

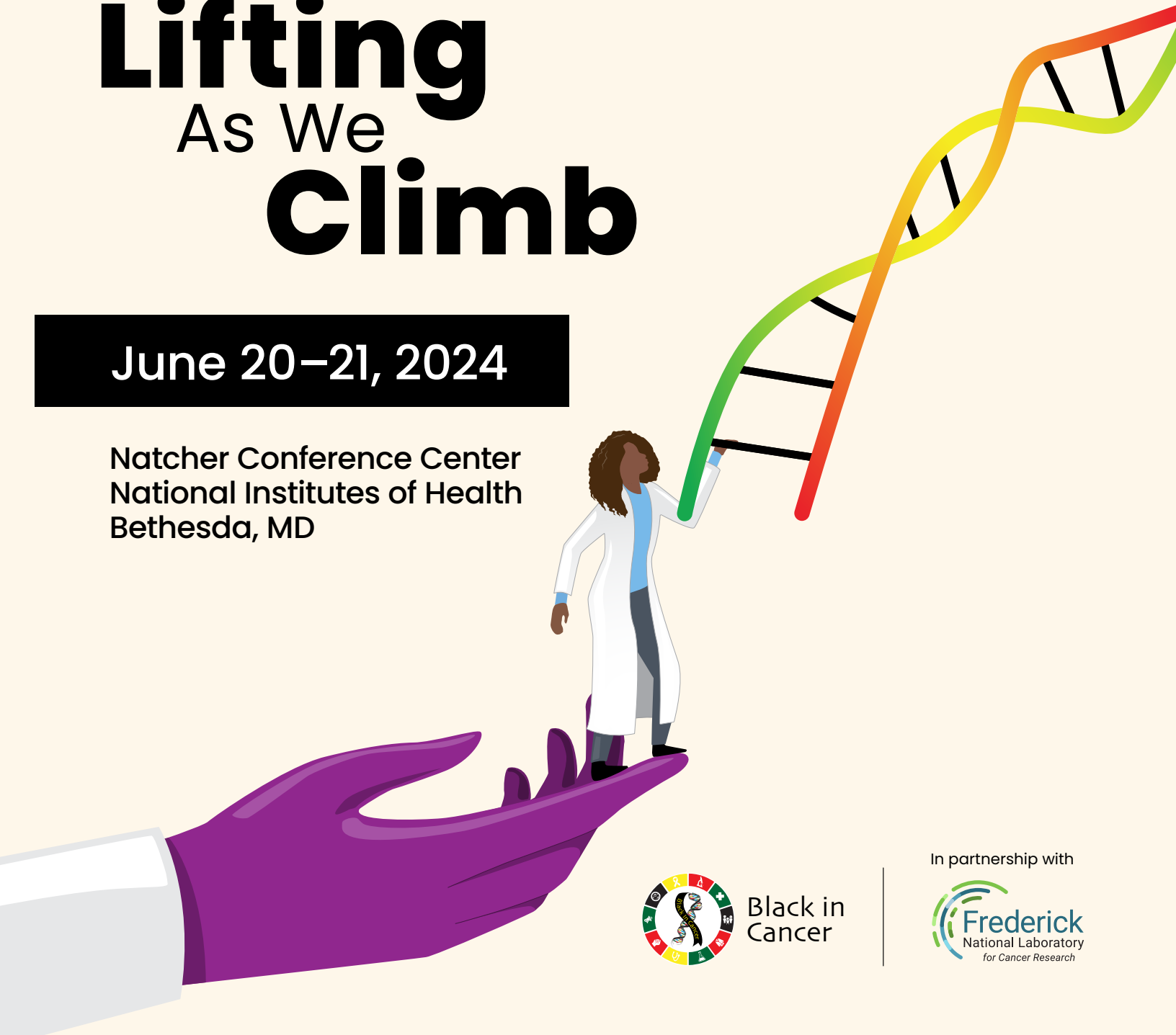


Black in Cancer Conference 2024

Lifting As We Climb

June 20–21, 2024

Natcher Conference Center
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD



Black in
Cancer

In partnership with



It's truly a privilege to extend my warmest welcome to you for joining us at our second Black in Cancer Conference alongside our partner, the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research.

Four years ago, Black in Cancer began from a Twitter direct message between a Ph.D. candidate and a postdoc, with the idea to bring together Black cancer researchers into a community alongside physicians and patient advocates. We have gone from a small group of researchers holding virtual events to being an international organisation working alongside some of the largest cancer organisations in the world to achieve our vision. In this sense, our organisation has always embodied the theme of this conference, lifting others as we ultimately climb ourselves. Overall, our aim is to empower and encourage future Black cancer leaders whilst reducing disparities through education and advocacy.

Black in Cancer was formed out of a desire to provide support for a community that often goes underserved and underrepresented. To bring together the scientific, medical, and advocacy groups who share a common mission, ending cancer for all of us.

Our work in these spaces has had an impact far greater than we had ever imagined and yet your presence here indicates that there is much work left to do. With members of the Black community still dying of cancer at significantly higher rates globally as well as the well-documented "leaky pipeline," our work is far from complete. However, I am excited that you, by being here show that you want to play a part in this work and lift others, whether into scientific positions or helping the community to be informed and empowered about their healthcare decisions.

As you will see throughout this conference, Black in Cancer continues to support and encourage young Black cancer researchers globally, not only through our awards for postdocs and junior principal investigators, but also alongside our collaborations with Cancer Research UK as a part of the PhD Scholarship Programme and of course our mentorship programme.

We at Black in Cancer are big proponents of the phrase "it's harder to be what you can't see." Our stellar speaker line-up shows that it is possible to be a ground-breaking, innovative, and brilliant Black scientist. With initiatives like these and this conference, our aim is to provide the visibility we never had.



First and foremost, I want to thank our incredible Black in Cancer board. Both past and present members have poured more than you could possibly imagine into the organisation by offering their time and resources, and for that I will always be eternally grateful.

I want to also thank the National Cancer Institute and Frederick National Laboratory for their support and encouragement to pull this conference together. In particular I'd like to thank Crystal Canja who believed in us right from the start. Thank you for partnering with us to continue to place Black researchers at the fore. To our programme organising committee and speakers, we cannot thank you enough for helping us generate this inspiring agenda of exciting talks that we are sure will go on to rouse patients and researchers alike to push for change. We cannot have events like this without all of those who are interested and engaged in learning the challenges that exist and what we can do to fix them.

Ultimately systemic racism isn't an easy fix, but coping and thriving within those circumstances is certainly easier when you have a community behind you. So, thank you for being part of the Black in Cancer community and lifting others as we climb together.

Dr. Sigourney Bonner

CEO, Black in Cancer

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first Black in Cancer conference held in America. This meeting at the Natcher Conference Center at the National Institutes of Health came about through a timely partnership with the nonprofit Black in Cancer and productive collaborations among the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, Cancer Research UK, and many other supporters and generous sponsors that are cited in our program. We thank each of them along with our dedicated Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee, whose names appear in our program, for their support and devotion that made this conference happen.

Our meeting coincides with the American federal Juneteenth holiday. This commemorates Major General Gordon Granger's order at the end of the Civil War on June 19, 1865, that the Emancipation Proclamation be enforced in Texas. The holiday is a time for us to reflect on our shared history and learn from it.

We come together with 350 registrants, including more than 50 distinguished speakers, who join us from near and far. They come from colleges, universities, government agencies, foundations, and the biopharmaceutical industry. This conference proved sufficiently popular that all registration slots were filled months before our meeting date.

