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Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference
September 20-22, 2024

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Confirmed Speakers as of September 17, 2024
 Meet and learn from these experts!

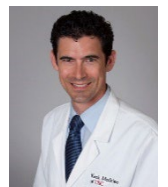
Sara Ahmadi, MD, is an associate physician in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Hypertension at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), Harvard Medical School in Cambridge, MA. Her area of excellence is clinical expertise in thyroid disease, with her remaining time devoted to teaching, clinical research, and peer review. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Duke University in Durham, NC and a member of the Duke Endocrine Neoplasia Team and the Duke Cancer Institute from 2016 to 2019. Her main area of research interest is thyroid nodules and thyroid cancer, and she has worked on different research projects with the BWH thyroid team since joining BWH/HMS in September 2019. She has served on several committees and task forces at the American Thyroid Association and Endocrine Society.



Jules Aljammal, MD, ECNU, is an American board-certified endocrinologist. He completed fellowship training in endocrinology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2014. Thereafter, he started a medical practice in Salt Lake City, Utah, that specializes in the management of thyroid disorders. He introduced RFA to Salt Lake City in 2018 and has performed more than 600 cases of RFA. Dr. Aljammal has published his work in several leading journals, including the *Journal of the Endocrine Society*, and has been an invited international speaker. His passion for RFA and drive to advance the field of interventional endocrinology led him to create the North American Society of Interventional Endocrinologists (NASOIE). Dr. Aljammal continues to work on increasing patient access to RFA and plans to open an office in Washington state to support patients in the area.



Trevor E. Angell, MD, is an endocrinologist and assistant professor of Clinical Medicine in the Department of Medicine's Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles, CA. Dr. Angell is board certified in internal medicine and diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism and his clinical and research interests are related to the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid diseases. He has published articles in *JAMA Surgery*, *Thyroid*, *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, and *Current Opinion in Endocrinology and Diabetes*, including original research and invited reviews. Dr. Angell is recognized for clinical expertise in thyroid nodules, thyroid cancer, thyroid hormone dysfunction, and thyroid disorders during pregnancy.



Ruth A. Aponte-Wesson, DDS, MS, FACP, FAAMP, is a professor in the section of Oral Oncology and Maxillofacial Prosthodontics of the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Aponte Wesson is a member of a large multidisciplinary practice at MDACC. She works very closely with colleagues in head and neck surgery, radiation oncology, plastics, speech pathology, lymphoma / myeloma, leukemia / breast medical oncology among other disciplines. Her focus has always been on improving quality of life of the patient after cancer treatment. Some of the areas explored are related to materials used in the rehabilitation of intra and extraoral defects as well as reported outcome assessment, specifically oral morbidities related to cancer therapies.



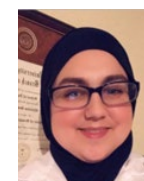
Ioanna D. Athanassaki, MD, is an associate professor of Pediatric Endocrinology in the Thyroid Program at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, TX. Dr. Athanassaki earned her MD from Ioannina University School of Medicine. She completed her internship, residency and fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. Her clinical research interests focus on pediatric thyroid disease and the genetic factors which are associated with cancer, hyperthyroidism, and congenital hypothyroidism in infants and children.



Victoria E. Banuchi, MD, MPH, is an associate professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery. She obtained her MD from Columbia University in New York, NY in 2008, along with a Master's in public health from Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. After completing her medical residency in otolaryngology – head and neck surgery, she pursued a Fellowship in Head and Neck Surgery and Skull Base Surgery at the New York Head and Neck Institute. Dr. Banuchi previously served as an assistant professor of head and neck surgery at Weill Cornell in New York, where she also directed Head and Neck Surgery at Lincoln Hospital from 2016 to 2023. She specializes in head and neck surgical oncology, particularly in the management of thyroid cancer and parathyroid disease. She is known for her expertise in thyroid diagnostic ultrasounds, fine-needle aspiration biopsies, sublabial endoscopic thyroid surgery, and radiofrequency ablation as a non-surgical option for thyroid nodules.



Christina Bui, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, is a nurse practitioner who has been with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX for five years. She currently works alongside Dr. Maria Cabanillas, predominantly managing thyroid cancer patients. She has worked in general endocrinology and diabetes since 2017. She graduated with her MSN, FNP in 2016 from the University of Texas Medical Branch. She has been an RN since 2010 after graduating from Lone Star College with her ADN and later University of Houston-Victoria with her BSN. Christina is passionate about endocrinology and patient care, prioritizing patient education to achieve better outcomes.



