Cancer Moonshot: WH Roundtable Community Conversation

CANCER MOONSHOT
PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Moving on Equity: OCE Expands Diversity Initiative

May 4, 2022: 11 AM – 12 PM ET

Biographies

Richard Pazdur, MD - Director, Oncology Center of Excellence

Richard Pazdur, M.D., is director of the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence, which leverages the combined skills of FDA's scientists and reviewers with expertise in drugs, biologics, and devices to expedite the development of novel cancer products.

Prior to joining FDA in 1999, Dr. Pazdur was professor of medicine at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. From 1982 to 1988, he served on the faculty of Wayne State University.

He received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, his M.D. from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine, and completed clinical training at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center and University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics.

Dr. Pazdur has published more than 600 articles, book chapters, and abstracts, and received many awards, including recognition in Fortune magazine's 2015 list of "50 World's Greatest Leaders," the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center's "The One Hundred" list in 2016, and one of "The Bloomberg 50" in 2017.

Lola A. Fashoyin-Aje, MD, MPH - Deputy Director, Division of Oncology 3

Lola A. Fashoyin-Aje, MD, MPH, is a medical oncologist and Deputy Director in the Division of Oncology 3 (DO3) in the Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research- Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In this role, she provides scientific and policy guidance and oversight to multidisciplinary teams reviewing drugs and biologics under development for the treatment of solid tumor malignancies (gastrointestinal, cutaneous, and sarcoma).

Dr. Fashoyin-Aje is also Associate Director of Scientific and Policy initiatives to address disparities in drug development in the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE). In this role, she provides direction and oversight on all scientific and policy efforts related to improving the inclusion of participants who are members of historically underrepresented demographic groups, in oncology medical product development programs.

Prior to joining the FDA, Dr. Fashoyin-Aje completed her undergraduate and graduate training at Columbia University and Yale University, respectively, and received her M.D. degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She completed her training in internal medicine and medical oncology at Johns Hopkins.

Rea Blakey – Moderator & Associate Director for External Outreach and Engagement at OCE

Rea Blakey leads Project Community at the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE) and the National Black Family Cancer Awareness campaign which culminates in a weeklong social media initiative using the unique #BlackFamCan. OCE's national public panel discussion series "Conversations on Cancer" is also among Project Community's responsibilities.

At OCE, Ms. Blakey serves as a liaison leader for patients, advocacy groups, health care providers and medical associations interested in influencing oncology-related medical product regulatory decision-making.

Ms. Blakey joined OCE in July 2018. Before serving at FDA, she was Director of Communication at GW Medical Faculty Associates, worked as the Washington, DC-based CNN Medical Correspondent covering international and domestic health & medical news, and hosted multiple Discovery Communications on-air programs.

Sandra Amaro, MBA – Panelist

Sandra Amaro, is the Global Clinical Trial Diversity Team Lead at Pfizer based in Groton, CT. She leads a group of Clinical Trial Diversity Operation Leads and Site Diversity Strategy Leads, who are accountable for enabling Pfizer's Clinical Study Teams in the effort to increase equity and inclusion in clinical trials.

Within her role Sandra is also responsible for helping elevate the topic of diversity both within Pfizer and externally. In 2021 Sandra was appointed as TransCelerate's Workstream Lead for their Diversity of Participates in Clinical Trials Workstream.

Sandra has 18 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, specifically within Clinical Operations and Global Clinical Supply. Sandra received her BS in Business and Leadership from Albertus Magnus College, and her MBA from the University of Rhode Island.

Marcia Cruz-Correa, MD, PhD – Panelist

Dr. Marcia Cruz-Correa completed her B.S. in Biology and her medical degree at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the UPR and a fellowship in Gastroenterology & Hepatology at the Johns Hopkins University. She completed a doctorate degree in Clinical Investigation and Genetic Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

She is Professor of Medicine at the UPR, Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University and Adjunct Professor of Surgical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. In 2020, Dr. Cruz-Correa became the first woman Executive Director of the UPR Comprehensive Cancer Center and has continued to lead the Gastrointestinal Oncology Research Program. She is the lead investigator of the Hispanic Alliance for Clinical & Translational Research, NIGMS funded research infrastructure and career development grant.

Serban Ghiorghiu, MD – Panelist

Serban is passionate about reimaging oncology to redefine cancer care through collaboration, innovation and pursuit of science. In his VP, R&D Patient & Clinical Sciences role, Serban champions the integration of the voice of the patient into our clinical trials, leads Clinical Trial Diversity efforts, enhances clinical trial transparency and data sharing, modernizes clinical policies, and accelerates the application of new technologies in trials.

As VP, Head of Clinical, Late Development Oncology, Serban works with a team of clinical development experts to advance potential new oncology medicines leveraging quality and innovation in trial design, delivery and interpretation from phase II programs through approvals, and beyond. While at AstraZeneca, Serban led the global development programme for an EGFR kinase inhibitor in non-small cell lung cancer.

