

Moving Breast Cancer Treatments Forward

Focusing on Immunotherapy and the Tumor Microenvironment

SPEAKER BIOS



Brian Czerniecki, MD, PhD, is chair and senior member in the Moffitt Cancer Center Department of Breast Oncology. His research interests focus on dendritic cell biology and interactions with T cells and he has developed dendritic cell vaccines for the treatment of cancer. Dr. Czerniecki's research goal is the development of vaccines for the prevention of breast and other solid-tumor cancers. Toward that end, he is working on identifying molecular targets in early breast cancer that can be used to prevent invasion and metastasis.



Leisha A. Emens, MD, PhD, is a professor of medicine in hematology/oncology, co-leader of the Hillman Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program, and director of translational immunotherapy for the Women's Cancer Research Center (WCRC) at UPMC. She is internationally recognized for her work in breast cancer immunotherapy. Dr. Emens is currently board-certified in medical oncology.



Mikala Egeblad, PhD, and her colleagues study cancer at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and, in particular, examine the microenvironment in which the cancer cells arise and live. Dr. Egeblad is interested in how different types of myeloid cells are recruited to tumors and how their behaviors—for example, their physical interactions with cancer cells and other immune cells—influence cancer progression, including metastasis.



Andrea Bild, PhD, is a professor in the Division of Molecular Pharmacology within the Department of Medical Oncology & Therapeutics Research at City of Hope. Dr. Bild's research program focuses on cancer, and uses large-scale translational genomic and pharmacological studies to interrogate and treat tumor heterogeneity and evolution to refractory states. She has led multiple collaborative groups with the goal of characterizing and treating cancer.



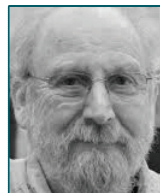
Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD is a professor of medicine at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School. Her laboratory is dedicated to the molecular analysis of human breast cancer with the goal of improving the clinical management of breast cancer patients. Dr. Polyak's lab has devoted much effort to develop new ways to study tumors as a whole and to apply interdisciplinary approaches.



Laura M. Heiser, PhD, is associate professor and vice chair of Biomedical Engineering, School of Medicine at the Oregon Health & Science University. Her research focuses on genomic and epigenomic changes that cause breast cancer, with the goal of identifying pathways and aberrations associated with therapeutic response and resistance in cancer. Dr. Heiser's studies use an integrative systems biology approach to understand cancer as a complex system.



Theodore (Ted) Giovanis, FHFMA, MBA, is the president and founder of the Jayne Koskinas Ted Giovanis Foundation for Health and Policy and provides overall direction for the Foundation's activities. Mr. Giovanis' experience spans government relations, health policy development, and management of health care organizations covering nearly four decades. Mr. Giovanis was also solely responsible for the identification and prosecution of the rural floor budget neutrality issue which resulted in a multibillion-dollar settlement for hospitals nationally.



J. Graham Atkinson, DPhil, is the executive vice president for research and policy at the Jayne Koskinas Ted Giovanis Foundation for Health and Policy. Dr. Atkinson holds a Doctorate degree from Oxford University and is widely recognized for his health policy expertise. He was one of the original developers of the Maryland case mix reimbursement system and has been involved in the design and development of various RUGs based nursing facility payment systems; DRG, APC, and APG outpatient payment systems; and the Medicare payment system for ambulance services. He has also been extensively involved in the development of state rate systems.