



28th International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Virtual Conference

September 26-28, 2025

Attendance in-person: Houston, Texas or Virtually

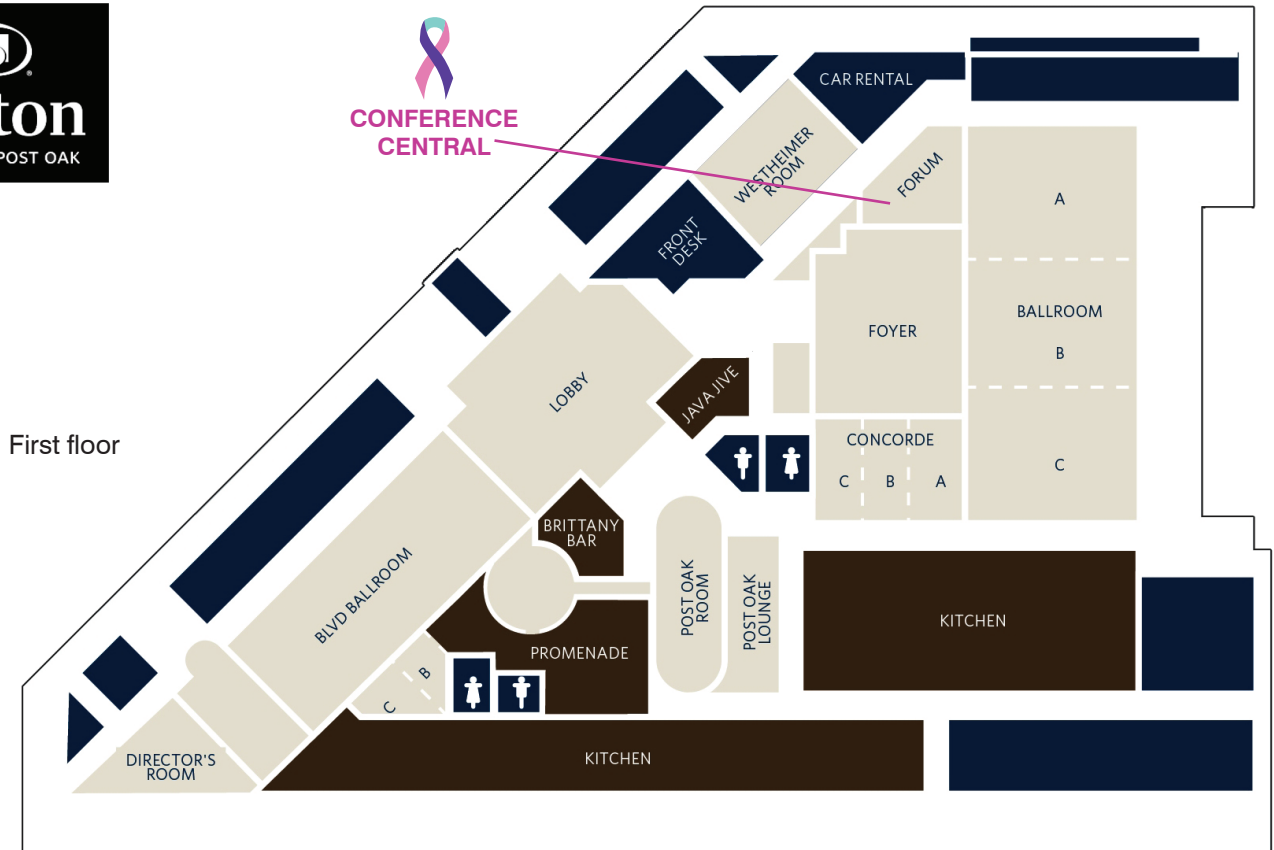
Support • Education • Communication • Research • Hope



Sponsored by
ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc.
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www.thyca.org

28th International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference

September 26-28, 2025





Welcome!

Dear Friends,

We are honored to welcome you to Houston for the 28th International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference. Thank you very much for coming.

These three days offer you terrific opportunities to learn and ask questions of numerous experts from a wide array of leading thyroid cancer treatment and research centers.

We invite you to also take part in the many informal roundtable discussions and the other special events during the weekend. These are great places to give and receive support from people who understand what you are going through, who want to hear your stories, and who will offer encouragement and support.

We want to express our deep appreciation to all our speakers, session leaders, and roundtable facilitators. You are donating your time because of your deep commitment to the well-being of everyone with thyroid cancer, and their families and friends. We thank you and everyone who has contributed to this weekend.

The conference is the result of more than a year of dedicated work by volunteers coast to coast. You will meet many of them here this weekend. Many others who gave long hours are unable to be here with us.

This event is also made possible through the generosity of numerous individuals and organizations who support our cause through generous financial donations as well as contributions of goods and services.

We invite you to experience all this conference has to offer. Stay in touch with each other and get information through our many free support services in the future. We look forward to getting to know you.

– The Conference Planning Team and Conference Volunteers



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ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc.

Thank You to Our Members

No one should have to face a diagnosis of thyroid cancer alone. By joining one of our online support groups, or face-to-face support groups, you are a member of the thyroid cancer community.

We invite you to become a dues-paying member as well, and help ThyCa sustain, strengthen, and extend our services and support to survivors, families, and friends around the world, as well as contribute to our research grants.

Your support also makes possible our outreach and awareness campaigns to the public.

- We have members with each type of thyroid cancer— papillary, follicular, oncocytic, medullary, poorly differentiated, anaplastic, and variants.
- Our members range in age from teens to 80s.
- Our members also include caregivers, health care professionals, and friends supporting our mission.
- Members live all over the world.
- We welcome new members at any time.
- Members may join for 1 year, 2 years, or as lifetime members.
- Membership forms are available online, or mail-in on our website's Membership page.
- Thank you very much for your wonderful support!

Conference Information

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Hilton Houston Post Oak by the Galleria
2001 Post Oak Blvd.
Houston, TX 77056
(713) 961-9300

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Cab/Lyft/Uber

REGISTRATION - CONFERENCE CENTRAL

Forum

The registration table is in "Conference Central." Hours are 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. on Thursday, 7:45 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 8:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Sunday. If you have questions about registrations, meeting rooms, dinner/auction tickets, or signs, please ask in Conference Central.

NAMETAGS AND RIBBONS

Please wear your conference nametag to help us get to know each other. Please add the appropriate ribbon as a caregiver or for your type(s) of thyroid cancer. If you have been diagnosed with a variant, you can write the variant on a blank white ribbon available next to the other ribbons.

LUNCH, OTHER MEALS

Beverages, snacks, and other onsite meal options are available at the hotel. We suggest that you pick up your lunch early or late, to avoid long lines during the lunch period. You may bring your lunch or snacks to sessions at any time.

DAILY UPDATE BULLETIN and SIGNS

Our Daily Update Bulletin provides details about any changes in the schedule, rooms, or presenters, plus other announcements. To suggest an item to include in the Bulletin, please leave a note in Conference Central. Signs in or near Conference Central will also post program updates.

SESSION CHOICES

Choose whatever sessions you would like to attend. It's not necessary to sign in. There are several choices during each time slot. You are welcome to move quietly between sessions. Please respect others' needs to hear the speaker.

NOTE-TAKERS NEEDED

Please share your session notes with us in the box in Conference Central. We will photocopy them and return the originals to you. Or email them to conference@thyca.org.