We are particularly pleased to welcome our trainees, including undergraduate, graduate, and medical students, as well as post-doctoral fellows who have come to listen, learn, and network. You are the next generation of life scientists who will make a difference in the lives of cancer sufferers. Take full advantage of this opportunity to participate in and benefit from this conference. Your presence gives us confidence in the future. That's because diverse scientific teams are the most productive ones.

We are in for a real treat at this conference. The meeting showcases thought leaders in cancer science and medicine who devote their energies to counter cancer health disparity. They do this



in part by training and educating scientists who will make practice-changing discoveries in basic, translational, clinical, and population health science coupled with advocacy, and public policy. These scholars are passionate about their work. Their commitment will be on display throughout our conference.

So many devoted partners contributed to this meeting. This space does not permit me to call out each of them for their efforts. But it seems fitting to say that this conference was the brainchild of Dr. Sigourney Bonner, a recent graduate of Cambridge University and the CEO of Black in Cancer. She partnered with Dr. Vladimir Popov, Dr. Maggie Scully, and Crystal Canja of the Partnership Development Office at the Frederick National Laboratory along with many other devoted colleagues to bring us together. Please join me in thanking them for their dedicated service.

Sincerely,

Ethan Dmitrovsky, M.D.

American Cancer Society Professor

Laboratory Director, Frederick National Laboratory
for Cancer Research

President, Leidos Biomedical Research

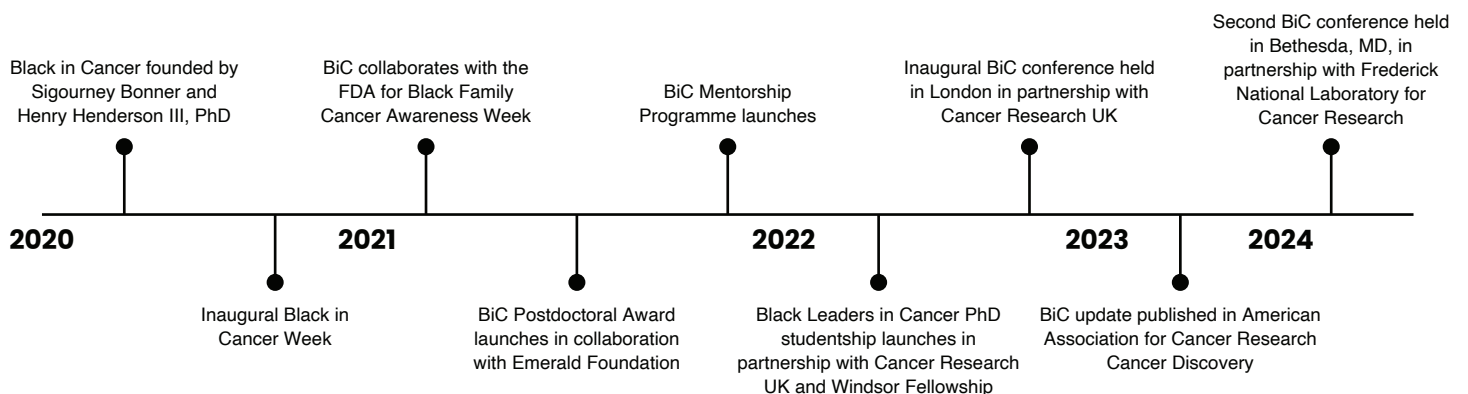


Black in Cancer (BiC) was founded in 2020 and aims to strengthen the network between Black people in the cancer space whilst highlighting Black excellence in cancer research and medicine. The work we do can be further disseminated into two key areas: the BiC Pipeline Program (BiCPP) and the Cancer Awareness Project (CAP). The work we do is made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers led by a board of directors comprised of students and young professionals.

In response to a call routinely made by our CEO, Dr. Sigourney Bonner, “You cannot be what you cannot see,” the BiCPP is committed to empowering ambitious cancer researchers throughout their educational journey, facilitating their transition into successful careers. To date, we’ve provided comprehensive support across the entire pipeline, spanning from undergraduate students to postdoctoral researchers. This support includes mentoring, funding, and career guidance through a range of initiatives. Our collaborative efforts with esteemed partners, such as Cancer Research UK

and The Emerald Foundation, enable our initiatives. Students in the Black in Cancer Mentorship Programme have secured lab placements at prestigious institutions in the US and UK, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, University of Oxford, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute, and Francis Crick Institute.

Our CAP initiatives strive to educate the community and enhance participation in clinical trials by empowering patients and advocates with culturally informed information in an accessible manner. Our collaborative efforts with the FDA have extended to two cycles of the annual Black Family Cancer Awareness Week, held in June over the Juneteenth weekend. As Black scientists, we know that the battle against cancer is not over yet, and we need to do more to raise awareness within our communities. We are motivated to carry on doing “what we do best”—debunking cancer myths, improving awareness of early warning signs, and promoting prompt medical-seeking.



Meet the BiC Board



Sigourney Bonner, Ph.D.

CEO



Henry Henderson, Ph.D.

Director of Cancer Awareness



Elshaddai White, Ph.D.

Director of Partnerships and Sponsorships



Julia Morris, Ph.D.

Director of Mentorship and Outreach, UK



Mamadou Bah

Director of Mentorship and Outreach, US



Tumie Ntereke, Ph.D.

Director of Communications



Jordan Bonner

Director of Operations



Briana White

Creative Director

Scientific Steering Committee

Sigourney Bonner, Ph.D., Black in Cancer

Shauna Clark, Ph.D., National Cancer Institute

Ethan Dmitrovsky, M.D., Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Barry Gause, M.D., Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Marybeth Terry, Ph.D., Columbia University

Elizabeth Travis, Ph.D., MD Anderson Cancer Center

Lucile Adams-Campbell, Ph.D., Georgetown University

Ellie Daniels, M.D., M.P.H., American Cancer Society

James Lillard, Ph.D., Morehouse School of Medicine

Carla Williams, Ph.D., Howard University Cancer Center

LeeAnn Bailey, M.B.B.S, Ph.D., M.S., National Cancer Institute

Conference Planning Committee

Sigourney Bonner, Ph.D., Black in Cancer

Elshaddai White, Ph.D., Black in Cancer

Tumie Ntereke, Ph.D., Black in Cancer

Claudia Haywood, J.D., D.P.A., Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Maggie Scully, Ph.D., Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Crystal Canja, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Danielle Siler, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Mary Ellen Hackett, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Elayne Lowe, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Jennifer Alexander, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

LeeAnn Bailey, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., M.S., National Cancer Institute

Chanelle Case Borden, Ph.D., National Cancer Institute

Dominiqua Griffin, Ph.D., National Cancer Institute

Tula Michaelides, National Cancer Institute

Tawana Thomas-Johnson, American Cancer Society

Chad Womack, Ph.D., United Negro College Fund

Lucy Stuart, Cancer Research UK

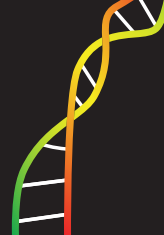
Gwen Capers Wilson, Capers Wilson Hospitality Consultants

Lily Milliner, Build IT Up, LLC

Kaylin Carey, Morehouse School of Medicine



Meeting Agenda



DAY 1

Thursday, June 20, 2024

7:30–8:30am

Event Check-in/Breakfast/Workshop/Table Set-up

8:30–8:45am

Opening Remarks

Sigourney Bonner, Ph.D., Black in Cancer

8:45–9:00am

Welcome Address

Doug R. Lowy, M.D., National Cancer Institute (NCI)

9:00–9:45am

Keynote Address

John Carpten, Ph.D., City of Hope

9:45–10:00am

Break

10:00–10:45am

What Does Black in Cancer Mean to You?

