**NIH Health Disparity Workshop [September 23/24, 2025]**

**Panelists:** Melissa Davis, Patrick Loehrer, Satish Gopal, Doug Lowy

**Moderator:** Randiak Alaro

**Title:** Global Cancer Care Disparities: How Do We Study Them and Make a Difference? Insights from Low-Resource Settings and Transdisciplinary Research

**Panel Abstract**

Cancer disparities remain a persistent global challenge, disproportionately affecting populations in low-resource settings internationally and within the U.S. While the complex and intersecting social, structural, and biological drivers are well documented, innovations developed in under-resourced contexts - often born out of necessity - are frequently overlooked in global and U.S.-based research and implementation agendas. Global health research offers powerful, practical insights into addressing disparities in clinical cancer care in low-resource settings. Resource-efficient, culturally grounded interventions developed in low-resource countries are increasingly relevant to underserved populations in the U.S. facing similar barriers to access, diagnosis, and treatment.

This session will examine how, at a global level, cancer disparities can be more effectively studied and explore how lessons from global low-resource settings can inform U.S. efforts. Speakers will highlight the role of diverse representation in research, adaptable care models from low-resource settings, and the conceptual and financial contributions of U.S.-based investigators in advancing impactful and globally relevant cancer research. By connecting global innovations to domestic challenges, this session will demonstrate how intentional use of technology can serve as a tool to close rather than widen gaps in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and care worldwide.

**Key Themes**

1. Studying shared determinants of cancer disparities across global and U.S. contexts
2. Representativeness in cancer research and its implications for precision oncology, generalizability, and impact.
3. Technology as a tool to reduce cancer disparities (AI, digital health, telemedicine, and other innovations).
4. Innovative care models from low-resource settings (community-based oncology, mobile screening, and task-sharing).
5. Roles for U.S.-based investigators in advancing impactful transdisciplinary research
6. Translating Research into Impact: Focusing on transdisciplinary, cross-sector, and global partnerships that move beyond identifying disparities to implementing actionable, people-centered solutions.