ThyCa INFORMATION TABLES

Visit our tables for thyroid cancer publications, plus information about ThyCa local support groups, online groups, the Person-to-Person Network, volunteer opportunities, ThyCa Membership, and the ThyCa Rally for Research and Research Grants.

LOST and FOUND

Check in at the hotel's registration desk or post a note in Conference Central.

CONFERENCE VOLUNTEER TEAM

When you see one of the many volunteers who made this event possible, please take a moment to say thank you! And our thanks to their families for sharing their loved ones with the conference.

QUESTIONS and SUGGESTIONS

If you have questions about the Program or ThyCa, please go to Conference Central ([Forum](#)) or ask a volunteer. If you have a suggestion, please leave a note in the Suggestion Box in Conference Central. For information or questions about the hotel and nearby attractions, ask at the hotel's front desk.

IMPORTANT NOTE about Privacy and Confidentiality

- ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc., is not necessarily in agreement with or responsible for the statements made by any of the presenters at this conference. The speakers will reflect a variety of perspectives.

- Circumstances may require the cancellation of a session, the substitution of a presenter, or a change in a session time.

- Respect Privacy. People are sharing their personal experiences and sensitive information, and we can all benefit from this. Feel free to take notes for your personal use, but please respect people's privacy. What's said in the room stays in the room.

- No Solicitations. Please, no solicitations, promotions, recruiting, direct or indirect marketing, fundraising for other organizations, or distribution of materials for yourself, your projects or services, your organization, or other organizations' or individuals' services, projects, fundraisers, or products, whether nonprofit or for-profit. This conference is a nonprofit thyroid cancer support and education event sponsored by ThyCa and run by dozens of volunteers. We want to keep our focus on learning, sharing our experiences, hearing others' experiences, and supporting each other.

PRESS, PROGRAM, MATERIALS for DISPLAY

Please contact Gary Bloom by leaving word in Conference Central if you have questions or interview requests, suggestions for the program, or about materials for display or distribution.

BOOKLET MESSAGES

The messages in this booklet are sponsored by friends and members of ThyCa. We thank you for your support.

FRIDAY AT 6:00 p.m. – FREE SPECIAL EVENT *Ballroom C*

Refreshments and more. Our gathering is a great opportunity to chat with others before your evening dinner plans, and to meet new friends to join you for dinner.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and informal socializing

6:45 p.m. Volunteer Appreciation, Door Prize and 50/50 Drawing

FUNDRAISER DINNER/AUCTION TICKETS FOR SATURDAY EVENING

Ballroom B & C

A limited number of tickets are available at the Registration Table in Conference Central for Saturday evening's Dinner/Auction. We invite added donations for our Research Funds.

Numerous exciting auction items have been donated. Proceeds will benefit ThyCa's Research Funds and Grants for Thyroid Cancer Research. Even if you don't attend, you can support this event. To join the Auction and Raffle go to 2025THYCA.givesmart.com or text 2025THYCA to 76278. Please review the list of exciting auction items in Conference Central. Before the dinner on Saturday evening, give your payment information with your bid to a friend who is attending or to one of our auction volunteers. Help us reach our goal of a future without thyroid cancer!



Visit ThyCa's Information Tables

Talk with our volunteers to learn about...

- Local support groups coast to coast in the U.S., Honduras, and Ireland
- One-to-one support from a ThyCa volunteer, matched by type of thyroid cancer, through our Person-to-Person Network
- FREE downloadable *Low-Iodine Cookbook*, 9th Edition
- FREE downloadable handbooks: *Thyroid Cancer Basics*, *Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer*, *Medullary Thyroid Cancer*, *Pediatric Thyroid Cancer*, and *Thyroid Nodules: Testing and Follow-Up*
- Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month
- Volunteer opportunities
- ThyCa membership form



The ThyCa Memorial Quilts and Video

The ThyCa memorial quilts and video slide show were created by two longtime ThyCa volunteers – Leah Guljord of Florida created the quilts and Cheri Lindle of Oklahoma developed the video slide show. Through these tributes, we honor and remember our loved ones who have lost their lives to thyroid cancer. We will show the video at different times during the Conference.

If you would like for your loved one to be remembered in future tributes, please contact thyca@thyca.org.

ThyCa's Research Fundraising and Grants

ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc., and our community have joined together to raise funds for thyroid cancer research. Together, we are able to make a tremendous difference!

Our goal is cures for all thyroid cancer. We support research on all types of thyroid cancer — papillary, follicular, medullary, and anaplastic. Our Research Funds welcome all contributions, of any size.

Our Research Grants are open to all researchers and institutions, worldwide. Independent expert panels of the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES), American Head & Neck Society (AHNS), and the American Thyroid Association (ATA) evaluate the grant proposals and select projects to be funded.

In 2003, ThyCa proudly awarded our first thyroid cancer research grant. We award grants each year. In 2025 we awarded 6 grants. Our grant recipients are from these institutions:

- Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York
- Cancer Center Karolinska, Sweden
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Ohio
- Cochin Institut, France
- Columbia University, New York, New York
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts
- Duesseldorf University Hospital, Germany
- Duke University, North Carolina
- Earle A. Chiles Research Institute at Providence, Portland, Oregon
- Gustave Roussy, France
- Harvard Medical School & Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Massachusetts
- Harvard Medical School & Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts
- Johns Hopkins Medical School, Maryland
- Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts
- MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, District of Columbia
- Medstar Washington Hospital Center, District of Columbia
- MedStar Washington Hospital Center/MedStar Georgetown University, District of Columbia
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York
- National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health, Maryland
- National University of Cordoba, Argentina
- New York University Langone Medical Center, New York
- Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- Ohio State University, Ohio, and Medical University of Gdansk, Poland
- Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, Pennsylvania
- Phoenix VA Health Care System, Arizona
- Providence Portland Cancer Center, Oregon
- Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, Illinois
- Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California
- Tulane University School of Medicine, Louisiana
- University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas
- University of California, Los Angeles, and Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Health Care System, California
- University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
- University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- University of Colorado, Aurora, Colorado
- University of Texas Southwestern, Texas
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Tennessee
- Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri
- Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, New York

Realizing that every mighty tree begins with a single seed, and that every seed planted by human hands begins with elements of both hope and faith, ThyCa planted this seed in the hope that it will grow strong and tall, and with the faith that others will answer the call and help nurture its growth.

We invite you to join us in our quest to find cures for Thyroid Cancer. Our heartfelt thanks!

Speakers & Presenters – Thank You!

Christina Abouzid, APRN, is a nurse practitioner at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

Sarimar N. Agosto Salgado, MD, is an oncologic endocrinologist at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL. Dr. Agosto Salgado's clinical interest centers on the management of thyroid nodules and all stages and types of thyroid cancer, including administration of systemic therapies for aggressive tumors. She is also interested in the management of hereditary endocrine neoplasia disorders, pituitary tumors, adrenal tumors, adrenocortical carcinoma and pheochromocytoma-paranglioma tumors. Her research interest focuses on intermediate-high risk thyroid cancers in terms of management, surveillance protocols, targeted therapies and potential re-differentiation of tumors resistant to radioactive iodine.

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.

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.

