. Mullett's clinical practice and research focuses on the overwhelming burden of lung cancer in Kentucky. He is a member of the UK Markey Cancer Center – Kentucky's only National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center – and is chair of UK's Cancer Committee. He served as CoC state chair for six years and in October of 2020, Dr. Mullett was installed as Chair of the Commission on Cancer until 2024.

Currently, Dr. Mullett is the medical director of the Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network, a program that provides high-quality cancer care closer to home at collaborating centers through specialty services, education and outreach programs. He also serves as medical director of the Markey Cancer Center Research Network, a collaborative network of sites that conducts a portfolio of high priority trials including therapeutic oncology trials and interventional and non-interventional studies appropriate for community centers.

**Heidi Nafman-Onda, MS***The White Ribbon Project*

Heidi Nafman-Onda, MS, is a lifelong health enthusiast, health educator, and fitness trainer. She was diagnosed with Stage 3A inoperable non-small cell cancer of the lung with no targetable mutations in October of 2018, and co-founded [The White Ribbon Project](#) in October of 2020. The White Ribbon Project is a non-profit organization that focuses on lung cancer awareness and increasing lung cancer advocacy. Heidi and others in the organization are heavily promoting the need for improved lung cancer screening and increased research funding for lung cancer.

**Jessica Olson, PhD, MPH***Medical College of Wisconsin*

Jessica Olson, PhD, MPH is an Associate Professor in the Institute for Health & Equity at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is a health disparities researcher who works with teams of multidisciplinary researchers, clinicians, and community partners to identify innovative solutions to complex health issues. Since 2019, she has co-chaired the National Lung Cancer Roundtable's State-Based Initiatives Task Force. In that role, she has supported the development of impactful coalition-building tools and resources, including the widely utilized State-Based Initiative Planning Tool. She has presented nationally on strategies to increase lung cancer screening uptake, address systemic inequities in cancer care, and foster equitable, collaborative partnerships. Her dedication to eliminating lung cancer disparities reflects her belief in the power of collaboration to drive meaningful change in public health and healthcare systems.

**Elyse R. Park, PhD, MPH***MGH/Harvard Medical School*

Dr. Park is a clinical health psychologist and health services researcher who focuses on understanding and improving health-related behaviors among cancer survivors and populations at risk for cancer. A Professor of Psychiatry & Medicine at MGH/Harvard Medical School, her research is conducted at the MGH Mongan Institute at the Health Promotion and Resiliency Intervention Research Center. She directs the behavioral science research at the MGH Tobacco Research and Treatment Center and the MGH Division of Clinical Research's Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Unit.

**Chris Pernell, MD, MPH, FACPM***NAACP*

Chris T. Pernell, MD, MPH, FACPM, serves as the Director of the NAACP Center for Health Equity. Dr. Chris is a dynamic physician leader and social change agent. In her practice, she focuses on health justice, community-based advocacy, and population-wide health promotion and disease prevention. The Center is charged with driving equitable health outcomes and transforming healthcare systems while valuing the whole person. Prior to joining the nation's oldest and most venerable civil rights organization, she launched The Esther Group, a public health consulting and health equity strategy firm. As founder of The Esther Group, she lives the mandate to dare a future where organizations, communities and systems can innovate for a better world and humanity.

**Laura Petrillo, MD***Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School*

Laura Petrillo, MD is a palliative care physician-investigator in the Division of Palliative Care and Geriatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Petrillo's research focuses on improving palliative and supportive care for adults living with advanced cancer in the precision medicine era. She is the Co-Chair of the National Lung Cancer Roundtable Survivorship Task Group and the Chair-Elect of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Research Committee.