Moderator: **Kaylin Carey, M.S.**, Morehouse School of Medicine

Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, Ph.D., Envision Consulting

Ethan Dmitrovsky, M.D., Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Clayton Yates, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University

10:50–11:35am

Mentorship in Motion

Moderator: **Mamadou Bah**, Black in Cancer

Lucile Adams-Campbell, Ph.D., Georgetown University

Carla Williams, Ph.D., Howard University Cancer Center

Madison Moore, Ph.D., MD Anderson Cancer Center

11:50am–12:50pm

Breakout Lunches

Black in Cancer (Rooms A/B)

Collaboration Lounge (Room C)

American Cancer Society (Room E1/E2)

National Cancer Institute (F1/F2)

Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (Room G)

1:00–1:15pm

Lightning Rounds: Postdocs

Mike Oliphant, Ph.D., Harvard University

Diandra Vaval Taylor, Ph.D., University of Illinois Chicago

1:15–2:40pm

Scientific Seminars: Cancer Drug Delivery

Jelani Zarif, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Emmanuel Akala, R.Ph., PhD, Howard University

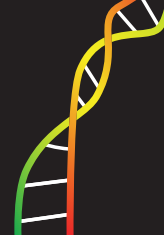
Sadhana Jackson, M.D., Center for Cancer Research, NCI

Paula Hammond, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology Koch Institute

2:40–2:50pm

Break

Meeting Agenda (continued)

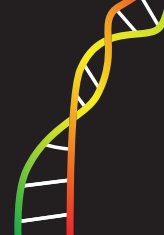


- 2:50–3:50pm** **Scientific Seminars: Cell & Molecular Biology**
Cornelius Taabazuuing, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Whitney Henry, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Kandice Tanner, Ph.D., Center for Cancer Research, NCI
- 4:00–4:45pm** **Pathway Programs**
Moderator: **Chanelle Case Borden, Ph.D.**, Center for Cancer Training, NCI
Ellie Daniels, M.D., M.P.H., American Cancer Society
Erica Bozeman, Ph.D., Johnson & Johnson
Willie May, Ph.D., Morgan State University
- 4:45–4:55pm** **BIC Partner Highlight: Food & Drug Administration**
Laronna S. Colbert, M.D., U.S. Food & Drug Administration
- 4:55–5:00pm** **Closing Remarks & Acknowledgements**
Chad Womack, Ph.D., United Negro College Fund
- 5:00–6:00pm** **Reception/Posters**

DAY 2 **Friday, June 21, 2024**

- 7:30–8:30am** **Event Check-in/Breakfast/Workshop**
- 8:30–9:00am** **Opening Remarks**
Otis Brawley, M.D., Johns Hopkins University
- 9:00–9:15am** **Welcome Address**
Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D., National Cancer Institute
- 9:15–10:00am** **Keynote Address**
Melissa B. Davis, Ph.D., Morehouse School of Medicine
- 10:00–10:15am** **Break**
- 10:15–11:35am** **Scientific Seminars: The Future of Black Cancer Care**
Ricki Fairley, TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
Jim Cherry, Ph.D., National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Kirk Taylor, M.D., Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics
Barry Gause, M.D., Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research
Robert Winn, M.D., Virginia Commonwealth University
- 11:35am–11:40am** **BiC Conference Sponsor Acknowledgements**
Eshaddai White, Ph.D., Black in Cancer

Meeting Agenda (continued)



11:50am–12:50pm

Breakout Lunches

Black in Cancer (Rooms A/B)

Collaboration Lounge (Room C)

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center (Room E1/E2)

National Cancer Institute (Room F1/F2)

Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (Room G)

1:00–2:10pm

Scientific Seminars: Biobehavioral Intervention

Moderator: **Sherry Hughes**, Cincinnati Cancer Advisors

Tiffany Carson, Ph.D., M.P.H., Moffitt Cancer Center

Monica Baskin, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Hillman Cancer Center

Taofeek Owonikoko, M.D., Ph.D., University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

2:10–2:15pm

Break

2:15–3:40pm

Scientific Seminars: Diversity in Clinical Trials

Moderator: **Charles Rogers, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Colorectal Cancer Equity Foundation

Jasmine McDonald, Ph.D., Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Augusto Ochoa, M.D., Louisiana State University

Kemi Williams, M.P.H., AstraZeneca

LeeAnn Bailey, M.D., Ph.D., Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, NCI

3:40–3:55pm

Break

3:55–4:45pm

Outreach and Education as a Tool for Health Equity

Moderator: **Henry Henderson, Ph.D.**, Black in Cancer

Emmanuel Perrodin-Njoku, Gallaudet University

Tshaka Cunningham, Ph.D., Polaris Genomics

James W. Lillard, Jr., Ph.D., M.B.A., Morehouse School of Medicine

4:50–5:15pm

Ph.D. Pitches

Moderator: **Julia Morris, Ph.D.**, Black in Cancer

Shamara Lawrence, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

Tayla Brooks, Mayo Clinic Rochester

Wisdom Kate, University of Alberta

Sephora Jean, Oregon Health & Science University

5:15–5:20pm

New Postdoc Awards Announced

James Mahaffey, Ph.D., Emerald Foundation

5:20–5:30pm

Closing Remarks

Ethan Dmitrovsky, M.D., Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Iain Foulkes, Ph.D., Cancer Research UK

Day 1 Opening Remarks

8:30–8:45am



Sigourney Bonner, Ph.D.

CEO, Co-Founder

Black in Cancer

Dr. Bonner is a Postdoctoral Associate at the Cancer Research UK, Cambridge Institute, having just completed her Ph.D. in pediatric brain tumor research, developing novel models and therapeutics. She previously worked for both Pfizer and AstraZeneca in both neuroscience and oncology. Her work focuses on developing new models and chemotherapy treatments for these tumors that currently have no effective treatment options.

Dr. Bonner's contributions to the cancer research community extend beyond her laboratory work. In 2020, she co-founded Black in Cancer, an influential organization dedicated to creating a supportive network for those within the Black cancer community and highlighting Black excellence in cancer research and medicine.

Welcome Address

8:45–9:00am



Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.

Principal Deputy Director

National Cancer Institute

Dr. Lowy has served as Principal Deputy Director since July 2010, helping to lead NCI's key scientific initiatives. He previously served as acting director three times during his tenure, most recently from April 2022 through September 2022. As an NCI leader, Lowy has supported NCI-Designated Cancer Centers, increased investment in health disparities and pediatric oncology research, and tirelessly championed investigator-initiated research.

Day 1 Keynote

9:00–9:45am



John Carpten, Ph.D.

Chief Scientific Officer; Irell & Manella Cancer Center Director's Distinguished Chair; Morgan & Helen Chu Director's Chair of the Beckman Research Institute; Director of Comprehensive Cancer Center and Director of Beckman Research Institute

City of Hope

Dr. Carpten currently serves as Chief Scientific Officer for the City of Hope, where he also serves as Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center and Director of Beckman Research Institute. Prior to his current appointment, he served as Professor and Chair for the Department of Translational Genomics, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. From 2003–2015, he served as Professor and Deputy Director of Basic Sciences at the Translational Genomics Research Institute, Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Carpten attended Lane College, a Historically Black College, in Jackson, TN, where he completed his B.S. degree in biology in 1988. He received his Ph.D. in

molecular, cellular and developmental biology from the Ohio State University in 1994. After completing his postdoctoral fellowship at the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD in 1999, he was promoted to the tenure track at NHGRI in 1999.