Charlotte A. Bayala, E-RYT, YACEP, is a certified yoga teacher, caregiver advocate, award-winning podcaster of *The Cancer Caregiver* in Rogers, AR. Her award-winning show is dedicated to supporting the voices and well-being of cancer caregivers. As a thyroid cancer caregiver for her husband for more than a decade, Charlotte brings both lived experience and over 12 years as a yoga and meditation teacher to her work. She integrates breathwork, mindfulness, and practical self-preservation tools into strategies caregivers can actually use in the middle of daily demands. Her podcast and programs are shared by cancer organizations, recommended by social workers, and trusted by caregiver networks across the country. A frequent conference speaker, Charlotte challenges the belief that caregivers must sacrifice their own health, showing instead how resilience and balance can be rebuilt through small, consistent practices. Whether through her workshops, yoga-based sessions, or advocacy, she empowers caregivers to sustain their strength while caring for the people they love.

Laura Beilke, Esq, is a cancer rights attorney from Triage Cancer in Chicago IL. Having experienced the loss of her mother to cancer at a young age, Laura is driven by a desire to leverage her legal expertise and background to make a positive impact within the cancer community. Beyond her professional pursuits, she engages in personal challenges, dedicating her free time to training for and participating in long-distance running events. Laura earned her Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School and her Bachelor of Arts in Neurobiology and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Laura is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Lindsay A. Bischoff, MD, is a professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. She is the Co-Interim Division Director for Education and Faculty Affairs, Medical Director of the Vanderbilt Thyroid and Adrenal Center, and the Program Director for the Endocrine Fellowship. Her clinical practice focuses on diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer. She is an active member of the American Thyroid Association (ATA) and International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG), having chaired committees for both and is on the Board of Directors for ITOG. She is an author of the 2025 ATA Guidelines on Differentiated Thyroid Carcinoma and is Vice-Chair for the Guidelines on Thyroid Carcinoma of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. She has served on the editorial boards of *Clinical Thyroidology* and *JCEM Case Reports*. She is actively involved with the World Congress on Thyroid Cancer and serves as an Associate Board member.

Jeffrey M. Blumberg, MD, FACO, is a head and neck surgery otolaryngologist at UNC School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, NC. Dr. Blumberg is board certified in Otolaryngology and graduated from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Blumberg frequently treats conditions like oral cancer, head and neck cancer, soft tissue sarcoma of head, face and neck along with other conditions.

Marcia S. Brose, MD, PhD, FASCO, is a medical oncologist and professor at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA, where she is involved in clinical trials of new treatments for patients with advanced thyroid cancer. Her clinical focus is familial cancer syndromes and cancer risk evaluation, Phase I/II clinical trials, and novel drug target discovery. Her research focuses on genomic characterization of cancers of the head and neck, thyroid, and lung; novel drug target discovery; and the use of genetic testing in the diagnosis, prognostication, and treatment of cancer. Dr. Brose received her bachelor's degree from Amherst College, her medical degree from Cornell University Medical College, and her Ph.D. from The Rockefeller University. She is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.

Naifa L. Busaidy, MD, is an endocrinologist and professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Busaidy 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.

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.

Eduardo Castro Echeverry, MD, is a pathologist at Sonic Reference Laboratory in Austin, TX. He is a molecular pathologist and hematopathologist with 10 years of experience in the field of personalized medicine. He received his medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine and his residency and subspecialty training in anatomic and clinical pathology and hematopathology at Scott & White Clinic/Texas A&M School of Medicine. He subsequently pursued a molecular pathology fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where he was first introduced to the Thyroseq Genomic Classifier. In addition to an active practice that includes daily sign out of Thyroseq cases, hematopathology, and medical student education, Dr. Castro has taught bioinformatics courses at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) and served on a number of committees related to bioinformatics, education, and fusion detection for the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP).

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.

Robin Clough is a ThyCa member and was diagnosed with anaplastic thyroid cancer in November 2022 at Cedar-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Upon being referred to MD Anderson, she became aware of the issues related to telehealth across state lines. Because of this experience and others shared by members in her support groups, she proposed a bill through the California Senior Legislature, which was introduced into the state legislature this year as SB 508 and is still pending.

Elizabeth C. Conti, PhD, is a health psychologist and assistant professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Palliative, Rehabilitation, and Integrative Medicine in Houston, TX. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from West Virginia University with a specialization in geropsychology and behavioral medicine. She completed her clinical internship, a research fellowship, and served on staff at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, TX. In her current role in Integrative Medicine, she conducts research and provides psychotherapy to patients with cancer. She helps individuals to manage stress, improve sleep, enhance meaning, and make lifestyle changes to improve overall health and reduce risk of cancer recurrence.

Trisha D. Cubb, MD, is an oncologic endocrinologist who will join the University of North Carolina-Lineberger Cancer Center, at the end of this year as associate professor and director of endocrine neoplasia. Previously, she served as an assistant professor at Houston Methodist Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical College, specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disorders. She later completed an oncologic endocrinology fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center, driven by her passion for caring for patients with advanced thyroid cancer. Dr. Cubb is an active member of the American Thyroid Association, where she chairs the Lab Services Committee, and she also serves as an associate editor for *Clinical Thyroidology*.

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.

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.

Vaninder K. Dhillon, MD, FACS, is a dual fellowship trained Otolaryngologist, specializing in endocrine head and neck surgery and laryngology which includes voice and swallow. She is Associate Professor within the Department of Otolaryngology at Johns Hopkins in the National Capital Region in Washington, DC and Bethesda, MD. Her focus is voice and swallow outcomes after thyroid surgery as well as radiofrequency ablation. She also focuses on laryngeal outcomes for her patients as a whole, trying to incorporate new interventions and multidisciplinary therapy for patients with voice, swallow and breathing concerns.

Julia Diersing, M, PA-C, is a graduate of the Baylor College of Medicine Physician Assistant Program. Prior to her clinical training, she received a Master of Science degree in Medical Sciences from the University of North Texas Health Science Center (2016) and Bachelor of Science degree in Cell & Molecular Biology from the University of Texas at Austin (2011). She has practiced in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center for the past six years. Her subspecialty interest in the care of patients with advanced thyroid cancer was inspired by the experience of her family member who is a poorly differentiated insular thyroid carcinoma survivor. Honoring the legacy of her parents and maternal grandparents who were public school teachers, she is passionate about educating patients and their families.

Gene Dorio, MD, MS, is a geriatric physician in Santa Clarita, California. His practice includes both office and hospital care, and he is known for making house calls to older adults with mobility issues. Currently, he provides in-home care for his companion, Robin Clough, who is an anaplastic thyroid cancer patient. He serves as an Assembly member for a volunteer state organization, the California Senior Legislature, and has introduced several proposals related to seniors "aging in place." Additionally, he is a healthcare writer whose articles have appeared both locally on his blog, SCVPhysicianReport.com, and nationally.

Carlos S. Duque, MD, is a head & neck surgeon trained at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery. He worked as a head and neck surgeon for more than twenty years at the Hospital Pablo Tobón Uribe in Medellín, Colombia. Dr. Duque's passion has been the treatment and management of thyroid cancer. He has published numerous articles on this topic, as well as an e-book in Spanish, entitled *iUuuyyy, TENGO CANCER DE TIROIDES!*, which is also available in English, *Oh no, I HAVE THYROID CANCER!*. He has led sessions in both English and Spanish at numerous past ThyCa conferences.

Tim A. Erickson, PhD, is a researcher at Providence Portland Cancer Center in Providence, OR. Shortly after his diagnosis in 2014 with MTC, he decided that he would take his research skills and aim to find a cure for MTC. He has published several papers in the journal *Thyroid* on the immune-tumor interface of MTC and cell therapy to treat MTC with the help of collaborators at Providence and CU-Anschutz Cancer Centers. Dr. Erickson is currently developing a triad of T cell engagers to treat medullary thyroid cancer. These protein therapeutics enable direct killing of tumor cells by immune cells called T cells. The goal of his research is to develop a systemic therapy for MTC, comparable in efficacy to radioactive iodine in differentiated thyroid cancer. Dr. Erickson is a 2021 & 2025 ThyCa research grant recipient.