**Laura Elridge D. Proctor, MPA***GO2 for Lung Cancer*

Elridge is the Senior Director, Government Affairs at the GO2 for Lung Cancer. She has extensive experience within non-profit, patient advocacy and health policy. She previously worked on Capitol Hill, handling a portfolio of women and children's health issues for a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. She has also worked on a number of political campaigns and local volunteer boards, including gubernatorial appointment by Maryland's Governor, Martin O'Malley; with two consecutive terms served, as a member of the Trial Courts, Judicial Nominating Commission for District Fifteen-Charles County, Maryland. Prior to joining GO2 for Lung Cancer, Elridge was the Vice President of Public Policy at the Tourette Association of America. Elridge holds a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration, Government Management and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. A mom of two to James III and Jessica and an Army wife to Col. James Proctor Jr.

**Jennifer Redmond Knight, DrPH***University of Kentucky College of Public Health*

Dr. Jennifer Redmond Knight is a part-time Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health and a member of the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center Cancer Control Program. In this role, she provides leadership related to quality implementation of lung cancer screening efforts (KY LEADS Collaborative™ and the QUILS™ Group), the Kentucky Cancer Consortium, practice, service and workforce development efforts in the College of Public Health and evaluation for colorectal health systems grant. She is also a coalition coach, meeting facilitator and strategic planner who is passionate about catalyzing diverse groups of people to work together to make a bigger impact than they could on their own.

**Liora Sahar, PhD***American Cancer Society*

Liora Sahar, PhD, is a Geodetic engineer and GIS Professional (GISP) with experience in research, industry, government consulting, non-profit, and military domains, specializing in data analytics, geospatial sciences, remote sensing, and algorithm and software development. A graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech), Liora served as adjunct faculty while leading the Geospatial Solutions Team at ACS, comprising professionals with backgrounds and experiences in GIS, city planning, environmental sciences, and geography. This team actively participates in research projects and supports the daily activities of ACS programs, pillars, and regions. Sahar provides leadership, expertise, and operational support within ACS and to partners, focusing on the integration of Geographic Information Systems and Science within organizational projects and research.



2024 American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Roundtable  
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES****Elizabeth Scharnetzki, MA, PhD**  
*MaineHealth Institute for Research*

Dr. Liz Scharnetzki is an experimental social psychologist and Faculty Scientist at MaineHealth Institute for Research's Center for Interdisciplinary Population and Health Research. She studies the psychological, physiological, and behavioral effects of stigma and stereotyping. Her research aims to understand how these factors impact patients and may ultimately contributing to health disparities. Much of Dr. Scharnetzki's current work focuses on understanding and quantifying the prevalence of lung cancer stigma and developing interventions to reduce blame and othering.

**Joan H. Schiller, MD**  
*Oncology Advocates United for Climate and Health-International (OUCH-International); Lung Cancer Research Foundation*

Dr. Joan H. Schiller is widely published and internationally recognized for her work in lung cancer clinical research. Before serving as the Deputy Director of Clinical Investigation for the Inova Schar Cancer Institute in Fairfax, Virginia, and Chief of Hematology/Oncology, she was the division chief of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center and Deputy Director of the Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center in Dallas, where she held the Andrea L. Simmons Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research.

Dr. Schiller's research has generated well over peer-reviewed 200 publications that she has authored or co-authored, including articles, abstracts, book chapters, books, reviews and invited manuscripts. Dr. Schiller is also passionate about climate change and its impact on health and is the Co-Founder and Chair of the Steering Committee of Oncology Advocate United for Climate and Health - International (OUCH-I), a non-profit organization whose goal is to educate cancer health professionals and organizations about the impact climate change has on cancer care, and to advance awareness, actions, and policies that mitigate these effects. She has published numerous articles, editorials, and opinion pieces on the effects of climate change and health in such journals as *JAMA Oncology*; *JCO Oncology Practice*; *Cancer Letter*, *IASLC Lung Cancer News*, and *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*. She has given multiple talks and webinars, including for the European Society of Medical Oncology; American Thoracic Society, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, University of Wisconsin, Houston Methodist Hospital, and the Canadian Global Oncology Workshop, among others.

Dr. Schiller is also the founder and President of Free to Breathe, a national advocacy organization aimed at raising awareness and funding for lung cancer, which recently merged with Lung Cancer Research Foundation.