Dr. Carpten's expertise spans a very broad range of research disciplines, including genome science, tumor profiling, cancer cell biology, functional genomics, health disparities, and precision medicine. The primary goal of Dr. Carpten's research program is to discover molecular alterations in cancer and to translate these findings into new approaches for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. In support of this goal, his program is actively involved in the development and application of cutting-edge technologies and novel bioinformatics approaches for discovery research. He has been a pioneer in understanding the genetic and biological factors influencing the disproportionate incidence and mortality rates in underserved populations for a variety of cancer types, including prostate cancer, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, multiple myeloma, and pediatric cancers. Dr. Carpten has co-authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals that include *Science*, *Nature*, *Nature Genetics*, *Cancer Cell*, *Cancer Research*, *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Dr. Carpten has been honored with numerous awards. He was named a Science Trailblazer by *Spectrum Magazine* in 2006 and was awarded the Susan G. Komen Distinguished Lectureship on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in 2014 for his untiring work in ensuring that all people are equally represented in science and innovative healthcare. Dr. Carpten was also awarded the 2018 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Minorities in Cancer Research Jane Cooke Wright Lectureship for his outstanding research in cancer disparities and his efforts in developing the careers of minority scientists. In 2019, he serves as Program Committee Chair for the AACR Annual Conference in Atlanta, which included over 21,500 international participants. In 2021, he was inducted into the AACR Fellows of the Academy, and also became a member of the AACR Board of Directors. He currently serves as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Stand Up To Cancer, and a member of the Board of Directors for Tower Cancer Research Foundation, and as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Break Through Cancer Foundation. In 2021, Dr. Carpten received a presidential appointment to serve as Chair for the National Cancer Advisory Board.

What Does Black in Cancer Mean to You?

10:00–10:45am

Hear from cancer research and care leaders on what drives them toward health equity and workforce inclusion. Learn how the conference theme, “Lifting as We Climb” resonates with them.



Kaylin Carey, M.S.

Doctoral Candidate
Morehouse School of Medicine

Moderator

Ms. Carey, a dedicated Ph.D. candidate at Morehouse School of Medicine, is conducting research in cancer biology with a focus on high-grade serous

ovarian cancer. Her work integrates real-world data with RNA sequencing analysis to further characterize mRNA subtypes found to significantly impact clinical outcome.



Kimberly Jeffries Leonard, Ph.D.

President and CEO
Envision Consulting

Dr. Jeffries Leonard is President and CEO of Envision Consulting, a boutique public health consulting firm, and the immediate past President of The Links, Inc., and The Links

Foundations, Inc. She is also President of the American Cancer Society (ACS) Cancer Action Network Board of Directors and served on the ACS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee in 2021.



Ethan Dmitrovsky, M.D.

Director
Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Dr. Dmitrovsky is Director of the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research and President of Leidos Biomedical Research. An American Cancer Society Professor and former

Provost and Executive Vice President of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, he is now Chair of the Research Council of the ACS. He received his M.D. from Cornell University Medical College.



Clayton Yates, Ph.D.

Professor of Pathology, Oncology, and Urology
Johns Hopkins Medicine

Dr. Yates is a recognized expert in health disparity research. He holds adjunct faculty positions at the Clark Atlanta University Department of Biology and the Department of Pathology at

the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in molecular pathology.

Professional Development: Mentorship in Motion

10:50–11:35am

See how mentorship molded a multi-generational network of cancer researchers.



Mamadou Bah

Director of Mentorships U.S.
Black in Cancer

Moderator

Mr. Bah is a Ph.D. candidate at Weill Cornell Medicine and is deeply committed to advancing knowledge in cancer metabolism and

immunotherapy. Beyond his research, Mamadou is dedicated to fostering diversity in the biomedical field through mentorship and outreach, reflecting his commitment to inclusivity and equity in the sciences.



Lucile Adams-Campbell, Ph.D.

Distinguished University Professor
Georgetown University

Dr. Adams-Campbell is the Founding Director of the Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Prevention, Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research,

Senior Associate Dean for Community Outreach and Engagement, and Distinguished University Professor at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at Georgetown University Medical Center. She received her Ph.D. in epidemiology from the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh.



Carla Williams, Ph.D.

Interim Director, Howard University
Cancer Center
Howard University

Dr. Williams is currently Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health and Interim Director of the Howard University Cancer Center. Her work centers around

understanding and reducing cancer-related health disparities. Her research activities emphasize engaging communities that have been inadequately represented in research. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Howard University.



Madison Moore, Ph.D.

University of Texas MD Anderson
Cancer Center

Dr. Moore is a Postdoctoral Fellow in M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's Rezvani Laboratory. His current research aims to genetically engineer natural killer cells to enhance their ability to target and kill cancer

by increasing their metabolic fitness and persistence. He graduated from Howard University, where he authored six publications.

Lighting Round: Post-Docs

1:00–1:15pm

Fueling Drug Resistance: Deciphering the Role of SLC7A5 in Regulating Metabolic Reprogramming and CDK4/6i Resistance in ER+ Breast Cancer

M.U.J. Oliphant, K. Kurmi, J. Spinelli, C. Flowers, N. Kozlova, T. Muranen, F. White, M. Haigis, J.S. Brugge, S.K. Muthuswamy

Presenter: Mike Oliphant, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School

Investigating the Role of Progesterone in the Metastasis of High-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer

Diandra M. Vaval Taylor, Katherine Zink, Laura M. Sanchez, Joanna E. Burdette

Presenter: Diandra Vaval Taylor, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago



Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity, dedicated to saving and improving lives with our research. We invest in world-class research into the prevention, detection and treatment of more than 200 types of cancer.

We are committed to creating equal, diverse and inclusive research environments that enable all brilliant minds to come together, thrive and progress.

We were delighted to collaboratively host the first Black in Cancer conference in London in October 2022. We continue to partner with Black in Cancer on its undergraduate student mentorship programme in the UK. Our partnership with Black in Cancer and the Windsor Fellowship on the Black Leaders in Cancer PhD programme supports students from Black heritage backgrounds with funding, mentoring, career support, leadership training and networking opportunities.

Scientific Seminars: Cancer Drug Delivery

1:15–2:40pm

Delivery, delivery, delivery. Cancer therapeutics are only as effective as their ability to act on the intended target. This session will highlight current molecular mechanisms and novel nano-engineered strategies that can enhance therapeutic efficacy in cancer.



Jelani Zarif, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Oncology,
Robert E. Meyerhoff Endowed
Professor, Cancer Moonshot Scholar
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

*“Targeting glutamine in
immune-suppressive Tumor-
Associated Macrophages
(TAMs) to overcome tumor
immunity in mCRPC”*

Dr. Zarif is an Assistant Professor of Oncology and holds the Robert E. Meyerhoff endowed Professorship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is also a member of the Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. He earned his Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from Michigan State University.



Sadhana Jackson, M.D.

Adjunct Investigator, Pediatric
Oncology Branch; National
Institutes of Health (NIH)
Distinguished Scholar; Investigator,
Surgical Neurology Branch
Center for Cancer Research, NCI

*“The Blood-Brain Barrier: New
Perspectives on Drug Delivery
in Malignant Gliomas”*

Dr. Jackson is a board-certified pediatrician and pediatric hematologist/oncologist with clinical expertise and research efforts related to the blood-brain barrier and malignant glioma. Her clinical practice focuses on drug delivery of systemic agents for pediatric malignant brain tumor patients. She obtained her M.D. from Eastern Virginia Medical School and completed a residency in pediatrics at Orlando Health.



Paula Hammond, Ph.D.