Naifa L. Busaidy, MD, is an endocrinologist and associate professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Busaidy, the director of the Thyroid Nodule Clinic, specializes in thyroid cancer and has authored numerous peer-reviewed research articles and book chapters. Dr. Busaidy has spoken at many ThyCa conferences. Dr. Busaidy is a 2011 ThyCa Research Grant recipient. She is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Maria E. Cabanillas, MD, is an oncologic endocrinologist, professor, and the Faculty Director of Clinical Research in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. As a clinician and clinical researcher, Dr. Cabanillas treats both early and advanced thyroid cancers, including medullary, differentiated, and anaplastic. Her research focus is in advanced and aggressive thyroid cancer and molecular targeted therapies and immunotherapy. She is a principal investigator on several clinical trials for treating advanced disease and has been a member of and currently serves on the board of directors of the International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG). She is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Juan C. Camacho, MD, is a practicing interventional radiologist at Radiology Associates of Florida/Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System in Sarasota, FL. He trained at Emory University and has worked in renowned academic institutions for the last 10 years. Dr. Camacho has a clinical and research focus in locoregional therapies for the treatment of benign and malignant tumors and has developed the IR ENT service line in collaboration with endocrinology and surgical services. During his prior appointment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he designed a translational model to ablate thyroid microcarcinomas and was part of the first ablate/resect trial on the subject in the US.



Alaina L. Carr, PhD, is a clinical health psychologist at Georgetown University and the National Center for Health Psychology in Washington, DC. Dr. Carr specializes in working with adults with thyroid cancer and their families to cope with the challenges of cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. She received federal funding to help patients with thyroid cancer make an informed decision about whether to undergo radioactive iodine treatment and provide informational support to manage symptoms from radioactive iodine treatment.



Luz E Castellanos, MD, is a board-certified pediatric endocrinologist and recent graduate of the Oncologic Endocrinology Fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She will be joining their Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders as faculty this fall. After completing her MD at McGovern Medical School, she did her pediatric residency at University of Texas at Austin Dell Children's and pediatric endocrinology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. After fellowship, she coupled her clinical practice with clinical trial research on artificial pancreas technologies for diabetes. Dr. Castellanos plans to pursue an academic career specializing in the care of children with cancer-related endocrinopathies and endocrine neoplasia.



Mark S. Chambers, DMD, MS, is a tenured professor and clinical investigator in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, Division of Surgery, and in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Division of Radiation Oncology, at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. He is the Susan and Christopher Damico Chair in Viral Associated Malignancies. He also serves as Deputy Chair for the Department of Head and Neck Surgery and Chief of the Section of Oral Oncology. Dr. Chambers is recognized nationally and internationally as an oral oncologist and clinical investigator with a focus on developing novel therapeutic approaches to the oral sequelae of cancer therapy. Research interests include biomarker analyses and the oral microbiome influence on cancer development. Hence, research focuses to develop strategies in reducing cancer treatment-related oral morbidity and protocols to prevent or reduce such complications. Dr. Chambers serves as a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Savannah Cheatham, MPAS, PA-C is a physicians assistant at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. She completed an undergraduate degree in economics from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX in 2015 and a Master's in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in 2019. She has been a part of the MD Anderson Surgical Oncology team since October 2019 and works in the operating room and clinical setting in the areas of Endocrine Surgery and Melanoma and Skin Surgery. Her primary focus is education of the next generation of physician assistants. She has completed lectures in Endocrine surgery for the UTMB Physician Assistant program, Texas Academy of Physician Assistants, and locally at MD Anderson. She also provides clinical preceptorships to physician assistant students.



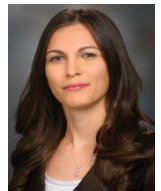
Roger B. Cohen, MD, is a medical oncologist at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. He is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and completed internal medicine and hematology training at Mount Sinai Hospital (NY) followed by research fellowships at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and National Institutes of Health and a medical oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute. He was a medical officer at the FDA Center for Biologics from 1989-1994 and was Deputy Director, Division of Monoclonal Antibodies. Prior to his arrival at Penn, Dr. Cohen was Director of the Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office at the University of Virginia Cancer Center in Charlottesville and then Director of the Phase 1 Program at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. He is an active investigator on several first-in-humans clinical trials with research interests that focus on evaluation of novel therapies, including monoclonal antibodies, immune therapies, and small molecule cell-signaling pathway inhibitors. He primarily sees patients with lung and head and neck cancer.



Paolo Cotzia, MD, FCAP, FASCP, is a board-certified clinical, anatomic, and molecular genetic pathologist, sub-specializing in oncologic surgical pathology and molecular genetics. He is the Director for Molecular Pathology at ThyroSeq Laboratory and Head of the Sonic Healthcare USA Molecular Pathology Center of Excellence. Before joining Sonic Healthcare, he was an assistant professor of pathology and associate director of the Center for Biospecimen Research and Development at NYU Langone Health. Dr. Cotzia has extensive experience in biomarker discovery, molecular diagnostic assays development, digital pathology, A.I., biobanking, clinical trials and design of correlative studies. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles, and presented his research at national and international conferences. Dr. Cotzia obtained his MD from the University of Milan, Italy. He completed his residency at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and his clinical fellowships at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.