**Lecia V. Sequist, MD, MPH***Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center*

Dr. Sequist is originally from Michigan. She attended Cornell University and Harvard Medical School, and then settled in Boston. She completed her clinical training at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Massachusetts General Hospital.

During training she also earned a Master's in Public Health from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. She joined the faculty at the MGH Cancer Center in 2005 and is currently the Landry Family Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, the Program Director for Cancer Early Detection and Diagnostics at MGH and the leader of the Cancer Risk, Prevention and Early Detection Program at the joint Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. She sits on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Lung Cancer, the NCI Thoracic Malignancy Steering Committee, and the Scientific Advisory Councils for LUNGeity Foundation and Stand Up 2 Cancer.

Dr. Sequist's research focuses novel technologies and approaches to cancer screening and early detection. She is passionate about mentoring. In her free time, she likes to spend time with her husband, two sons and two dogs, read and learn the Hawaiian language.

**Karen Sheares, MD, PhD***NCQA*

A recognized health technology executive, physician, and epidemiologist, Dr. Sheares is passionate about applying advanced analytics and product engineering to improve outcomes and to drive health equity for millions of beneficiaries across the U.S. She is currently the Vice President of Quality Sciences at NCQA where she leads quality science research programs and supervises the generation of content for the HEDIS measure set and other metrics created by and stewarded by NCQA.

Previously Dr. Sheares worked as a senior-level executive with the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), a physician-led contracting firm within Yale New Haven Health. CORE serves clients including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Systems, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, private Medicare Advantage payers, and large health systems. In that role, Dr. Sheares drove quality content development for federal and commercial clients, created vision and actively guide a large multi-disciplinary team in the design, testing, and dissemination of tools to drive healthcare improvement.

Dr. Sheares has deep expertise navigating complex client stakeholder relationships, leading multi-year funded research programs, and managing public and peer review of our high-visibility and high-impact products. Dr. Sheares remains an adjunct Associate Professor at Yale School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics.

**Elaine Shum, MD***NYU Perlmutter Cancer Center*

Dr. Elaine Shum is an Assistant Professor and thoracic medical oncologist at NYU Perlmutter Cancer Center. She graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor's in Science in Biology and attended Stony Brook University School of Medicine for her medical degree. She completed her hematology and oncology fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein School of Medicine. At NYU Perlmutter Cancer Center, she sees patients with thoracic malignancies and in the Phase I program. She is the principal investigator of several thoracic oncology and Phase I clinical trials. Her interests include targeted therapies for lung cancer, early detection for lung cancer and lung cancer in non-smoking populations.

**Anurag K. Singh, MD, FASTRO***Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Dr. Anurag K. Singh is a Radiation Oncologist and Professor at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Yale University and MD from Washington University in Saint Louis where he also did his residency. His first position was at the National Cancer Institute. He has been at Roswell Park for the last 17 years and currently serves as Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education for Career Development, Director of Radiation Research, and Leader of the Cancer Stress Biology Program.

He has designed and executed clinical trials to investigate a variety of novel therapies. Over the last decade he has performed and published both pre-clinical and prospective clinical studies (single institution and international) on a variety of topics that have the potential to alter the therapeutic ratio including stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT.)

**Lucy B. Spalluto, MD, MPH***VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System*

Lucy B. Spalluto, MD MPH completed medical school at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, Diagnostic Radiology Residency at Brown University/Warren Alpert School of Medicine and the Women's Imaging Fellowship at Vanderbilt. She completed the VA Quality Scholars Health Services Research Fellowship and the Vanderbilt Master of Public Health Program in 2019.

Dr. Spalluto is the Associate Director of the VETWISE Center of Innovation (COIN) at the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System and a Professor in Vanderbilt's Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences where she serves as the department's Vice Chair of Health Equity. Dr. Spalluto is co-chair of the Radiological Society of North America's Health Equity Committee. Dr. Spalluto leads an active research program centered on addressing cancer disparities.