David H. Koch Professor in
Engineering, Head of the
Department of Chemical
Engineering

Massachusetts Institute of
Technology Koch Institute for
Integrative Cancer Research

*“Designer Nanocarriers for
Cancer Therapy”*

Dr. Hammond conducts research in nanomedicine that encompasses the development of new biomaterials to enable drug delivery from surfaces with spatio-temporal control. She was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2019, National Academy of Engineering in 2017, National Academy of Medicine in 2016, and 2013 Class of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Emmanuel Akala, R.Ph., Ph.D.

Professor of Pharmaceutics
Howard University

*“Novel Nanotechnology
Platform for HER2-Positive
Breast Cancer Treatment”*

Dr. Akala is a Professor of Pharmaceutics, Chair of the Howard University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and Director of the Laboratory for Nanomedicine, Drug Delivery, and Pharmaceutical & Biopharmaceutical Drug Products Design. He earned his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics from the University of Manchester, England, and has received four U.S. patents.

Scientific Seminars: Cell & Molecular Biology

2:50–3:50pm

Tumors evolve and cancer cells adapt by multiple enabling mechanisms. Uncover the latest understanding of cell death pathways and metastatic traits in tumor cells.



Cornelius Taabazuig, Ph.D.

Presidential Assistant Professor
University of Pennsylvania Perelman
School of Medicine

“Harnessing Pyroptosis for Cancer Immunotherapy”

Dr. Taabazuig is a Presidential
Assistant Professor in the
Department of Biochemistry
and Biophysics at the University

of Pennsylvania. The focus of his laboratory is to uncover the molecular mechanisms of cell death pathways, particularly apoptosis and pyroptosis. He earned his Ph.D. in biological chemistry from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Whitney Henry, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology (MIT)

“The Role of Ferroptosis in Shaping the Tumor Microenvironment: Implications for Cancer Treatment”

Dr. Henry is an incoming
Assistant Professor in the

Department of Biology at MIT and a member of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. The Henry Lab will focus on ferroptosis, an iron-dependent form of cell death with profound implications in human health and diseases such as cancer. She received her B.S. from Grambling State University and her Ph.D. from Harvard University.



Kandice Tanner, Ph.D.

Senior Investigator, Laboratory of
Cell Biology
Center for Cancer Research, NCI

Dr. Tanner integrates concepts
from molecular biophysics
and cell biology to learn how
cells and tissues sense and
respond to their physical
microenvironment. She

received the 2023 Max Planck-Humboldt medal and 2023 American Society of Cell Biology E.E. Just award. She received her Ph.D. in physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Pathway Programs

4:00–4:45pm

Learn about opportunities to grow your cancer research/care career, from undergraduate to fellowship possibilities.



Chanelle Case Borden, Ph.D.

Associate Director of Training Programs
Center for Cancer Training, NCI

Moderator

Dr. Case Borden came to NCI as a graduate student, completed a postdoctoral fellowship, and joined the Center for Cancer Training in 2016. She is now

Associate Director of Training Programs, and in this role she provides support to trainees/fellows, leads recruitment and science outreach efforts, and works to improve the training experience at NCI.



Ellie Daniels, M.D., M.P.H.

Senior Vice President of the Center for Diversity in Cancer Research
American Cancer Society

Dr. Daniels is the Senior Scientific Director for Clinical and Cancer Control Research at the American Cancer Society Global Headquarters. In this role, she oversees research

program development, pre-application management, peer review, and grant management in the areas of cancer prevention, screening and early detection, access to care, cancer treatment, palliative care, and survivorship.



Erica Bozeman, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Oncology Scientific Innovation
Johnson & Johnson

In her role at Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Bozeman is responsible for identifying opportunities and implementing the external innovation plan as part of

a team that partners with Janssen's Global External Innovation Network. She created and leads the J&J Scholars of Oncology Diversity Engagement Program. She earned her Ph.D. in immunology and molecular pathogenesis from Emory University.



Willie May, Ph.D.

Vice President, Research and Economic Development
Morgan State University

Dr. May is Vice President of Research and Economic Development at Morgan State University and President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

At Morgan, he develops new relationships and expands existing partnerships with government agencies, corporations, and research foundations on major research initiatives.

BiC Partner Highlight: Food & Drug Administration

4:45–4:55pm



Laronna Colbert, M.D.

Medical Oncologist and Clinical Reviewer
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Since joining the FDA in 2016, Dr. Colbert has reviewed numerous investigational new drug applications for a wide range of cellular products, gene therapies, and vaccines for the treatment of patients with solid tumors. She has worked on the development of guidance documents and served as acting team leader for the oncology branch within the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. She received her M.D. from Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

Day 1 Closing Remarks

4:55 PM – 5:00pm



Chad Womack, Ph.D.

Vice President, National STEM Programs and Tech Initiatives
United Negro College Fund

Dr. Womack manages a portfolio of STEM programs that includes the Annual Silicon Valley HBCU Tech Innovation Summit, STEM Scholars Program, HBCU CS/Tech Pathways Initiative, TechVentures, and the Ernest E. Just Life Science Initiative. He earned his Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from the Morehouse School of Medicine.



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Poster Menu

Novel Nanotechnology Platform for HER2-Positive Breast Cancer Treatment (#1)

Emmanuel O. Akala, Yvonne Abbey Berko

Targeting Y Box Binding Protein (YBX1) in Pediatric Medulloblastoma (#2)

Stephen Carney, John Hemenway, Ashmita Rajendran, Matthew Hathaway, Eric Nealy, Christian Bonatto Paese, Dhanir Tailor, Sanjay Malhotra, Myron K. Evans II

Green Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles from Mint (Mentha asiatica) Extract and Its Application on Cancer Treatment (#3)

Esther Chicou, S. M. Abu Sayem, Glendora Carter, Shakhawat Bhuiyan

Detection of Endometrial Cancer in Cervico-Vaginal Fluid and Blood Plasma: Leveraging Proteomics and Machine Learning for Biomarker Discovery (#4)

Kelechi Njoku, Andrew Pierce, Davide Chiasserini, Bethany Geary, Amy E. Campbell, Janet Kelsall, Rachel Reed, Nophar Geifman, Anthony D. Whetton, Emma J. Crosbie

Enterotoxigenic Bacteroides Fragilis Induces Host Genotype-Specific Colonic Epithelial and Immune Responses in Mice (#5)

Taylor Southward, Yongbao Zhuang, Hana Minsky, Jacqueline Ferri, Ada Tam, John Michel, Shaoguang Wu, Tatianna Larman, Franck Housseau, Cynthia L. Sears, Jessica Queen

Investigating the Allelic Diversity of KRAS/NRAS Co-Mutations in non-V600 BRAF Mutant Tumors (#6)

Chantel L. Mukonoweshuro, Emmanuelle Rousselle, April A. N. Rose

Let the Patients Lead: Insights from Black TNBC Patients to Promote Equitable Cancer Care (#7)

Virginia Leach, Jeanne Regnante, Maimah Karmo, Lizzie Wittig, Shanda Goff Cooper, Krista Peoples

Patient Derived Organoids as a Model to Study Estrogen Mediated Endometrial Cancer (#8)

Breanna Jeffcoat, Andrew B. Gladden, Russell R. Broaddus

The Mitochondrial Sirtuin SIRT5 Impacts the Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition and Promotes Breast Cancer Metastasis (#9)

Destiny Van, Matthew Whittman, Nicole Sempertegui, Celine Li, James Mullmann, Andrew Miller, Claudia Fischbach, Robert S. Weiss

Estradiol Augments Pro-Tumor Neutrophil Accumulation in Lymphangioliomyomatosis (LAM) (#10)

Briaunna M. N. Minor, Dana LeMoine, Christina Seger, Erin Gibbons, Jules Koudouovoh, Yan Xu, Stephen R. Hammes

Towards a Tunable Approach to Manipulate Nuclear Enzyme Activity (#11)