Ramona Dadu, MD, is an endocrinologist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Dadu is an assistant professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, Division of Internal Medicine. Dr. Dadu received her MD from Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Romania where she also trained in clinical pharmacology and toxicology. After graduation from an internal medicine residency in Connecticut, she joined the Baylor College of Medicine/MD Anderson Cancer Center endocrinology fellowship program and entered the Clinical Scientist Training Program where she received extensive training in grant writing, conduct of research, and biostatistics. Dr. Dadu is the principal investigator in research titled “Immune Markers in Medullary Thyroid Cancer and their Clinical Significance.” She is the author of several peer-reviewed publications related to thyroid cancer and was awarded the Women in Endocrinology Young Investigator Award in 2014.



Priya H. Dedhia, MD, PhD, FACS, is an endocrine surgeon and assistant professor in the Department of Surgery at The James Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. She earned her MD from the University of Pennsylvania Health System and did her fellowship in endocrine surgery at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, WI. As a member of the Translational Therapeutics Program, her research focuses on using human organoid technology to generate insulin-producing cells to study the molecular basis of thyroid and parathyroid disease. Dr. Dedhia also works on three-dimensional models of endocrine cancer in order to find new and personalized approaches for these cancers. Her work has been published in over 20 peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Dedhia is a 2020 ThyCa Research Grant recipient.



Dipan Desai, MD, is a board-certified otolaryngologist specializing in head and neck endocrine surgery. He is a physician and surgeon with ENT Associates, a preeminent ENT group serving the Tampa Bay area, and is pleased to be among the first physicians in the region to offer RFA. After attending medical school at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine as part of a Dual-Degree BS/MD program, he completed his surgical residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, TX. He then pursued fellowship training in Head and Neck Endocrine Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, working with pioneers in radiofrequency ablation (RFA) and scarless thyroid/parathyroid surgery. During his time at Johns Hopkins, he worked as a clinical instructor and served as a co-first author on the largest study of RFA patients in the United States.



Kaniksha Desai, MD, ECNU, is an endocrinologist and clinical associate professor of endocrinology at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA. She completed her endocrinology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL, with an emphasis on the management of patients with thyroid cancer. Dr. Desai’s clinical practice, located in Palo Alto, CA, focuses on the management of patients with thyroid diseases, including thyroid nodules and thyroid cancers. Her clinical research focuses on thyroid cancer survivorship care. Additionally, she is the endocrinology quality director.



Julia Diersing, MS, PA-C, is a physicians assistant at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Julia is a graduate of the Baylor College of Medicine Physician Assistant Program in Houston, TX. She has practiced head and neck surgery for the past five years. Her subspecialty interest in the care of patients with advanced thyroid cancer was inspired by the experience of her family member who survived poorly-differentiated insular thyroid carcinoma.



Barbara Ebersole, MA, CCC-SLP, is the section Manager for Speech Pathology & Audiology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. She is a third year PhD student at the University of Texas, and a Pre-Doctoral Clinical Research Fellow in Dr. Katherine Hutcheson's lab. Barbara's clinical and research interests surround H&N cancer rehabilitation with a special interest in laryngeal function. She has authored multiple book chapters, is an invited speaker locally and nationally, and has published two dozen peer-reviewed articles in journals, such as: Head & Neck, Journal of Voice, and Oral Oncology.



Aime T. Franco, PhD is an assistant professor and investigator with the Center for Childhood Cancer Research at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Franco directs the newly established Pediatric Thyroid Cancer Translational Research Laboratory. She earned her PhD in Cancer Biology from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN and conducted her postdoctoral fellowship in genetics of thyroid cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. Her research interests include the molecular biology and genetics of thyroid cancer and improving quality of life and survivorship outcomes for thyroid cancer. Dr. Franco is a 2012 ThyCa Research Grant recipient and has spoken at many ThyCa conferences.



Ann Friedman, PhD, is a certified mindfulness trainer and compassion trainer at the Mind Body Spirit Institute of the Jung Center Houston. She taught across Southeast Texas following Hurricane Harvey and was sent by UNICEF and Mental Health America of Greater Houston to Florida and Puerto Rico. Additionally, she taught in Oklahoma through Healthcorps. For ten years, Ann served as Adjunct Professor in the U.H. Counseling Psychology Graduate Program.