**Jamie Studts, PhD***University of Colorado School of Medicine*

Dr. Jamie L. Studts is a Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Scientific Director of Behavioral Oncology. Dr. Studts also serves as the Co-Leader for the Cancer Prevention and Control program and Co-Director of the Population Health Shared Resource at the University of Colorado Cancer Center.

Prior to joining the University of Colorado, Dr. Studts served as Professor of Behavioral Science at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Assistant Director for Cancer Prevention and Control, and Director of the Behavioral and Community-Based Research Shared Resource Facility at the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center. Dr. Studts is a clinical health psychologist, and his interests address behavioral aspects of lung cancer. His research develops and tests interventions to facilitate equitable and high-quality lung cancer screening and evaluate novel approaches to improving quality of life and well-being among lung cancer survivors. His research has been funded by NCI, NIDCR, NIDA, NIEHS, PCORI, CDC, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, the Kentucky Lung Cancer Research Program, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Dr. Studts is the Principal Investigator of the Kentucky LEADS Collaborative, and he previously served on the Institute of Medicine National Cancer Policy Forum addressing Implementation of Lung Cancer Screening. He is a Fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, a member of the Scientific Leadership Board for GO2 for Lung Cancer, and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's Lung Cancer Screening Guideline Panel. Dr. Studts serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the American Cancer Society's National Lung Cancer Roundtable, Co-Chairs the Stigma and Nihilism Task Group, and Chairs the Campaign to End Lung Cancer Stigma. In 2019 he received the Centerstone Healthcare Advocacy award for his efforts to reduce the burden of lung cancer in Kentucky.

**Kathryn Taylor, PhD***Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Dr. Taylor is a behavioral scientist and a Professor in the Department of Oncology at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center in Washington DC. Dr. Taylor's research focuses on the development and implementation of smoking cessation interventions for individuals who are at high risk for lung cancer and are eligible for lung cancer screening. In addition, she leads the Cancer Center's Cessation Initiative (C3i), which is a clinical program providing evidence-based tobacco treatment to patients diagnosed with cancer and hematologic conditions.

**Carey C. Thomson, MD, MPH, FCCP***Mount Auburn Hospital/Beth Israel Lahey Health, Harvard University*

Dr. Thomson is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Chair of the Department of Medicine at Mount Auburn Hospital/Beth Israel Lahey Health. She is the Chair of the American Cancer Society/National Lung Cancer Roundtable Lung Cancer Early Detection Task Group, member of the ACR 2.0 Steering Committee for Lung Cancer, and has held numerous regional and national leadership roles at specialty society organizations related to lung cancer screening and nodule management. Dr. Thomson founded and directs the Multidisciplinary Thoracic Oncology and Lung Cancer Screening (LCS) Program at Mt Auburn Hospital. She has developed multiple implementation tools for LCS, including a business modeling tool, LUNGPLAN, with the NLCRT and leads national efforts to incorporate Artificial Intelligence technology, and the electronic health record into care pathways for early detection of lung cancer. Dr. Thomson served as Co-Chair of the ATS/ALA Implementation Guide to Lung Screening and recently contributed to the NLCRT Best Practice Guide for Early Detection of Lung Cancer.

**Nancy Torrison, BA***A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation*

Serving as the executive director of A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOH) has been the most meaningful part of my career journey. After 12 years in this role, I remain honored to be part of the nation's efforts to identify solutions for America's deadliest cancer and perplexed by the biases that continue to slow down progress in lung cancer screening and patient care.

At ABOH, we work to close gaps and overcome stigma in the U.S., such as those found in screening and biomarker testing. Our mission-based programs include funding exceptional early-career investigators and cutting-edge lung cancer research, providing patients and families with essential literacy-based education and services, and promoting earlier detection. We know our work leads to extended and saved lives.