Robert Flavell, MD, PhD, is a nuclear medicine physician at the University of California in San Francisco, CA. He is the Chief of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics Clinical Section in the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging. He received his medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College, and his PhD from the Rockefeller University. Dr. Flavell's laboratory focuses on the development of new molecular imaging and therapeutic tools in cancer. Major areas of focus include the development of novel theranostic and radiopharmaceutical therapy methods, as well as methods for imaging the tumor microenvironment.

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.

Ruchi Gaba, MD, FACE, FEAA, is an associate professor of medicine and program director of the endocrinology fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. She specializes in thyroid and parathyroid disorders, with particular expertise in thyroid cancer, especially advanced and complicated cases. As Medical Director of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Center at the Dan Duncan Cancer Center, she leads a multidisciplinary team to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care and contributes nationally to guideline development and educational initiatives in endocrinology.

Matti Gild, BSc, MBBS, PhD, FRACP, is an endocrinologist at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, Australia. Dr Gild's interests are in signaling pathways in RET mutant thyroid cancer. Her PhD was completed through both Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the laboratory of Prof. James Fagin and the Cancer Genetics Lab at the Kolling Institute. Her clinical research is focused on optimizing patient outcomes in thyroid cancer and she maintains her basic science platform investigating genetics of thyroid cancer. She works clinically at Royal North Shore Hospital as a Staff Specialist in Endocrinology and is a Senior Lecturer in Medicine at the Northern Clinical School.

Wendy Girbach, MSSW, LCSW-S, OSW-C, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with almost 20 years of health care experience that includes clinical work with patients/caregivers and macro-level work involving project management and quality improvement. She joined MD Anderson as a clinical social worker in the Head and Neck Clinic in 2008, transitioned to a program management role within social work in 2014, and then moved over to the Children's Cancer Hospital to lead the AYA Program when it launched in 2018. In her current role as AYA Program Director, Wendy manages the strategic development and implementation of multiple program components including provision of clinical services, programming, and outreach.

Melanie Goldfarb, MD, MSc, FACS, FACE, is an endocrine surgeon at Saint. John's Institute in Santa Monica, CA. Dr. Goldfarb is a fellowship-trained endocrine surgeon specializing in minimal access surgery for thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal tumors as well as neck ultrasound, thyroid biopsy, and radiofrequency ablation. She is a graduate of Brown University and completed her surgery training at Beth Israel Deaconess (Harvard Medical School) followed by a fellowship at the University of Miami. Dr Goldfarb is an Associate Editor for *Thyroid*, and on the editorial board for *Annals of Surgical Oncology* and the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*. With over 100 publications, her personal research field focuses on endocrine tumors, secondary malignancies, thyroid ultrasound, adolescent and young adult thyroid cancer, and cancer survivorship.

Elizabeth G. Grubbs, MD, is a surgeon and associate professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She earned her medical degree at Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina, followed by postgraduate training at Duke and at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is author of numerous peer-reviewed original research articles, as well as book chapters. Dr. Grubbs has spoken at many ThyCa conferences. Dr. Grubbs is a 2014 ThyCa research grant recipient. She is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.

Theresa A. Guise, MD, is a bone expert and professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. Dr. Guise directs a basic, translational and clinical research program on the effects of cancer and cancer treatment on bone, muscle and metabolism. Dr. Guise obtained her M.D. and Internal Medicine Residency Training from the University of Pittsburgh and completed an Endocrinology Fellowship at the University of Texas. Recognitions include the Fuller Albright, the Paula Stern Achievement and the Stephen M. Krane Awards (ASBMR), Philip S. Hench and Legacy Laureate Awards (University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine), Fellow of the ASBMR, and Established Investigator and Scholar of CPRIT. Dr. Guise is currently principal investigator in several grant-funded research projects from the NIH, the Department of Defense and CPRIT.

Sarah Hamidi, MD, FRCPC, is a board-certified endocrinologist with specialized fellowship training in oncologic endocrinology. She currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Hamidi's clinical and research work is dedicated to the care of patients with advanced thyroid cancers, with a particular focus on anaplastic thyroid carcinoma. She leads and collaborates on clinical trials and translational studies aimed at identifying novel treatment strategies and improving outcomes in this rare, aggressive disease.

Jennifer Holkem, is a dedicated educator and patient advocate for thyroid patients. After a successful RFA treatment of a large benign thyroid mass in 2019, she founded Save Your Thyroid—an advocacy community for patients seeking minimally invasive, non-surgical treatment options. Recognizing a lack of patient-focused resources, Jennifer creates and shares educational content through her podcast and social media. She also developed the saveyourthyroid.org website, which provides patient-oriented resources, and as of 2025, she offers personalized patient navigation services. Jennifer devotes a full-time effort to building awareness of treatment advancements worldwide.

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.

Helen K. Hughes, MD, MPH, is an associate professor of pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Hughes attended medical school at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and received a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Hughes is the co-editor of the *Harriet Lane Handbook*, 21st Edition, which is one of the most widely used pediatric handbooks internationally. Dr. Hughes is a national leader in the field of telemedicine and patient-facing digital health technologies. Dr. Hughes serves as Medical Director for Johns Hopkins Medicine's Office of Telemedicine and Medical Director of Pediatric Telemedicine for the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. She is a medical informaticist and co-chairs the Johns Hopkins Patient Family Centered Design (MyChart) committee.

Priyanka C. Iyer, MD, is an oncologic endocrinologist in the department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal disorders at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She treats advanced thyroid cancer including anaplastic thyroid cancer. She is one of the 5 oncologic endocrinologists in the FAST team at MD Anderson, a leading referral center for Anaplastic thyroid cancer. Dr. Iyer's clinical panel and research interests include novel approaches in the management of locally advanced and metastatic thyroid cancer with the use of targeted therapies and their combinations with immunotherapy. Her research involves exploring real world studies in advanced thyroid cancer that inform real world evidence and practice. Dr. Iyer is also the Associate program director for the Oncologic Endocrinology Fellowship program at MD Anderson. She is very involved with the education of fellows and trainees who are interested in pursuing a career in oncologic endocrinology.

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.

Jennifer H. Kuo, MD, MS, FACS, ECNU, is an endocrine surgeon at Columbia University in New York City, NY. She is the Richard L. White Associate Professor in Endocrine Surgery at Columbia University. She is a board-certified surgeon-scientist nationally recognized for her expertise in the surgical treatment of thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal diseases. Dr. Kuo is an accomplished, high-volume surgeon in minimally invasive surgical techniques, including trans-oral thyroidectomy and robotic adrenalectomy. She is one of the leading international experts in ultrasound-guided percutaneous ablation of thyroid nodules and spearheaded the new Interventional Endocrinology program at Columbia. Dr. Kuo also serves as Program Director of the Endocrine Surgery Fellowship Program and the Endocrine Surgery Research program. Her research focuses on the use of predictive algorithms to improve and optimize care for endocrine patients, and is internationally recognized as a pioneer in the safe adoption of new technology in surgical care.