Serban graduated from University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Gr. T. Popa” Iasi, Romania and trained as a medical oncologist, also in Iasi. His work is supported by papers in influential peer-reviewed publications, including New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet Oncology, Jama Oncology and the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Maimah Karmo – Panelist

Maimah Karmo is founder and CEO of Tigerlily Foundation. She grew Tigerlily Foundation from a concept to a national organization, with hundreds of volunteers nationwide, providing breast health, wellness and transformational programs to young women across the country.

In 2010, she received the Congressional Black Caucus Leadership in Advocacy Award, and the Running Start “Women to Watch Award”. In October 2011, Maimah was appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women, a committee established by the Affordable Care Act, on which she works to develop initiatives to increase knowledge of breast health and breast cancer, for women under the age of 40 and those at heightened risk for developing the disease. She is regularly called upon to speak at/moderate panels on Capitol Hill, as a leader in the world of breast health, in addition to being a speaker at various leadership events focusing on women, youth, health, wellness, politics, advocacy and empowerment.

Maimah has dedicated her life to transformation women around the world. She has travelled to the Caribbean to conduct breast health education campaigns. As a native of Liberia, West Africa, she is committed to educating women around the globe to educate women of color, minorities, those facing disparities, and women of all races and ethnic groups about health, wellness, prevention, and advocacy.

Worta McCaskill-Stevens, MD, MS – Panelist

Worta McCaskill-Stevens is a medical oncologist and Chief of the Community Oncology and Prevention Trials Research Group, which houses the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), a community-based clinical trials network launched in 2014.

As NCORP Director, she oversees the program supporting community hospitals, physicians, and others to participate in NCI-approved cancer treatment, prevention, screening, and control clinical trials, as well as cancer care delivery studies. After arriving at NCI in 1998, she became Program Director for the Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene (STAR) and assumed responsibilities for breast cancer prevention with the Community Clinical Oncology Program. She chaired the 2009 National Institutes of Health (NIH) State-of-the Science Conference on ductal carcinoma in situ; is a member of the Early Breast Cancer Clinical Trialist Group (Oxford, UK); and is a member of NCI's Breast Cancer Steering Committee.

After attending Washington University and the American College of Switzerland, she completed medical school and an internal medicine residency at Georgetown University, followed by a medical oncology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN). Prior to her current position, she was co-Director of the Breast Care and Research Center at the Indiana University Cancer Center.

Ruben A. Mesa, MD, FACP – Panelist

Dr. Ruben Mesa is the Executive Director of the Mays Cancer Center, at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson Cancer Center. The Mays Cancer Center is one of only four National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Centers in Texas.

Having joined UT Health in 2017, Dr. Mesa began as Director of the cancer center. Dr Mesa helped lead the naming endowment of the center, the establishment of the center as a partner site of the MD Anderson Partner Cancer Network. Now the Mays Cancer Center at UT Health San Antonio MD Anderson has undergone a period of great progress with development of a comprehensive patient centered cancer service line, renewal of the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (P30) and Designation, actively developing a cancer focused hospital to open in 2024, and seen significant growth in faculty, extramural peer reviewed funding, and robust community engagement and cancer research career enhancement programs.

After earning degrees in nuclear engineering and physiology, with minors in radiation biophysics and bioengineering, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Mesa received his medical degree from the Mayo Graduate School at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota. He completed his residency in internal medicine and his fellowship in hematology/medical oncology at Mayo. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in internal medicine and medical oncology.

Brian Rivers, PhD, MPH – Panelist

Dr. Rivers is Professor and Director of the Cancer Health Equity Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). Dr. Rivers is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in health disparities research and a retired member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD). Dr. Rivers is an active member in the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) community and serves in several leadership capacities. Dr. Rivers is a behavioral scientist with a broad background in dissemination and implementation science and public health, with specific training and expertise in methodologies commonly used to addressing health disparities. Dr. Rivers' research portfolio has endeavored to expand the application of population-

based intervention science to understand how to address cancer health disparities in clinical and community-based settings, utilizing multi-level/multi-domain/multi-sectoral approaches, such as medical mobile apps and/or Community Health Workers/Patient Navigators.

Susan Matsuko Shinagawa – Panelist

Susan is a 30-year, three-time cancer survivor, and 25-year chronic pain patient in active treatment. When she found a hard, prominent lump in her right breast via breast self-exam, a breast cancer surgeon told she had nothing to worry about because, “Asian women don’t get breast cancer.” Seeking a second opinion, Susan was diagnosed with infiltrating ductal carcinoma (breast cancer in October 1991. She was 34 years old. That experience turned Susan into a cancer activist. Over the past 30 years, Susan has challenged internal norms and exposed external stereotypes contributing to the unequal burden of cancer in U.S. communities of color, poverty, and oppression. With a primary focus on cancer control and health equity, Susan has been a vocal proponent for greater recognition, inclusion, and funding for quality health services and research for disenfranchised and medically underserved populations, leading to her recognition as the nation’s leading Asian American cancer survivor advocate/activist (1995-2015).