**Mylene Truong, MD***University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

Dr. Truong completed her radiology residency in Montreal, Canada and her Thoracic Radiology fellowship training in Massachusetts General Hospital. She joined faculty at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

**Ashley Vassallo***Patient Advocate*

Ashley Vassallo is a stage 4 lung cancer advocate and content creator based in Santa Rosa, California. Diagnosed in 2022, Ashley uses her platform, @onelunglady, to raise awareness about lung cancer, advocate for early detection, and challenge stigmas surrounding the disease. Her work has been featured in publications like Self Magazine and Survivor Net, and she frequently partners with nonprofits and Healthcare Organizations to amplify patient voices. Ashley combines humor, authenticity, and education to connect with others and inspire action for equitable healthcare.

**Jeffrey B. Velotta, MD, FACS***Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center*

Dr. Velotta, a Bay Area native, moved to the East Coast to begin medical school at George Washington University. He then returned to the West Coast to start his general surgery residency at UCLA Medical Center. During this time, Dr. Velotta also completed his postdoctoral research in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine. Following this, he completed his training in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Velotta's clinical and research interests involve innovative techniques and regionalization pathways for lung cancer. In addition, his most recent research involves improving lung cancer screening uptake in Asian Americans and identifying key factors in the rising incidence of lung cancer in non-smoking women.

**Robert J. Volk, PhD***University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

Dr. Volk is Hubert L. and Olive Stringer Distinguished Professor in Cancer Research at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he also serves as Deputy Chair in the Department of Health Services Research. A decision scientist, Dr. Volk heads the Decision Support Lab in the Department of Health Services Research and the Decision Science Core for MD Anderson's NCI-funded Cancer Center Support Grant.

At MD Anderson he received President's Recognition Awards for Faculty Excellence (2016), Faculty Excellence in Education and Mentorship Advancement (2017), Faculty Excellence in Prevention Outreach (2019), and in 2020 received the Robert M. Chamberlain Distinguished Mentor Award. In 2023 he received the Margaret and James A. Elkins, Jr. Faculty Achievement Award in Cancer Prevention at MD Anderson.

His lab produces, tests and disseminates decision-support tools for decision-making across the cancer care continuum. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed research articles and received numerous awards for the production of patient decision aids. He serves as Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for the International Patient Decision Aid Standards (IPDAS) Collaboration and co-led the recent update of the evidence and standards used in development of patient decision aids. Currently, he chairs the Shared Decision Making Task Group of the National Lung Cancer Roundtable (NLCRT), supported by the American Cancer Society.

**Dr. Erica Warner, ScD, MPH***Harvard Medical School*

Dr. Erica Warner is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital where she works within the Clinical and Translational Epidemiology Unit. She is a cancer epidemiologist who conducts clinical and community-based research examining how the social and physical environment affect cancer screening and early detection, risk, and intermediate markers.

Her research focuses on breast, lung, and colorectal cancers with a particular interest in racial/ethnic and socioeconomic health disparities. She examines and conducts clinical and community-based research. Dr. Warner has a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a master's in public health degree (MPH) from Yale School of Public Health. Dr. Warner completed her doctorate and the Alonzo Smythe Yerby Postdoctoral Fellowship, both in Epidemiology, at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

**Graham Warren, MD, PhD, FASCO***Medical University of South Carolina*

Dr. Warren is a Board-Certified Radiation Oncologist, Vice Chair for Research, and Mary M. Gilbreth Endowed Chair of Oncology at the Medical University of South Carolina who is an international expert in addressing tobacco use by cancer patients at the cellular, departmental, institutional, state, regional, national, and economic level. He authored sections in the 2014 and 2020 Surgeon General's Report on the adverse effects of smoking on cancer treatment outcomes and benefits of quitting smoking after a cancer diagnosis.

We have pioneered opt-out approaches to address tobacco use by cancer patients by developing institutional cessation programs, statewide cessation support programs using state quitlines, and national cessation programs across the United States and Canada with the NCI, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, and American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer to provide evidence-based cessation support for all cancer patients.