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 U.S. 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 and associate professor of radiation oncology at Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. She also serves as Director of the Base of Skull Service and Sarcoma Service and is a member of the Pediatric Service in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Her expertise lies in the treatment of breast, pediatric and base-of-skull tumors and sarcoma with a technology called proton therapy. Dr. MacDonald is a Primary Investigator of a Children's Oncology Group (COG) Trial for Central Nervous System (CNS) Germ Cell Tumors, and a Clinical Co-Chair of The Radiotherapy Comparative Effectiveness (RADCOMP) Consortium Trial.

Priya Mahajan, MD, MS, is an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington and a pediatric oncologist at Seattle Children's Hospital. She completed her pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Orange County and her pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern. Dr. Mahajan is an integral member of the solid tumor program and has a disease specific interest and expertise in rare tumors, thyroid cancer, and germ cell tumors. Dr. Mahajan is an active member of the pediatric thyroid cancer program at Seattle Children's Hospital. She is actively involved in both national and international committees to advance the field of pediatric oncology.

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. Dr. Maniakas a 2025 ThyCa Research Grant recipient.

Aarti Mathur, MD, PhD, FACS, is an associate professor of surgery and oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. She serves as Associate Vice Chair for Faculty Development in the Department of Surgery, is the Fellowship Director for the Endocrine Surgery Fellowship, and directs the CORES Endocrine Surgery Research Group. Dr. Mathur earned her medical degree at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX. She completed a general surgery residency at Georgetown University Hospital during which she spent time several years at National Cancer Institute. She then completed a fellowship in endocrine surgery at Johns Hopkins. She has a busy clinical practice that focuses on thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal diseases and has a focused practice designation for adult complex thyroid and parathyroid surgery. One of her research interests is environmental risk factors for thyroid cancer.

Brittany McKelvey, PhD, is a pediatric thyroid cancer survivor, diagnosed with papillary thyroid cancer at age 13. Brittany then became passionate about learning more about her disease, culminating in receiving her PhD in molecular biology and genetics from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where she received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP) studying the molecular mechanisms of thyroid cancer. Brittany is actively involved as a patient advocate with multiple organizations, including the National Cancer Institute (NCI) as a previous member of the NCI Council of Research Advocates (NCRA), a current member of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) Patient Advocacy Advisory Board, and a co-facilitator of the ThyCa Teens Support Group.

Meroe B. Morse, MD, ABoIM, is an integrative medicine physician at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. A graduate of Brown University, Dr. Morse received her medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine, completed her residency training at New York University-Bellevue Hospital. Dr. Morse approaches the practice of medicine through a biopsychosocial model of care. She uses integrative strategies such as lifestyle modifications, nutrition, mind-body techniques, and movement to prevent, reverse, and manage chronic disease, the effects of cancer, and cancer therapies. As a patient advocate, Dr. Morse guides individuals as they navigate the healthcare system while empowering them to make meaningful changes in their health journey.

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.

David Myssiorek, MD, FACS, is an ENT-Otolaryngologist at Bronxcare Health System, Bronx, NY. A graduate of New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Myssiorek did his internship at Lenox Hill Hospital and was Chief Resident at New York University/Bellevue. He is the author of numerous articles on thyroid cancer surgery and other head and neck surgery. He has conducted numerous surveys of our population to learn more from us, with his survey on patients' voice issues receiving more than 6,000 responses. At ThyCa conferences Dr. Myssiorek has spoken about general surgical issues and issues related to having additional neck surgeries, as well as on the causes, prevention, and solutions for voice issues. Dr. Myssiorek is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.

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.

Maria Papaleontiou, MD, is an endocrinologist at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her clinical interests include management of thyroid disease and cancer, especially in older adults. Her research, funded by the NIH and other grants, focuses on the impact of age and comorbidity on thyroid disease/cancer decision making, the overtreatment with and misuse of thyroid hormone in older adults, and the roles of the physician and patient in the management of thyroid disorders/cancer. In addition, Dr. Papaleontiou has a long-standing interest in elevating clinical endocrinology through contributions to both physician and patient education. She is active in the American Thyroid Association (ATA), currently serving as Chair for the Women in Thyroidology and Co-Chair for the ATA task force to revise the hypothyroidism guidelines.

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.

Beena Patel, MSc, PA-C, is a physician associate in oncology who has worked clinically in Bone Marrow Transplant and GU Oncology/Clinical Trials at leading cancer institutions including Columbia University Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Weill Cornell Medical College. Through her interest in integrative medicine that was sparked by patients, physicians, and her own personal journey with thyroid cancer at the age of 21, her path led her into the world of holistic healing and wellness. She is now also a Certified Yoga Teacher and Reiki Healer at The Yoga Movement. She uses her background in both medicine and alternative healing to provide a more integrative approach to cancer care.

Catherine R. 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.

Sarika N. Rao, DO, is an endocrinologist at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL. Dr. Rao received her medical degree from Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. She completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Massachusetts and stayed for a fellowship with the school's Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes. Dr. Rao went on to earn the sole annual oncologic endocrinology fellowship at the University of Texas' prestigious MD Anderson Cancer Center. There, she focused on the treatment of conditions such as advanced thyroid and adrenal cancers, as well as endocrinopathies that arise from other cancers or chemotherapy.

Holly Reckers, BM, MA, CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist at Columbia University Center for Voice and Swallowing as well as an adjunct professor at Teacher's College Columbia University in New York City, New York. She specializes in voice, swallowing, and upper airway disorders. She has worked with professional voice users who perform on Broadway, The Metropolitan Opera, tv/film, and national/international tours. She has presented and published on the topics of vocal hygiene and training of collegiate and professional singers, effects of thyroid cancer treatment on voice and swallowing, and the effect of COVID-19 on professional voice users. Holly holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) in voice performance/opera and her Master of Arts from the University of Cincinnati. She completed her voice fellowship at Lakeshore Ear, Nose, and Throat Professional Voice Center in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

Thomas J. Roberts, MD, MBA, is a medical oncologist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. Dr. Roberts also serves as the Clinical Director for Oncology Services for Mass General Brigham Healthcare at Home, where he is working to improve supportive care at home for patients with cancer. Dr. Roberts treats patients with head and neck cancers and thyroid cancer. He has published extensively on topics ranging from developmental therapeutics to cancer epidemiology and healthcare access. He is an investigator on dozens of clinical trials evaluating early and late stage therapies for these types of cancers.

Bruce Robinson, MD, is an endocrinologist and professor at the University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. He has been the head of the Cancer Genetics Unit at the Kolling Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital, since 1989. He has been chairman Hoc Mai Foundation, a major program in medical and health education and exchange with Vietnam since 2001. In 2015 Dr. Robinson was appointed as chair of Australia's peak advisory and funding body for medical research, National Health and Medical Research Council. His research has focused on identifying genetic changes which either predispose or directly cause endocrine tumors, and among other highlights has been the formation of an international consortium of families from around the world to study medullary thyroid carcinoma and pheochromocytoma.

Siddharth Sheth, DO, MPH, is a medical oncologist and a tenured Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Oncology at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. His clinical expertise is in head and neck cancers including thyroid malignancies. His research focuses on clinical trials and evaluating promising biomarkers in clinical studies. He leads multiple trials with an interest in neoadjuvant trials. At UNC, Dr. Sheth co-leads the head and neck cancer program and leads the head and neck POD (clinical trials group). Dr. Sheth is an active member of ASCO, SITC, and AACR, ITOG, and participates in NCI Cooperative Groups including Alliance, NRG, ECOG/ACRIN and ETCTN.