Whitney S. Goldner, MD, is a professor of medicine, and head of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus in Denver, CO. Prior to that, she was Professor of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE and the medical director of the Thyroid and Endocrine Tumor Program at UNMC/Nebraska Medicine. Dr. Goldner has a clinical and research interest in thyroid nodules and thyroid cancer. She started the Thyroid Cancer Collaborative Registry (TCCR) at the University of Nebraska, and was the principal investigator of the ICaRe2, a multicenter bioinformatics and biospecimen registry for all types of cancer which originated at the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center/University of Nebraska Medical Center Guidelines Committees.



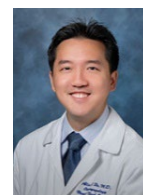
Sarah Hamidi, MD, FRCPC, is a board-certified endocrinologist who just completed a two-year fellowship of oncologic endocrinology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Her clinical practice and research interests focus on the management of advanced thyroid cancers, particularly anaplastic thyroid cancer. She participates in several research projects aiming to improve the management and outcomes of this rare, yet very aggressive disease.



Alan L. Ho, MD, is a medical oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York City, NY. He specializes in the treatment of head and neck malignancies, specifically cancers of the salivary glands and thyroid. Dr. Ho earned his medical degree at Stanford University where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He did his residency at Weill Cornell-NY Presbyterian and Fellowship at MSKCC. He specializes in the management of head and neck squamous cell carcinomas, thyroid cancers, salivary cancers, and non-melanoma skin cancers. His research is focused upon the translational science of developing novel therapeutics for these malignancies. He has been the Principal Investigator of NIH R01 grants. His research interest lies in translating emerging scientific knowledge of these diseases into new drug therapies.



Allen S. Ho, MD, Surgeon, is Director of the Head and Neck Cancer Program and Co-Director of the Thyroid Cancer Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. He is a graduate of University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine in Los Angeles, CA. He completed residency at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, CA and fellowships at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY. His research interests include thyroid cancer risk stratification as well as nodal burden impact on prognosis. Dr. Ho is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications and is principal investigator of an active surveillance trial.



Jennifer Holkem, is a dedicated educator and advocate for thyroid preservation. After her 2019 experience with RFA treatment of a large benign thyroid mass, she founded Save Your Thyroid: an advocacy community aiming to become a non-profit for patients seeking FDA-approved, nonsurgical, thyroid-preserving treatment options. Due to a lack of patient-focused resources, Jennifer creates and shares educational content on YouTube, Spotify, and social media. She has had the privilege of interviewing patients and experts worldwide, working to bridge the gap between patients and physicians. Additionally, Jennifer publishes patient-focused resources on Substack and the Save Your Thyroid website (saveyourthyroid.org), including lists of known physicians who offer thyroid-preserving treatment options. She devotes a full-time effort to providing these free resources to the Save Your Thyroid community and the public.



Mimi I. Hu, MD is an endocrinologist and professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Hu has served on the faculty at MD Anderson Cancer Center since 2007. Her clinical expertise is in the evaluation and treatment of patients with papillary, follicular, and medullary thyroid cancers, hereditary endocrine neoplasia disorders, and metabolic bone and mineral disorders. She is the primary investigator and collaborator on multiple clinical trials evaluating various targeted therapies for advanced thyroid cancer. Dr. Hu has published articles and book chapters evaluating the management of medullary thyroid cancer, multiple endocrine neoplasia, bone health in cancer patients, endocrine complications of head and neck surgery, and paraneoplastic endocrine disorders. Dr. Hu is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Priyanka C. Iyer, MD is an oncologic endocrinologist and assistant professor, Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders, Division of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. She received her medical degree from Armed Forces Medical college, Pune, India, and completed her residency at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.



Sonya Khan, MD is an endocrinologist and assistant professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders. She is also the Center Medical Director of the Endocrine Center. She did her residency in Internal Medicine followed by fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, TX and trained at MD Anderson Cancer Center during her fellowship. Her current outpatient practice includes diabetes, thyroid cancer, pituitary disorders, bone health, hypercalcemia and immunotherapy induced endocrinopathies in the oncologic population.



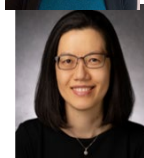
Joanna Klubo-Gwiezdzinska, MD, PhD, MHSc, is a Lasker Tenure Track Investigator and acting section Chief of Thyroid Tumors and Functional Thyroid Disorders at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. She obtained her MD and PhD degrees from Nicolaus Copernicus University, Collegium Medicum in Poland, and Master of Health Science degree from Duke University in Durham, NC. She underwent residency training in Nicolaus Copernicus University as well as Georgetown University/Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC and a fellowship in endocrinology at the NIH. She is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology, diabetes and metabolic diseases. Dr. Klubo-Gwiezdzinska's primary scientific focus involves translational and clinical studies focused on the optimization of thyroid cancer care using personalized medicine. Dr Klubo-Gwiezdzinska is a recipient of several awards for her work, including the American Society for Clinical Investigation 2021 Young Physician-Scientist Award and Women Advancing Thyroid Research Award from the American Thyroid Association. Dr. Klubo-Gwiezdzinska is a 2011 ThyCa Research Grant recipient.