Through these efforts, we have demonstrated significant expansion in access to evidence based care across the United States and Canada, and have recently demonstrated significant improvements in survival for patients with cancer who receive evidence-based care within 6 months following a cancer diagnosis.



**Renda Wiener, MD, MPH**

*National Center for Lung Cancer Screening, Veterans Health Administration*

Renda Soylemez Wiener, MD, MPH is a pulmonologist, health services researcher, and implementation scientist. She is the Deputy Chief Consultant for the National Center for Lung Cancer Screening, Veterans Health Administration; the Associate Director for the Center for Health Optimization & Implementation Research, VA Boston Healthcare System; and a Professor of Medicine at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine.

Dr. Wiener's research focuses on implementation of lung cancer screening, with an eye towards improving quality, patient-centeredness, and equity. She has chaired or participated in multiple guidelines and policy statements related to implementation of lung cancer screening. Dr. Wiener serves as the Vice Chair of the National Lung Cancer Round Table Shared Decision Making Task Group.

**Natalie Wing**

*Medical University of South Carolina*

Natalie Wing is a researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA, and a National Director for the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative, a 501©(3) non-profit, which has worked with communities across all 50 states to teach people about the importance of lung cancer screening. She oversees one-third of the ALCSI college chapters and their activities, and helps lead ALCSI's inter-organizational partnerships. Notably, she spearheads ALCSI's ongoing Not Just a Statistic Project, and, in partnership with the White Ribbon Project, the White Ribbon Relay. She graduated Harvard College last May and will be starting medical school in the Fall.

Currently, she also co-leads ALCSI's Plus One Campaign along with Donna Tong, Riley Hurr, Alex Potter, Deepti Srinivasan, and Priyanka Senthil.

**Ignacio I. Wistuba, MD***University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

Ignacio I. Wistuba, MD, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Translational Molecular Pathology with Joint appointment in the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology, and co-director of the Khalifa Institute of Personalized Cancer Institute at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is also the director of the Thoracic Molecular Pathology Laboratory, director of the UT Lung Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) Tissue Bank, director of the ECOG-ACRIN (Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group-American College of Radiology Imaging Network) Central Biorepository and Pathology Facility, and pathologist for the SWOG Lung Cancer Committee and the Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium.

Dr. Wistuba's major research interest is the elucidation of the molecular abnormalities involved in the pathogenesis and progression of lung cancer and other solid tumors. He has co-authored over 800 papers in peer-reviewed journal and several book chapters. His research interests also include identifying new molecular targets, validating biomarkers for targeted therapy and immunotherapy, and identifying molecular markers associated with lung cancer and other solid tumors development, progression and metastasis development using annotated human specimens. He is principal investigator (PI) and co-PI on several molecular pathology and biomarker projects supported by multi-investigators and multi-institutional grants, and research agreements, including MD Anderson NCI Cancer Center Support Grants Tissue Bank and Pathology Resource, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Multi-Investigators Research Awards, two NCI-U24 grants supporting the ECOG-ACRIN Central Biorepository and Pathology Facility and the MD Anderson Center Immune Monitoring and Analysis Center (CIMAC).

**Dr. Steven Zeliadt***Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Health Systems Research*

Dr. Zeliadt is health economist with joint appointments in the University of Washington's School of Public Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Health Systems Research (HSR) service, where he is the Director of the Seattle VA HSR Center of Innovation (COIN) for Veteran-Centered and Value-Driven Care. As part of both his University and VA appointments, he conducts independent research related to the value of care delivery approaches and provides guidance for planning future policies. His expertise and experience include performing complex analyses of VA clinical and administrative data to evaluate clinical quality and outcomes, costs, and patient-reported outcomes. He has extensive experience serving as Principal Investigator (PI) for prospective clinical trials and observational studies involving quantitative and mixed-methods approaches to evaluating the impacts and costs of healthcare interventions, with a recent focus on investigating outcomes of the VHA's Whole Health model of care.