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 the Leon Goldman, MD Distinguished Professor in the Department of Surgery. 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 co-chaired the committee that wrote the newly published iteration of the American Thyroid Association practice guidelines for the management of adult patients with 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 the John Radcliffe and Churchill Hospitals in Oxford, England. Dr. Sosa 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 also to minimize associated toxicities and potentially cure some of these high-risk cancers.

James W. Suliburk, MD, FACS, is Chief of Endocrine Surgery at Baylor Medicine in Houston Texas. He completed his Endocrine Surgery Fellowship at the world-renown University of Sydney Endocrine Surgical Unit as the TS Reeve International Fellow in Endocrine Surgery. He directs the Endocrine Surgery Clinic at Ben Taub Hospital, part of Harris Health System and is a founder of the Baylor Thyroid and Parathyroid Center at Baylor Medicine. He performs high volume endocrine surgery both at Baylor St. Lukes Medical Center as well as Ben Taub Hospital, seeing patients with benign and malignant thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal disease. He is a funded researcher by the NIH as well as the Cancer Prevention Institute of Texas (CPRIIT) in using mass spectrometry to aid in the diagnosis of endocrine neoplasia both in real-time on the operative field as well as in FNA specimens. He also conducts research in endocrine neoplasia focusing on patient-centered cognition as well as in mobile technology for communication in perioperative self-care.

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 Mercy Endocrinol in Fort Smith, AR. 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 diagnosis. She has used her personal cancer experience to impact the life of many patients.



Caleb R. Trotter, JD, is a senior attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation in Sacramento, CA. He litigates on behalf of individuals and small businesses fighting for their constitutional rights to free speech, economic liberty, and equal protection under the law. Caleb 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.

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 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.

Ari J. Wassner, MD, is a pediatric endocrinologist at Boston Children's Hospital in Boston, MA. He serves as the Medical Director of the Thyroid Center, Director of the Endocrinology Fellowship Training Program at Boston Children's Hospital, and is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He earned his MD from Harvard Medical School and completed residency in Pediatrics and fellowship in Pediatric Endocrinology at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Wassner is an international expert in pediatric thyroid disease, serving for the American Thyroid Association (ATA) Pediatric Thyroid Cancer Guidelines Task Force and the writing group of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) congenital hypothyroidism guidelines. Dr. Wassner's primary clinical focus is on congenital hypothyroidism and thyroid neoplasia in children.

James Wu, MD, is a board-certified Endocrine Surgeon and Associate Professor of Surgery at UCLA. He trained in Complex Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, following general surgery training at UCLA. Dr. Wu has received research awards from the American Thyroid Association and American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. His research focuses on decision-making in thyroid cancer and optimal care of thyroid cancer patients. In this clinical practice he is devoted to patients in all aspects of thyroid nodules and thyroid cancer, including active surveillance and radiofrequency ablation. Finally, he serves on the ATA patient education and advocacy committee and produces videos via UCLA health on thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal topics.


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.



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THANK YOU to all of ThyCa's Volunteers

who give so many hours of your time and talents.

Our heartfelt Thank You to our more than 400 volunteers, who:

- Answer emails to thyca@thyca.org and our other ThyCa emails, and calls to our Toll-Free Number
- Lead Local Support Groups throughout the United States and in Honduras and Ireland
- Oversee our Online Communities: Email Support Groups, Facebook, Inspire, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, & YouTube
- Give one-to-one support, matched by type of thyroid cancer, in our Person-to-Person Network
- Expand and update our website and develop our publications in English, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Ukrainian
- Organize our Conferences, Workshops, Seminars, plus our online Webinars
- Give and post materials in community locations and health care settings
- Represent ThyCa at medical meetings, cancer awareness events, community health fairs, television broadcasts, health and human services conferences, and other events.
- Raise awareness of thyroid cancer and the importance of neck checks and early detection, treatment, and lifelong follow-up
- Build and strengthen relationships with medical professionals, associations, other cancer survivorship organizations, and community groups
- Raise funds and in-kind donations to support our services and thyroid cancer research
- Get involved in Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month in person, online, and by mail
- Reach out throughout the year in community groups and the media to support survivors and families locally, regionally, and worldwide and to educate the public about thyroid cancer
- Serve in many key roles: Team Leadership, Volunteer Training and Encouragement, Mailings, Recordkeeping, Financial Transactions, Filing, and more

We welcome new volunteers, for one-time projects and for ongoing volunteering. Learn more in the How To Help section of www.thyca.org

In Honor of Our Caregivers

We honor the families and friends of thyroid cancer survivors. You give us your support and love in countless ways. As patients, struggling through our thyroid cancer journey, we realize how difficult it is for you, too. It takes courage to stare down cancer, both as a patient and as the one standing by.

Thank you for facing it with us.

Helpful Links

Papillary/Follicular Thyroid Cancer

www.thyca.org/pap-fol

Medullary Thyroid Cancer

www.thyca.org/mtc

Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer

www.thyca.org/atc

Pediatric Thyroid Cancer

www.thyca.org/pediatric



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ThyCaInc – 92 Followers



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1,012 Followers



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Medical Advisory Council

ThyCa is fortunate to have a distinguished Medical Advisory Council of 50 members with expertise in thyroid cancer. This board provides valuable counsel and supports our goals in education, treatment, and research. More than 50 distinguished specialists provide ongoing review and input for our website and materials. Thank you.

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Endocrinologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital, MA

Peter Angelos, MD, PhD

Endocrine Surgeon, University of Chicago, IL

Douglas W. Ball, MD

Endocrinologist, Johns Hopkins Medicine, MD

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Endocrinologist, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

Paul W. Ladenson, MD

Endocrinologist, Johns Hopkins Medicine, MD

Stephanie L. Lee, MD, PhD

Endocrinologist, Boston Medical Center, MA

Jochen H. Lorch, MD, MSc

Medical Oncologist, Northwestern Medical Group Chicago, IL

Mira M. Milas, MD

Endocrine Surgeon, Banner – University Medical Center of Phoenix, AZ

David Myssiorek, MD

Otolaryngologist, Bronxcare Health System, NY

Barry D. Nelkin, PhD

Researcher, Johns Hopkins Medicine, MD

Yuri E. Nikiforov, MD, PhD

Pathologist, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, PA

Sareh Parangi, MD

Surgeon, Massachusetts General Hospital, MA

Gregory W. Randolph, MD

Otolaryngologist, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, MA

Scot C. Remick, MD

Medical Oncologist, Maine Medical Center Cancer Institute, ME

Matthew D. Ringel, MD

Endocrinologist, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, OH

Benjamin R. Roman, MD, MSHP

Head & Neck Surgeon, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NY

Martin Schlumberger, MD

Endocrinologist, Institute Gustave Roussy, France

Pamela Schultz, PhD, RN, MS

Nursing Professor/Researcher, New Mexico State University, NM

Manisha H. Shah, MD

Oncologist, Retired

Eric J. Sherman, MD

Oncologist, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NY

Steven I. Sherman, MD

Endocrinologist, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

Peter A. Singer, MD

Endocrinologist, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, CA

Jennifer A. Sipos, MD

Endocrinologist, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, OH

Monica C. Skarulis, MD

Endocrinologist, Washington Endocrine and Metabolism, Washington, D.C.