Sara Lampert-Okin, MS, LPC, is a clinical psychology doctoral candidate at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago, IL.



Soo-Hyun Lee-Kim, MS, APRN, FNP-C, is a nurse practitioner who specializes in adrenal cancer and thyroid cancer survivorship at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. She is a graduate of Texas Women's University and has been a nurse practitioner since 2006. She has worked with M.D. Anderson Cancer Center for more than 16 years, including the inpatient and outpatient Neuro-Oncology Department for 7 years and transitioned to the Endocrine Department in 2015. Soo has been working with an attending who specializes in Endocrine Neoplasia including adrenal cancer and thyroid cancer. Soo also has been managing the Thyroid Cancer Survivorship Clinic patients since 2020.



Jochen H. Lorch, MD, MSc, is a medical oncologist and professor of medicine and medical director of the Head and Neck and Thyroid Programs Northwestern Medical Group in Chicago, IL. He graduated from the University of Regensburg in Germany in 1993 and completed his internship and residency at the University of Pennsylvania/Presbyterian Medical Center in 1999. He was awarded a fellowship in hematology and oncology at Northwestern University in Chicago. In 2002, he returned to Germany to complete his German Board Certification in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology. He returned to the US in 2005 to take a faculty position at Boston University in Boston, MA and started as a faculty member at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA in 2008. He became the inaugural director of the Thyroid Center at Dana Farber. In 2021 he left Dana Farber as Associate Professor of Medicine to join the faculty at Northwestern University. He has conducted many investigator-initiated studies for patients with aggressive thyroid cancer. He is a member of the NCCN thyroid cancer board. Dr. Lorch is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Shannon MacDonald, MD, is a radiation oncologist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. She is also an associate professor at Harvard Medical School who specializes in pediatric oncology and proton therapy. Dr. MacDonald is known for her expertise and empathy, and is also an educator and course director for the Harvard Medical School Radiation Oncology Clerkship. She received her medical degree from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and completed her residency at New York University Medical Center. Her clinical interests include base of skull tumors, chondrosarcoma, chordoma, and pediatric tumors.



Smitha G Mallaiah, MSc, C-IAYT, is a Senior Mind-Body Intervention Specialist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Integrative Medicine program in Houston, TX. She has a yoga therapy clinic and works alongside other integrative medicine clinicians using yoga therapy with inpatients and outpatients going through cancer, from prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and end of life. She is also a researcher and has developed and taught yoga research interventions for various cancer populations. She has also authored/co-authored yoga publications and book chapters and has presented her work at national and international conferences on the efficacy of yoga in cancer care. She is recognized for her work and is honored for her contribution as one of the top 25 people in the United States to improve cancer patients' quality of life by Cancer Health in 2022.



Anastasios Maniakas, MD, PhD, FRCSC, is an otolaryngologist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Maniakas is an assistant professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery. He received his undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees from McGill University, and his MD from the University of Montreal. He completed his residency at the University of Montreal followed by a fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. His clinical expertise is in head and neck cancers, with an emphasis on thyroid and parathyroid disease, oral cavity cancer, skin cancers, and salivary gland neoplasms. Dr. Maniakas' research interests focus on translational research, with the goal to identify and develop novel head and neck cancer treatments and lead pre-clinical and multi-phase clinical trials.



Cynthia McDonald, PhD, holds a doctorate in Trans-Personal Psychology and has over 30 years of experience in mind-body skills, coaching and education, group facilitation, and meditation. She provides these services for several non-profit cancer organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area and sees individual clients through her mind-body coaching practice. As a thyroid cancer survivor, she has helped hundreds of cancer patients prepare for treatment; manage stress, anxiety, and fear; retain a sense of empowerment; and integrate the cancer experience into a "new normal".



David G. McFadden, MD, is an endocrinologist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX. Dr. McFadden is an associate professor of internal medicine and biochemistry. His clinical interest is in the treatment of patients with advanced thyroid cancer. He is a member of the American Thyroid Association and the International Thyroid Oncology Group and has been awarded research grants from the National Institutes of Health, American Thyroid Association, the Disease Oriented Clinical Scholars (DOCS) program at UT Southwestern, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). His current research focuses on using genetic engineering and chemical screens to discover new treatments for cancer.



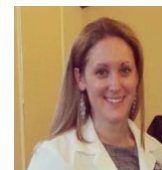
Michelle S. Mullin, RN, BSN, is a nurse navigator in the division of Head and Neck Oncology at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. Her clinical interests include symptom management and relationship-based nursing care.