Richard J. Mitchell, Jordan L. Meier

A Newly Identified OLIG2-STAT5 Transcriptional Complex Regulates the Survival and Invasion of Glioma Stem Cells (#12)

Aunay Miller, Costanza Lo Cascio, Mylan Blomquist, James B. McNamara, Keely Orndorff, Matthew E. Dufault, Christopher Sereduk, Joseph C. Loftus, Shwetal Mehta, Nhan L Tran

Pan-Viral Serological Characterization in African Americans and European Americans with Hepatocellular Carcinoma (#13)

Theresa Ewa, Whitney L. Do, Limin Wang, Marshonna Forgues, Xin Wei Wang

African American Breast Cancer: miR3145 as a Potential Inherited Risk Factor (#14)

Sheniqua R. Glover, Troy LoBue, Nancy D. Merner

Effectiveness of Trastuzumab Drug Radioconjugate against HER2-Positive Breast Cancer Xenografts (#15)

Jessica Pougoue Ketchemen, Fabrice Ngoh Njotu, Hanan Babeker, Emmanuel Nwangele, Alissar Monzer, Anjong Florence Tikum, Nikita Henning, Sarah Frye, Randy Perron, Laura Bannister, Nava Hassani, Alireza Doroudi, Candice Didychuk, Humphrey Fonge

Complex I Enables Ferroptosis Suppression by FSP1 (#16)

Gregory D. Francis Jr., Kenji M. Fujihara, Douglas E. Biancur, Richard L. Possemato

HER2 in Black Men with Prostate Cancer (#17)

Nicole Mavingire, Janelle Moore, Firas Kobeissy, Yehia Mechref, Jabril R. Johnson, Rachel Martini, Melissa B. Davis, K. Sean Kimbro, Tanya B. Dorff, Rick A. Kittles, Leanne Woods-Burnham

CXCR4/CB2 Heterodimer Antagonizes CXCR4-Mediated Metastasis and Tumor Growth in Vivo (#18)

Nakea Pennant

The Messenger Matters Building Cross-Sector Partnerships for Cancer Prevention and Control in Black Communities (#19)

Laura Crandon, Mya L. Roberson

Using X-ray Histotomography: A Systematic Approach to Cellular Phenotyping Across Animal Models (#20)

Rachelle Saint-Fort, Khai C. Ang, Mee Siing Ngu, Keith C. Cheng

A Bioinformatic and Machine Learning Approach to Investigate the Racial Disparities in the Top Five Disparity Associated Cancers (#21)

Annabelle Nwaokorie, Qurrat Ul Ain, Luca Costabello

Poster Menu (continued)

Ctla4 Overexpression Suppress Proliferation in B2905 Melanoma Cells (#22)

Olorunfemi Ayeotan, Hasan Raza Kazmi, M. Raza Zaidi

Dietary Quality Impacts the Gut Microbiome and is Associated with Neighborhood Socioenvironmental Characteristics (#23)

Pius S. Buobu, Briawna Binion, Hanchu Dai, Manoela Lima Oliveira, Paul Grippo, Chris Greening, Caitlin Welsh, H. Rex Gaskins, Jason Ridlon, Ece Mutlu, Sage Kim, Lisa Tussing-Humphreys, Patricia G. Wolf

Engineering Cellular Microbots to Improve Ovarian Cancer Care (#24)

Joanne Oke

Fatalistic Cancer Attitudes and Interest in Screening among African Americans: Insights from the 2020 HINTS (#25)

McKenzie T. Reese, Timothy J. Williamson

Investigating the Impact of Radiotherapy on the Sensitivity of Cancer Cells to Lysis by Pore-Forming Proteins (#26)

Adesewa Adebisi, Alana Jones, Hanqing Chen, Jamie Honeychurch

A Decade-Long Examination of Lip and Oral Cancer Incidence in Mississippi: A Retrospective Analysis (#27)

McKing I. Amedari, William L. Boteler, Mauda Monger, Jasmine Miller-Kleinhenz

Differential Expression of Chemokine Genes by Race and Breast Cancer Consensus Subtypes in Hormone Receptor Positive Breast Cancer (#28)

Abigail Fielder, Gregory Dyson, Manohar Ratnam, Kristen Purrington

Investigating Macrophage Encapsulation of Colorectal Liver Metastases (#29)

Sarah K. Williams, Alex L. Young, Megan Mills, Alexander Raven, Tam Jamieson, Andrew Campbell, Owen J. Sansom

Invisible: The Lived Experience of Black Women with Breast Cancer in Toronto, Canada (#30)

Ielaf Khalil, Gayathri Naganathan, Aisha Lofters, Juliet Daniel, Leila Springer, Frances Wright, Danielle Rodin, Tulin Cil, Olive Wahoush, Andrea Covelli

The Mechanism of Action of SWI/SNF Chromatin Remodeling Complex Inhibitors that Target Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer (#31)

Jude T. Quarshie, Masataka Nakano, Emily C. Dykhuizen

Using a Bone Marrow Organoid to Evaluate stromal-CAR-T Interactions (#32)

Melville Nyatondo, Aideen O'Neill, Ronjon Chakraverty

Fractionated Ocimum gratissimum Leaf Extracts Inhibit the Proliferation and Induce Apoptosis of A549 Lung Adenocarcinoma (A549) Cells (#33)

Rachael M. Curtis, Stephen I.N. Ekunwe, Heng-Shan Wang, Xuan Luo, Gregorio B. Begonia, Jacqueline J. Stevens, Christian S. Rogers, Paul B. Tchounwou

Preclinical Evaluation of Long-Acting [225Ac]Ac-EBTATE against Somatostatin Receptor-2-Positive Neuroendocrine Tumors (#34)

Fabrice N. Njotu, Jessica P. Ketchemen, Nick Henning, Hanan Babeker, Anjong F. Tikum, Emmanuel Nwangele, Nava Hassani, Alissar Monzar, Brian D. Gray, Koon Y. Pak, Maruti Uppalapati, Humphrey Fonge

Verticillin A-Polymer Loaded Surgical Buttresses for Effective Targeted Therapy Against Pancreatic Cancer (#35)

Herma C. Pierre, Zeinab Y. Al-Subeh, Priscilla S. Redd, Cedric J. Pearce, Aaron H. Colby, Nicholas H. Oberlies, Kebin Liu

The Role of Nuclear Localization on MxA Super Restrictors Against Orthomyxoviruses (#36)

Adetokunboh Osineye, Rechel Geiger

Understanding Sun Protection Knowledge and Behaviours among People of Colour: Systematic Review (#37)

Teffanie Maramba, Julie Peconi, Jodie Miller, Jessica Fletcher

Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Activity Promotes Cancer Progression and Drug Resistance in Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer Cells (#38)

Kofi K Khamit-Kush, Joann B. Powel, Jeffrey A. Handy, Nathan J Bowen, Valerie Otero-Marah

Treatment Improvement in Kaposi Sarcoma Patients in Uganda (#39)

Robert Matovu, Nixon Niyonzima

Trends in Incidence of Colon Cancer in the District of Columbia: A Retrospective Institutional Cohort Study (2000-2021) (#40)

Finie Hunter-Richardson, Ozioma Scott, Pamela Carter-Nolan, Mark Johnson, Carla Williams



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Day 2 Welcome

8:30–9:00am



Otis Brawley, M.D.

Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Professor of Oncology
Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Brawley is the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Oncology and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. He is an authority on cancer screening and prevention and leads a broad interdisciplinary research effort focused on cancer health disparities at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Brawley is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London), a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and one of the few physicians to be named a Master of the American College of Physicians. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Brawley is a graduate of University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed an internal medicine residency at Case-Western Reserve University and a fellowship in medical oncology at the National Cancer Institute. He is board certified in internal medicine and medical oncology.