Robert C. Smallridge, MD

Endocrinologist, Retired

Julie Ann Sosa, MD, MA

Surgeon, University of California at San Francisco, CA

Carole A. Spencer, PhD

FACB Thyroglobulin Researcher, University of Southern California Endocrine Services Laboratory, CA

David Steward, MD, FACS

Otolaryngologist, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, OH

Ralph P. Tufano, MD, MBA, FACS

Endocrine Surgeon, Sarasota Memorial Health Care System Sarasota, FL

R. Michael Tuttle, MD

Endocrinologist, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NY

Douglas Van Nostrand, MD

Nuclear Medicine Physician, Retired

Steven G. Waguespack, MD

Endocrinologist, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

Leonard Wartofsky, MD

Endocrinologist, Retired

Samuel A. Wells, MD

Surgeon, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, MD

Lori J. Wirth, MD

Medical Oncologist, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, MA

Mark Zafereo, MD

Head & Neck Surgeon, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, TX

In Memory and Gratitude

Gilbert J. Cote, PhD

Donald Margouleff, MD

Ernest L. Mazzaferri, MD

Bryan McIver, MB, ChB, PhD

Jeffrey F. Moley, MD

Yolanda C. Oertel, MD

Arturo R. Rolla, MD

About Us

ThyCa is an international nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of thyroid cancer survivors, family members, and health care professionals, dedicated to education, communication, support, awareness for early detection, and thyroid cancer research fundraising and research grants.

Our mission: Educate and support the global thyroid cancer community and invest in research.

Vision: A world free of thyroid cancer.

Since 1995 we have been developing a unique support network to link survivors and healthcare professionals around the world. Volunteers donate their time and effort to make our dreams a reality.

People in more than 130 countries receive our free services. Our free services and materials are available to everyone whose life has been touched by thyroid cancer.

Our Services

2 Online Support Communities

Linked through the website. These include the ThyCa Inspire Thyroid Cancer Support Community, plus Groups.io discussion community.

Person-To-Person Support

One-to-one support with ThyCa volunteers, matched by thyroid cancer type and situation.

Local Support Groups

Around the United States, Honduras, and in Ireland.

Conferences, Workshops, Seminars

Our Conferences bring thyroid cancer experts, survivors, and families together to learn the latest about thyroid cancer and give and receive support. We also hold many free one day regional workshops and local seminars.

Free Tools for Education, Support, & Awareness

For these and more, visit www.thyca.org

Handbooks

Thyroid Cancer Basics

- About all types of thyroid cancer
- Download or by mail
- Free in bulk to healthcare professionals
- In English, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian

Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer

- In English, Chinese, and Spanish

Medullary Thyroid Cancer

- In English, Chinese, and Spanish

Pediatric Thyroid Cancer

- In English

Thyroid Nodules: Testing and Follow-Up

- In English and Arabic

Online Monthly Newsletter

Subscribe at www.thyca.org/guestbook

Patient Information Packets by Mail

Request at www.thyca.org/guestbook, or (877) 588-7904

Free Pediatric Sportpacks

With information plus helpful tips for children and teens with thyroid cancer, and their parents

Low-Iodine Cookbook 9th Edition

- Downloadable from www.thyca.org
- In English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish

Your organization is invited to partner with ThyCa in Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month (September) and year-round campaigns

Raise awareness with brochures, flyers, and wallet cards

- Free American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists Neck Check Cards
- Free flyers in English and Spanish: "Find It Early," "Know the Signs," "Thyroid cancer is NOT a good cancer," "About Thyroid Cancer," and more
- Free Thyroid Cancer Awareness brochures
- Free wallet cards and patient services brochures

Comprehensive Website

Thyroid cancer information in 16 languages: English, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Ukrainian. Dozens of free downloadable publications, videos, plus events calendar, support group connections, Facebook and Twitter connections, and more. All medical information receives review and input from more than 50 thyroid cancer experts, including members of ThyCa's Medical Advisory Council plus more specialists.

Research Fundraising & Thyroid Cancer Research Grants

ThyCa has proudly awarded 126 thyroid cancer research grants totaling more than \$3 million, to researchers in 7 countries.

Survivors' Toll-Free Telephone Number

(877) 588-7904

Guestbook and Free Monthly Newsletter

Use our website's convenient Guestbook to sign up for our free online newsletters and special announcements, to request a free Patient Information Packet, and to add or update your contact information.

Thyroid Cancer Support Groups

Affiliated with ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc. | www.thyca.org

ALABAMA

Mobile
Opelika

ARIZONA

Phoenix
Tucson

CALIFORNIA

Benecia
Foster City
Fresno
Los Angeles
Mountain View
Newport Beach
Redondo Beach
Sacramento
San Diego
Santa Cruz

COLORADO

Colorado Springs
Denver
Glenwood Springs

CONNECTICUT

Stratford

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington

FLORIDA

Hollywood
Jacksonville
Melbourne
Miami
Orlando
Sarasota-Manatee
South Florida
Tampa

GEORGIA

Atlanta
Columbus

ILLINOIS

Chicago

INDIANA

Evansville

IOWA

Cedar Rapids

KANSAS

Coffeyville

MAINE

Falmouth
Scarborough

MARYLAND

Baltimore
Silver Spring

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor
Troy

MISSISSIPPI

Tupelo

MISSOURI

Kansas City
N. Kansas City
St. Louis

NEW JERSEY

Trenton
Vineland
Wood-Ridge

NEW YORK

Albany
Bronx
Manhasset
Manhattan
Rochester
Syracuse
Troy

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro
Raleigh

OHIO

Cleveland
Columbus
Toledo

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City
Tulsa

OREGON

Bend
Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

Bethlehem
NW Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Southampton

SOUTH CAROLINA

Myrtle Beach

TENNESSEE

Memphis
Nashville

TEXAS

Amarillo
Dallas

VERMONT

Northern Vermont

VIRGINIA

Arlington
Williamsburg

WASHINGTON

Seattle
Vancouver

WISCONSIN

Madison

International Support Groups

HONDURAS

Tegucigalpa

IRELAND

Dublin

Special Interest Support Groups

Anaplastic
Caregivers
LID and RAI
Medullary
Pediatric
Poorly Differentiated
RAI Resistant
Teens
Young Adult

Eisai

CREATING HOPE
THROUGH INNOVATION

At Eisai, everything we do is guided by a simple principle: patients and their families come first. We spend time with them. We listen and we learn about their lives, their desires and their greatest needs. We call this *human health care* or *hhc*, giving first thoughts to patients and their families and helping increase the benefits health care provides.

Our *hhc* mission is what drives us to discover innovative solutions and therapies that help address unmet needs within the communities that we seek to serve.

Eisai is proud to support ThyCa.

hhc
human health care

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.EISAI.COM/US

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Executive Director and Board of Directors

ThyCa's Board of Directors leads policy, planning, oversight, and service coordination. ThyCa's full-time Executive Director leads general management, operational planning, and day-to-day management. In collaboration with the Board and Committees, our Executive Director also furthers ThyCa's vision and strategic plan to strengthen and extend our support services, education, and outreach, especially for underserved populations, and to foster research advocacy and alliances with professionals and community organizations worldwide.

Kurt E. Alexander, Esq., *General Counsel*

Kurt has served as ThyCa's General Counsel since 1997, after his wife was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. He is Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by The Florida Bar and The National Board of Trial Advocacy. He is also AV Preeminent Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating possible, reflecting the confidential assessments of the Bar and the judiciary. He is a member of ABOTA, the American Board of Trial Advocates, and he serves as a member of the Executive Council of The Trial Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar. He has served as Chair of The Florida Bar Grievance Committee for his part of Florida. Mr. Alexander serves by Order of the Florida Supreme Court as a member of its Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Civil Cases. He is also a member of the Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism.