Shawn Alex Nemeth, Founder & CEO, Chester Street Foundation. He is a talented speaker, author, coach, and entrepreneur who has dedicated his life to helping childhood trauma survivors heal and thrive. After suffering horrific abuse as a child, Nemeth threw himself into nonprofit work as an adult. Working around the world to help others heal, he spoke to audiences numbering in the thousands throughout the U.S., Europe, and South America, while his inner child suffered in silence. The silence broke in 2009, when Nemeth was hospitalized with PTSD. He learned that the long years of trauma had been encoded in his brain and body, as happens to many survivors of abuse and neglect. With treatment, courage, and self-compassion, Nemeth began the long road to recovery and founded the Chester Street Foundation (CSF) to give traumatized children a voice. CSF aims to shine a light on childhood trauma through education and advocacy. In addition to his work with Chester Street Foundation, Nemeth shares his inspiring story with audiences large and small as a professional speaker and through his book, *Thorns of Chester Street*.



Brenna Newfell, MSN, FNP-BC is a nurse practitioner at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. She works in the division of Head and Neck Oncology with a population focus of advanced thyroid cancer. Her clinical interests include symptom management and optimizing the integration of palliative care in her patient population through their continuum of care.



Sarah C. Oltmann, MD, is an endocrine surgeon at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX. She is the Section Chief of Endocrine Surgery at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and Director of Endocrine Surgery for Parkland Health and Hospital Systems. She attended Baylor University, graduating cum laude. She went on to earn her MD at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, graduating Alpha Omega Alpha. She completed her General Surgery residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. During her surgery training, she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, which greatly influenced her decision to pursue Endocrine Surgery as a career. She completed an Endocrine Surgery fellowship training at University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. Her research interests include management and clinical outcomes in endocrine surgery. She is a 2015 recipient of the ThyCa Research Grant for her work on cancer progression and therapeutic response in a mouse model of medullary thyroid cancer. She is an avid knitter.



Theodora Pappa, MD, PhD, is an onco-endocrinologist and physician scientist committed to precision medicine in thyroid cancer. Her clinical practice at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is focused on advanced thyroid cancer and she conducts translational research on thyroid cancer genomics collaborating with colleagues from Harvard Medical School and the Broad Institute. The focus of her research activities is to chart the tumor ecosystem in thyroid cancer and clinically interpret thyroid cancer genome, to eventually develop novel prognostic biomarkers and tailor treatment options based on the tumor's molecular profile. Dr. Pappa is a 2022 ThyCa Research Grant recipient.



Rachna Patel, MPH, BSN, MSN, FNP-BC, is a nurse practitioner at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Rachna attended University of Georgia for her bachelor's in microbiology and then master of public health epidemiology at George Washington University and had a career in clinical research for a few years. In 2011 she completed her BSN and MSN at University of Miami. She started her nurse practitioner career at UT Memorial Hermann in Radiation Oncology and GI Medical Oncology and then as a research nurse practitioner in medical genetics at the National Institutes of Health. In 2015 she joined the endocrinology department at MD Anderson Cancer Center and is currently in a triage role that requires staffing the endocrine urgent clinic and triaging new patients and consults to the endocrine department.



Nancy D. Perrier, MD, FACS, is a surgical oncologist and professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. She completed her surgical training at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN and fellowship training in both Endocrine Surgical Oncology and Outcomes Based Research in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco. She was a National Institute of Health funded T32 research fellow. She is a graduate of the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University, with a certificate in Health Care Management. Dr. Perrier serves in multiple capacities at MD Anderson including Director of Value for the Division of Surgery, section chief and medical director. Nationally her influence extends across multiple societies and organizations including senior authorship of guidelines for care and lead editing of the American Joint Commission on Cancer 8th Edition Manual for staging of cancers.



Catherine Powers-James, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist and faculty member at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. She received her doctoral degree in Clinical Health Psychology an internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston. Dr. Powers-James is interested in preventative care and health promotion within cancer populations. She uses evidence-based treatments, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, acceptance and commitment therapy to help patients with their cancer diagnoses and to allow them to live a healthy, well-balanced life. Her primary research focuses on mind-body interventions and treatment of psychosocial symptoms



Johnny L. Rollins, MSN, APRN, ANP-C, received his Nurse Practitioner training at UT School of Nursing Health Science Center at Houston in 2007. He joined MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2012. While he was on the inpatient team, he developed an interest in managing post-op thyroid cancer patients. In 2014, he was promoted to APP Manager for the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and transitioned into the lead APP provider for the Thyroid Cancer Survivorship Clinic. Johnny has presented at several conferences across the country, including multiple presentations at ThyCa. He was promoted to Associate Director of Advance Practice for Survivorship Programs at MD Anderson in 2024.