Welcome Address

9:00–9:15am



Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D.

Director
National Cancer Institute

Dr. Rathmell is the 17th NCI Director. She previously led the Vanderbilt University Medical Center as Physician-in-Chief and Chair of the Department of Medicine. She is a recipient of the 2019 Louisa Nelson Award for Women of Achievement, Vision, and Inspiration; the 2019 Eugene P. Schonfeld Award from the Kidney Cancer Association; and the Paragon Award for Research Excellence from the Doris Duke Foundation.

Day 2 Keynote

9:15–10:00am



Melissa B. Davis, Ph.D.

Chair-Elect, Minorities in Cancer Research; Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Investigator & Head of Institute of Genomic Medicine; Director, Department of Translational Genomic Medicine

Morehouse School of Medicine

“The Grand Challenge of Cancer Disparities and Inequities”

Dr. Davis is the newly appointed Director of the Institute of Translational Genomic Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine, and Distinguished Investigator with the Georgia Research Alliance. She also serves as Scientific Director of the International Center for the Study of Breast Cancer Subtypes, (Interim) Director of Health Equity for the Englander Institute of Precision Medicine and Associate Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology in the Department of Surgery and at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. She is also a Cancer Ethnicity Scholar, co-leading the PolyEthnic-1000

project at New York Genome Center.

Dr. Davis received her Ph.D. in molecular genetics at the University of Georgia where she completed groundbreaking work in developmental functions of steroid signaling in model organisms. She completed postdoctoral training in functional genomics and systems biology at Yale School of Medicine (Human Genetics) and the University of Chicago (Human Genetics and Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology). Her work involved key elements of the ModENCODE project, showing the genome-wide and tissue-specific dynamics of hormone receptor binding, establishing the dynamics of these functions on a cellular level. Her postdoctoral training in Cancer Health Disparities at University of Chicago at the Interdisciplinary Center for Health Disparities led the current trajectory of her work to uncover the biological determinants of cancer health disparities and how they intersect with marginalization of minoritized population.

Dr. Davis has published groundbreaking findings that established a new lens to study associations of biological factors in cancer outcomes as related to genetic ancestry. Specifically, she has discovered links between African ancestry and tumor burdens that have a disproportionate burden in people across the African diaspora. Dr. Davis is a pioneer in the field of “disparities genomics,” with specific focus in breast cancer expanding into prostate and gynecological cancers in recent years. Her current findings involve utilizing quantified ancestry to unravel genetic vs. environmental influences in tumor biology among race/ethnic groups, including epigenetic cell signaling and immunological responses in the tumor microenvironment and systemic immune regulation. These novel opportunities to develop precision medicine applications in minority populations, are part of a concerted effort to increase knowledge of genomic profiles of underrepresented minoritized and under-represented cancer patients. Her work is a prime example of how inclusion of diverse ethnic groups can empower research designs for discovery of novel or unique tumor biology.

Scientific Seminars: The Future of Black Cancer Care

10:15–11:35am

Deciphering how both the genetic code and zip code affects health disparities is a crucial step in reaching cancer equity. Take a deep dive into unique perspectives on how cancer researchers and clinicians are addressing health justice.



Ricki Fairley

CEO, Founder
TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance

Ms. Fairley is an award-winning, marketing veteran who has transformed her strategic acumen into breast cancer advocacy. As a triple negative breast cancer

survivor/thriver, she co-founded and serves as CEO of TOUCH to address Black Breast Cancer as a unique and special disease state, with the goal of reducing the mortality rate for Black women.



Jim Cherry, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Research Technologies, Division of Intramural Research
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

“The Center for Human Immunology, Inflammation and Autoimmunity’s Phospho-Proteomics Profiling of Immune Status”

Dr. Cherry is the Associate Director of Research Technologies in the Division of Intramural Research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He previously served as the Scientific Program Director in the Office of Scientific Operations at the National Cancer Institute at Frederick. He obtained his Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America in molecular biology.



Kirk Taylor, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer; Executive Vice President

Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics

“Social Determinants and Cancer Survival: Where Is Health Equity?”

An accomplished medical and business professional and board-level leader, Dr. Taylor

serves in high-profile roles in pharmaceutical, biotech, and startup companies. Under his leadership at EMD Serono (Merck KGaA) the medical team launched two new products in three therapeutic areas: bladder cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, and multiple sclerosis.



Barry Gause, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer
Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

“Increasing Access to Clinical Trials in Underserved Populations Worldwide”

After a 22-year career with the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Gause joined what is

now the Frederick National Laboratory in 2006 as the inaugural Director of the Clinical Research Program Directorate. In September 2008, Gause was appointed as the Chief Medical Officer. He received his M.D. from Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine.

BiC Conference Sponsor Acknowledgements

11:35–11:40



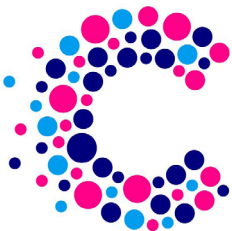
Elshaddai White, Ph.D.

Director of Partnership and Sponsorships

Black in Cancer

Dr. White, an accomplished Medical Science Liaison (MSL), brings extensive expertise to the biopharmaceutical sector with a Ph.D. in biological sciences from Clark Atlanta University and postdoctoral research in cancer metabolism at New York University Grossman School of Medicine. Beyond his MSL responsibilities, he volunteers as the Director of Sponsorships and Partnerships at Black in Cancer, strategically forging alliances to advocate for innovative therapies and enhance the standard of care, particularly in underserved communities.

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Scientific Seminars: Biobehavioral Interventions

1:00–2:10pm

From addressing cancer risk through supporting survivorship, learn how cancer centers are addressing the cancer care continuum.



Sherry Hughes

Director of Strategic Community Engagement and Spokesperson
Cincinnati Cancer Advisors

Moderator

Ms. Hughes is the Director of Strategic Community Engagement and Spokesperson for Cincinnati Cancer Advisors. She is also a national Patient

Brand Ambassador for NERLYNX, a prescription medication for HER2+ breast cancer. Ms. Hughes is a breast cancer survivor and is passionate about raising awareness of women's health issues and advocating for others diagnosed with cancer.



Monica Baskin, Ph.D.

Professor of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (UPMC) Hillman Cancer Center

"Community-Engaged Strategies to Increase Lung Cancer Screening"

Dr. Baskin is Professor of Medicine in the Division

of Hematology/Oncology and Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center. She also serves as Associate Director of Health Equity at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community Health Equity within the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences at Pitt.



Taofeek K. Owonikoko, M.D., Ph.D.

Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Professor in Oncology and the Executive Director

University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

"Black and Diagnosed with Lung Cancer—Implications for Optimal Management"

In addition to his roles at the Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Owonikoko holds the role of Senior Associate Dean of Cancer Programs at the University of Maryland's School of Medicine and the Associate Vice President of Cancer Programs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He is a translational physician-scientist, board certified in medical oncology, hematology, and internal medicine.



Tiffany Carson, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Program Co-Leader, Health Outcomes and Behavior Research Program

Moffitt Cancer Center

"A Gut Feeling—Behavior, Bacteria and Cancer"

Dr. Carson is a Program Co-Leader for the Health Outcomes and Behavior

Research Program and an Associate Member in the Department of Health Outcomes and Behavior at Moffitt Cancer Center. She is a Moffitt Distinguished Scholar and the inaugural George Edgecomb Scholar. She received her M.P.H and Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Scientific Seminars: Diversity in Clinical Trials

2:15–3:40pm

The key to advancing health equity is ensuring people from diverse backgrounds join clinical trials. Hear how leaders in the field are addressing this critical need.