Gary Bloom, *Executive Director*

Gary manages ThyCa's programs and services, leads the Conference planning, is liaison to ThyCa's Medical Advisory Council, and represents ThyCa at meetings and events. He co-founded ThyCa with 16 others and was ThyCa's Founding Board Chair. He has facilitated the ThyCa Washington, DC, Support Group since 1999. With 3 physicians, he co-edited *Thyroid Cancer: A Guide for Patients*. Gary was diagnosed with papillary thyroid cancer with tall cells in 1995, received numerous treatments, and has participated in clinical trials. He lives in Olney, Maryland, with his wife, Hilary.

Bridget Corcoran, *Treasurer*

After being diagnosed at 21 in 2008, Bridget became passionate about helping fellow survivors as well as educating others about thyroid cancer. She has been the co-facilitator of the ThyCa Chicago, Illinois, Support Group since 2011, has represented ThyCa at medical professionals' meetings, and has led sessions at ThyCa Conferences. Bridget is a WBE-certified IBEW electrical contractor from the Chicago area. She enjoys cooking, photography, spending time with family and friends, travel, practicing mindfulness meditation, knitting, and driving her BMW. She holds a BSBA in management from Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Anjali Kapoor-Davis, *Recording Secretary*

Anjali Kapoor-Davis is a writer from Fresno, California. She became RAI-Resistant with metastatic disease a year after her thyroid cancer diagnosis. ThyCa volunteers inspired her to start and co-facilitate ThyCa Fresno. She enjoys volunteering at the annual ThyCa conferences and co-facilitates the RAI-Resistant support group. Anjali writes about her cancer experience, racism, sexism, and human rights. Her writing has appeared in the Yonsei Memory Project and Remedy Media's Patient Power series. You can often find her baking, gardening, reuniting countless dogs that have gone for walks without their humans, and spending time with her husband and son, the joys of her life.

Bill McClain

Bill is an author and businessman who lives with his wife in Milford, CT. He consults on Strategic Planning and has published two books on the subject, "Strategic Planning In This Age Of Disruption" and "The 4 Horsemen (Envisioning 2030)." Writing under the pen name William Kenly, he has published three books, including "The Dogs of Cancer: Dancing with Medullary Thyroid Cancer," and is an editor and contributing author to "After the Diagnosis: Medullary Thyroid Cancer Memoirs," and the newest MTC book "The Butterfly Sings." He has co-facilitated past conference roundtables with his wife Galina, and he is also on the Board of Directors of the Cornel Scott Hill Health Center in New Haven, CT. He was diagnosed with sporadic medullary thyroid cancer in 2008.

Bill Nelson

Bill is an attorney, author, and speaker living on the southern tip of Lake Michigan. He earned a B.A. in Business Administration from Taylor University and a Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law. He's been in private law practice for more than three decades and serves as a part-time Public Defender. His book, *Firm Grip, Learning to Thrive When Life Doesn't Go as Planned*, was published in 2021. He enjoys an active lifestyle that includes fitness and exercise, skiing, cycling, and travel. Bill and his wife, Jane, have two adult sons, Erik and Adam, and two French Bulldogs, Vinny and Ivy. Bill was diagnosed with medullary thyroid cancer in 2016.

Valronica Scales, *Vice Chair*

Valronica is a nine-year papillary thyroid cancer survivor and advocate for young adult cancer patients. She is a Senior Consultant in Human Capital at Deloitte Consulting. Prior to joining Deloitte in November 2021, Valronica worked as a strategic, data-driven, and detail-oriented manager and leader at multiple higher education institutions across the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic for 15+ years. Originally from Stoneville, NC (and now based in Maryland), Valronica earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at Elon University, master's degree in higher education and student affairs at Loyola University and doctorate degree in adult and higher education at Northern Illinois University.

Howard Solomon, *Board Chair*

Howard is a thyroid cancer survivor and has a lifelong interest in endurance sports, including running and swimming. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he lives in San Anselmo, California with his wife and two children. Howard is Managing Partner for Finn Partners - a global group of strategists who develop communications programs across sectors and media platforms.

In Loving Memory

We join together in remembering these wonderful men and women who fought thyroid cancer with courage, strength, and grace.

We dedicate this page to them and to all those who have gone before us.

Dianne R. Agner
Nikki Jo Alber Marchitti
John E. Allen
Bonnie J. Armstrong
Sara Augenbraun
Dorothy Aultman
Chris Bailey Bailey
Fidel Barajas
Biswa Behera
Francis Bloom
Scott Allen Boubel
Amine Bouderd
James B. Brandenburg
Kenneth Broad
Gordon A. Bushee
Irene Ceglaz
Kathy Chojnacki
Melquiades "Melo" Choque
Sherri R. Eccleston
Leo G. Firme
Thomas Gene Flynn
James B. Friel
Michael Fulmer
Yvonne A. Galiber
Randy Grzybowski
Todd Hanson
Jamie "Bravedart" Harvey
JoAnn Higgins
John Horgan
Terry L. Hurst
Scott Iden
Timo Jarvenin
Brach A. Johnson
Chris Bailey Kaldis
Jeffrey S. Katz
Rita C. Kelpin
Suzanne M. Litzenberger
Steven P. Levine
Jerry Lee Lucken

Leanne Grace Lyons
Patricia Meller
Mike Merlino
Michael S. Miller
Diane R. Nicholson
Katie Phillips
Denny Pluimer
Kerri Remmel
Melanie Ruiz
Michael J. Rutkowski, Jr.
Gail Ryan
Peter Ryan
LeAnn M. Sannes
Anita Schwartz
Jessica Slater
Adam Somner
Michael Steinberg
Jonathan Sterne
Jeffrey A. Sturgeon
Kimberly A. Sutfin
Betsy J. Swenson
Jean Thompson
Michael Thompson
Alice F. Traylor
Kenneth C. Unwin, Jr.
Eileen Vasquez Ille
Stacy L. Vergin
Carolyn Vetter
Lillie M. Voioight
Phyllis "Liz" Western
Sharon A. Wray
Patrick J. Wren
Abel's mom
Ashley's fiance
Marissa's Dad
Palantine's mother Jennifer
Roz's mom
Silvia's FIL Klever

"Life has been shared, the joys and the sorrows. This has been as real and strong as anything in life. The love that once was born can never die, for it has become part of us, of our life, woven into the very texture of our being."

—John Lovejoy Elliott

In Appreciation for your Generous Support of ThyCa

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American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

American Association of Endocrine Surgeons

American Head and Neck Society

American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Thyroid Association

Coping with Cancer Magazine

CURE Magazine

The Endocrine Society

HypoPARAthyroidism Association

National Cancer Institute

National Comprehensive Cancer Network

National Organization for Rare Disorders

Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging

ThyCa's services and resources are all made possible by the dedicated volunteer efforts of more than 400 individuals and by the generous financial and in-kind donations from individuals and organizations.

These contributions support our free year-round support services, outreach, *Low-Iodine Cookbook*, patient information packets, *Thyroid Cancer Basics*, *Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer*, *Medullary Thyroid Cancer*, *Pediatric Thyroid Cancer*, and *Thyroid Nodules: Testing and Follow-Up Handbooks*, many more free publications, the webinar series, seminars, workshops, and this conference. The grants from organizations are unrestricted educational grants. Thank you very much to all of our donors.