Dr. Jonathon O. Russell, MD, FACS, is a head and neck surgeon specializing in thyroid and parathyroid surgery at the Russell Center for Endocrine Health located in Columbia, MD. Dr. Russell is the highest volume innovative surgeon in the United States. After training at the Cleveland Clinic, he trained further at Johns Hopkins before spending almost 10 years there. He became the Chief of Head and Neck Endocrine Surgery at Johns Hopkins and was the director of the Thyroid Tumor Center. During that time, he was the first surgeon to complete transoral robotic surgery for thyroid cancer, led the largest series of transoral surgery in the West, and was the first group of head and neck surgeons to offer radiofrequency ablation (RFA). In 2024, Dr Russell founded the Russell Center for Endocrine Health, where he continues to innovate as he offers each patient a personalized plan of care.



Mabel Ryder, MD, is an endocrinologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas and completed her fellowship and residency at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Dr. Ryder specializes in head and neck cancer and nuclear medicine therapy. She has contributed to many publications on thyroid cancer. Dr. Ryder is a 2007 ThyCa Research Grant recipient.



Steven I. Sherman, MD, is an endocrinologist and Chair of the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, where he is also a professor. A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College, he received his MD from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, followed by internship, residency, and fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. His clinical practice is focused on delivery of research-driven care for patients with differentiated and medullary thyroid carcinomas, along with thyroid complications of cancer therapy. His research interests for the past 25 years have centered on novel therapies and monitoring techniques for thyroid carcinoma. He has been a member of thyroid cancer guidelines panels for both the American Thyroid Association and National Comprehensive Cancer Network, and he was a founding member and former chair of the International Thyroid Oncology Group. Dr. Sherman is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Amanda L. Silver Karcioglu, MD, is an otolaryngologist at Endeavor Health Medical Group, Lake Bluff, IL. Dr. Silver Karcioglu is a fellowship-trained endocrine head and neck surgeon who specializes in thyroid and parathyroid surgery, lymph node dissections and has additional expertise and interest in advanced and recurrent thyroid cancer, the use of near-infrared autofluorescence for parathyroid gland preservation and minimally invasive approaches including ultrasound guided techniques. Her clinical research interests are focused on the application of technology to thyroid and parathyroid surgery and patient experience including clinical decision making and thyroid cancer survivorship. Upon graduating from Williams College and the Stritch School of Medicine-Loyola University Chicago, she completed residency training at the Harvard Combined Otolaryngology Residency Program and an endocrine head and neck surgery fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear – Harvard University.



Catherine B. Skefos, MA, MS, is a certified genetic counselor in the Clinical Cancer Genetics Program at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, where she provides cancer risk assessment and counseling to patients in the Endocrine Center. As a genetic counselor working with both pediatric and adult patients, she helps patients and family members understand and adapt to information about genetic testing and inherited cancer risk. Prior to becoming a genetic counselor, she received a master's degree in Medical Anthropology from the University of South Florida, where her research focused on health care access and health disparity. Catherine has a special interest in teaching, particularly educating health care providers about the utility of genetic counseling and testing with the goal of improving patient access to genetic services.



Julie Ann Sosa, MD, MA, FACS, FSSO, is an endocrine and oncologic surgeon at the University of California, San Francisco in San Francisco, CA. She is also the Chair of the Department of Surgery and a professor in the Departments of Surgery and Medicine. Her previous position was at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. She is a principal investigator or co-principal investigator of studies of new drug treatments for advanced thyroid cancer as well as a natural history registry for patients with medullary thyroid cancer. She is co-chairing the committee writing the next iteration of American Thyroid Association practice guidelines for the management of differentiated thyroid cancer. Following undergraduate education at Princeton University, she received an MA in Human Sciences at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom and her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. She received postgraduate training at Johns Hopkins Hospital as well as John Radcliffe and Churchill Hospitals in Oxford, England. Dr. Sosa is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Carole Spencer, PhD, FADLM, is a professor of research medicine at the University of Southern California. Carole Spencer graduated with an Applied Biochemistry degree from Bath University UK, and later a Ph.D. from Glasgow University. She joined the University of Southern California to direct the Clinical Research Center Core Laboratory with a mandate to develop endocrine assays. Dr. Spencer's research at USC has focused on integrating the clinical with the laboratory aspects of thyroid disease and treatment. Dr. Spencer is a past President of the American Thyroid Association and currently holds the rank of Professor of Research Medicine in the Department of Medicine at USC. She is a licensed Medical Technologist and Technical Director of the USC Endocrine Laboratory that specializes in measuring the thyroid cancer tumor markers: Thyroglobulin (Tg) and Tg autoantibodies (TgAb). During her career she has published over 100 scientific papers focused on the technical and clinical aspects of thyroid testing. Dr. Spencer is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Samer A. Srour, MB, ChB, MS, is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy has been changing with several approved indications for patients with hematologic malignancies. Several challenges hampered its success in solid tumors. Dr. Srour's current clinical position as a transplant and cellular therapist, along with his background in caring for a diverse group of patients with solid tumors, have given him the opportunity to be directly engaged in the treatment of patients with both solid tumors and high-risk hematologic malignancies, and to manage a variety of toxicities associated with transplant and cellular therapy. His research interest and clinical investigations are currently focused on exploring and improving outcomes of cellular therapies in solid tumors. Dr. Srour is leading for that purpose several adoptive cell therapy clinical trials with an overall goal to improve outcomes by not only inducing durable responses but to also minimize associated toxicities and potentially cure some of these high-risk cancers.