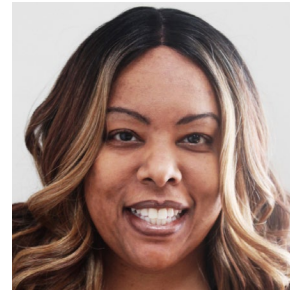
Charles Rogers, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.S., MCHES®

Founder and President
Colorectal Cancer Equity
Foundation

Moderator

*“Inclusive Trials: Embracing
Diverse Voices for Better
Healthcare & Cancer
Outcomes”*

Dr. Rogers is committed to dismantling systems of oppression to ensure equitable health for all. He holds the roles of Founder and President of the Colorectal Cancer Equity Foundation, esteemed member of the University of Michigan–Mixed Methods Program, and Founding Director of the Men’s Health Inequities Research Lab.



LeeAnn Bailey, M.D., Ph.D.

Chief of the Integrated Networks
Branch
Center to Reduce Cancer Health
Disparities, NCI

*“Engage, Educate, Empower:
Enhancing Diversity in
Clinical Trials through
Strategic Communication,
Collaborations, and
Partnerships”*

Dr. Bailey manages, develops, and assesses strategies for enhancing the integration and dissemination of diversity training, women’s health, and sexual and gender minority efforts within and across NCI and beyond. She received her M.B.B.S. from the University of Adelaide Medical School and her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia School of Medicine.



Jasmine McDonald, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology
Columbia University Mailman
School of Public Health

*“Training Tomorrow’s Leaders:
Fostering Diversity and Equity
in Clinical Trials”*

Dr. McDonald teaches cancer
epidemiology within the
Mailman School of Public

Health, is the Assistant Director of the Cancer Research, Training, and Education Center at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC), and is the Co-Director of the CURE Program at the HICCC. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University.



Augusto Ochoa, M.D.

Deputy Director, LSU-LCMC
Cancer Center; Chair, Department
of Interdisciplinary Oncology;
Professor Pediatrics; Al Copeland/
Cancer Crusaders Endowed Chair
Louisiana State University

For over 30 years, Dr. Ochoa has
led federally funded research
programs in cancer immunology

and immunotherapy, cancer clinical trials, and training programs in cancer research. He has been a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors and the Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee of the NCI and the Biden Cancer Moonshot initiative.



Kemi Williams, M.B.A.

Senior Director, Patient Science
AstraZeneca

Ms. Williams is a biotechnology
leader committed to
transforming healthcare at
the intersection of science,
technology, and data. She
applies inclusive research
strategies and regulatory

excellence to drive health equity and close gaps in research and to deliver life-changing medical products to patients.

Outreach & Education as a Tool for Health Equity

3:55–4:45pm

Meaningful engagement with underserved communities is critical to ensuring that every person benefits equitably from cancer research and clinical advancement. Panel discussion will highlight successful collaborations and sustainable impact and everyone's unique roles in promoting health equity.



Henry Henderson III, Ph.D.

Co-Founder, Director of Cancer Awareness

Black in Cancer

Moderator

Dr. Henderson is a trained cancer biologist and cancer health disparities advocate. Currently, Dr. Henderson is an Oncology Medical Science

Liaison, and he is the co-founder of Black in Cancer, an organization aimed to increase cancer awareness and Black representation in cancer related fields. He received his Ph.D. in integrative biosciences from Tuskegee University.



Tshaka Cunningham, Ph.D.

Co-Founder, Chief Scientific Officer
Polaris Genomics

Dr. Cunningham co-founded and serves as the Executive Director of the Faith Based Genetic Research Institute, a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to improving people's lives

through the power of genomics and precision medicine. He earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology, focusing on virology, from Rockefeller University.



Emmanuel Perrodin-Njoku

Post-Baccalaureate Research Associate

Gallaudet University

Mr. Perrodin-Njoku is a Post-Baccalaureate Research Associate at Gallaudet University Center for Deaf Health Equity, funded by a National Institutes of Health

supplement to address cancer health disparities in the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing community. He graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology with a B.S. in biomedical sciences.



James W. Lillard, Jr., Ph.D., M.B.A.

Senior Associate Dean for Research, Innovation, and Commercialization; Director of the Tech Transfer Office
Morehouse School of Medicine

Dr. Lillard is an expert in the fields of immunology and precision medicine. He currently serves as a Professor at the

Morehouse School of Medicine. He holds prestigious fellowships from the National Academy of Inventors and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has been recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Association of Immunologists.

Ph.D. Pitches

4:50–5:15pm



Julia Morris, Ph.D.

Co-Director of Mentorship and Outreach

Black in Cancer

Dr. Morris is an Oncology Healthcare Research and Data Analyst at Clarivate. She earned her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from the

University of Sheffield before becoming a Postdoctoral Research Associate and later a Senior Scientist at Cancer Research UK Manchester. Since 2020, she has served as the UK Director of Mentorship and Outreach for Black in Cancer.

Pitches

Aberrant Activation of JAK-STAT Signaling Pathway Drives Lineage Plasticity in Urothelial Carcinoma

Shamara Lawrence, Hironobu Yamashita, Vonn Walter, Joshua Warrick, Lauren Shuman, David DeGraff

Presenter: Shamara Lawrence, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

Modulating the Immune Response in Cholangiocarcinoma: Targeting Sulfatase-2 for Therapeutic Intervention

Tayla R. Brooks, Nellie A. Campbell, Ryan D. Watkins, Xin Luo, Rory Smoot, Lewis R. Roberts

Presenter: Tayla Brooks, Mayo Clinic Rochester

Loss of PNKP Potentiates Type-I IFN Response via ROS-Induced Damage to DNA

Wisdom Deebeke Kate, Mesfin Fanta, Michael Weinfeld

Presenter: Wisdom Deebeke Kate, University of Alberta

Mutual De-Differentiation of Adipocytes and Tumor Cells in the Macroenvironment of Pancreatic Cancer Cachexia

Sephora Jean, Brittany R. Counts, Anne E. Gowan, Omnia Gaafer, Hyun C. Roh, Sha Cao, Denis C. Guttridge, Michael C. Ostrowski, Leonidas G. Koniaris, Teresa A. Zimmers

Presenter: Sephora Jean, Indiana University School of Medicine and Oregon Health & Science University



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Sudha Mathew - CEO
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C: 703-973-0089
O: 703-665-5599 x 810

Reggie Mathew - COO
reggie.mathew@talteam.com
C: 703-501-0906
O: 703-665-5599 x 815

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8(a) Program Participant
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Day 2 Closing Remarks

5:20–5:30pm



Ethan Dmitrovsky, M.D.

Director
Frederick National
Laboratory for Cancer
Research

Dr. Dmitrovsky
is Director of the
Frederick National
Laboratory for
Cancer Research and
president of Leidos
Biomedical Research.

An American Cancer Society (ACS) Professor and former Provost and Executive Vice President of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, he is now the Chair of the Research Council of the ACS. He received his M.D. from Cornell University Medical College.



Iain Foulkes, Ph.D.

Executive Director of
Research & Innovation
and CEO Cancer
Research Horizons
Cancer Research UK
(CRUK)

Dr. Foulkes was
appointed to the
CRUK board in 2009
and is responsible
for research
strategy and its

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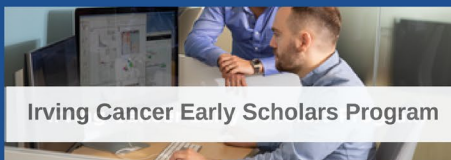
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