Valentina D. Tarasova, MD, is an endocrinologist at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL. Dr. Tarasova received her MD at Kubansky State Medical University. She completed an internal medicine residency at Yale New Haven Hospital, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT and an endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism fellowship at the University of Omaha, NE. Most recently, Dr. Tarasova completed a thyroid cancer fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY. Dr. Tarasova's clinical interests include thyroid neoplasm, particularly diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of thyroid carcinoma (from low risk to advanced progressive forms of thyroid cancer). Her research interests include the role of molecular markers in diagnosing and determining the prognosis of thyroid neoplasm, risk stratification of patients with thyroid cancer and developing tools to estimate the prognosis and determine the management of patients with thyroid cancer.



K. Elaine Thrift, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CDCES, ADM-BC is a nurse practitioner at Baptist Health Adult Medicine Specialists, Fort Smith, AR. Ms. Thrift specializes in Endocrinology and Internal Medicine. In addition to being a healthcare professional, she is a thyroid cancer survivor. Diagnosed in 2012 with papillary thyroid cancer, she has experienced the vast emotions and difficulties that accompany a cancer journey. She has used her personal cancer experience to impact the life of many patients.



Caleb Trotter is an attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation, where he litigates on behalf of individuals and small businesses. His practice is primarily focused on free speech rights that allow people to pursue the profession of their choice. Mr. Trotter attended law school at Loyola University New Orleans, where he graduated cum laude and served as a member of the Loyola Law Review and moot court program. He also earned a BSM in finance and legal studies in business at Tulane University. He lives in Sacramento with his wife, Ashlee, and cat, Frank. Caleb is a member of the bar in the state of California.

Steven G. Waguespack, MD, oncologic endocrinologist, is a professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Uniquely trained in both adult and pediatric endocrinology, he has been on the faculty at MD Anderson since 2002 and is consistently recognized as one of "America's Top Doctors for Cancer" in endocrinology. Dr. Waguespack served as a member of the ATA task force that revised the medullary thyroid cancer guidelines in 2015, was a co-chair of the inaugural 2015 ATA guidelines for pediatric thyroid nodules and differentiated thyroid cancer, and he is currently co-chairing the task force revising the ATA pediatric guidelines. Considered to be a leading expert in thyroid cancer, Dr. Waguespack is privileged to be able to care for patients across the age continuum. He is also a ThyCa Medical Advisor



Jennifer R. Wang, MD, PhD, ScM, FRCSC, is an assistant professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. She is a surgeon scientist with a clinical practice focused on the treatment of patients with thyroid cancers. Dr. Wang received her undergraduate degree in health sciences from McMaster University and her medical degree from University of Toronto. Dr. Wang also has a PhD in genetic epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is member of the FAST team (Facilitating Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer Specialized Treatment) at MD Anderson Cancer Center, dedicated to providing rapid diagnosis and treatment for patients with anaplastic thyroid cancer. Her laboratory is focused on studying genetic changes that are found in patients with thyroid cancers that can help to predict disease behavior and treatment response. Dr. Wang is a 2019 ThyCa Research Grant recipient.



Lori J. Wirth, MD, Medical Oncologist, is Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and at Massachusetts General Hospital, and clinician in the Head and Neck Oncology Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, all in Boston, MA, where thyroid tumors are one of her specialties. Dr. Wirth graduated from Brown University and received her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital and then became a fellow in Medical Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She is a member of the National Cancer Institute's Metastatic/Recurrent Disease Task Force/Head and Neck Steering Committee, as well as a Thyroid Cancer Guideline Panel Member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Dr. Wirth has given numerous invited presentations at the regional, national, and international levels and has authored numerous publications. She is also a reviewer for medical journals. Dr. Wirth is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.



Mark E. Zafereo, MD, is a head and neck surgeon and tenured Professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. He is Section Chief of Head and Neck Endocrine Surgery and Associate Medical Director of the Head & Neck Center. He has served on the Board of Directors of the International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG) and the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, and was recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Thyroid Association. His clinical practice focuses on patients with thyroid cancer, particularly patients with advanced thyroid cancer, wherein he leads several multicenter neoadjuvant phase II clinical trials. Dr. Zafereo is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.

