

# SPEAKERS



## Terri Conneran

Since 2017, Terri has been battling stage 3 lung cancer. After learning of her KRAS mutation and being unable to find an existing biomarker support group, she founded KRAS Kickers in 2019 to create a network for patients and families in search of KRAS information and support. The mission of KRAS Kickers is to connect people to current information, resources, and community. Within KRAS Kickers, members engage with leading doctors, researchers, and advocates, learn about new developments and clinical trials, connect to resources, build community, and share their stories to give hope to each other with a common goal to kick cancer's KRAS!



## Channing Der, Ph.D.

Dr. Channing Der is Sarah Graham Kenan Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine and completed his postdoctoral studies at Harvard Medical School and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Since his initial discovery of RAS oncogenes in human cancer in 1982, his research has centered on the study of RAS oncoproteins in cancer. His research has been funded by grants from the National Cancer Institute, Department of Defense, Lustgarten Foundation, and Pancreatic Cancer Action Network/AACR. He is a member of the NCI RAS Working Group and he served previously on the NCI Board of Scientific Counselors. He currently serves on the scientific advisory boards and consultant for numerous pharmaceutical/biotech companies. He is currently a member of the Scientific and Medical Advisory Board of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and previously on the scientific advisory board of the Lustgarten Foundation. His honors include Fellow of the AAAS, the recipient of an NCI Outstanding Investigator Award, the Battle Distinguished Cancer Research Award, the Mentorship Award for Lifetime Achievement, the University of California, Irvine Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the Einstein BIH Visiting Fellow Award.

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## **Ferdinandos Skoulidis, M.D., Ph.D.**

Dr. Skoulidis obtained a Medical Degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece in 2000 and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, UK in 2011. He completed general medicine residency and medical oncology fellowship training in Cambridge and London, UK before moving to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2013, where he is currently a Tenured Associate Professor (Physician Scientist) in the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology. Dr Skoulidis' laboratory is focused on (a) unraveling the molecular and clinical heterogeneity of KRAS mutant non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and developing novel therapeutic strategies to target KRAS-mutant lung tumors; (b) maximizing the therapeutic potential of direct KRAS inhibitors and (c) elucidating the impact of individual somatic genomic alterations on the NSCLC immune contexture and immunotherapy response, with the goal of developing novel precision oncogenotype-tailored immunotherapeutic strategies.



## **Kristen Marrone, M.D.**

Dr. Kristen Marrone is an Assistant Professor of Oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, and Associate Program Director of their Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship Program. She is a clinical investigator with a research focus on lung cancer immunotherapy clinical trials. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator for multiple early phase clinical trials focused on the use of targeted therapies and immunotherapies for molecularly selected subsets of lung cancer and other solid tumors. Her translational research projects are focused on evaluation of novel immunologic and genomic analyses, and their association with clinical outcome in patients with NSCLC treated with immunotherapy. Her long-term career goals are to leverage advanced immunologic and genomic profiling approaches as a means to develop personalized immunotherapeutics for patients with oncogene driven NSCLC, specifically KRAS mutated lung cancer.

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## **Daniel Ahn, D.O., M.S.**

Daniel H. Ahn, D.O., M.S., is a GI Medical Oncologist and Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology/Medical Oncology at the Mayo Clinic. He conducts clinical and translational research focused on developing anti-cancer agents for patients with gastrointestinal cancers. Dr. Ahn collaborates extensively with various scientists and industry partners to design and execute innovative clinical trials, including many first-in-human studies. He also is the Medical Director for the Clinical Cancer Trials Office and lead for the GI Oncology Translational Research Disease Working Group at Mayo Clinic Arizona. Dr. Ahn serves on the Board of Directors for the Mayo Clinic-supported cancer research consortium Academic and Community Cancer Research United (ACCRU) and is heavily involved in the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-supported cooperative research group.



## **Sumita Bhatta, M.D.**

Sumita Bhatta, M.D., is a board certified oncologist and the Vice President, Global Medical Affairs Head of Oncology at Amgen. She has over 9 years of experience in the biopharmaceutical industry and has held multiple roles in research and development.

Sumita received her undergraduate degree from UCLA and received both an M.A in Applied Physiology as well as a M.D. from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago, Illinois. She completed her internal residency, hematology/oncology fellowship, and a clinical pharmacology/pharmacogenomics fellowship at the University of Chicago.

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## **Mohamed Salem, M.D.**

Mohamed Salem, M.D., is a gastrointestinal (GI) medical oncologist at Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Salem specializes in the treatment of GI malignancies, particularly colorectal cancer, pancreatic cancer and state-of-the-art approaches for advanced malignancies. He also has a special interest in treating colon cancer in young adults. Dr. Salem is the principal investigator on several clinical trials. He has made several key research presentations at national and international meetings, and has published several important papers, some of which have led to major changes in the field and have shaped NCCN guidelines. Some of his work has led to significant change in patient care. Dr. Salem has won several awards for his work, including a Merit Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology and Precision Oncology Alliance "2017- Investigator of The Year" award. Dr. Salem completed a fellowship in experimental therapeutics at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Taussig Cancer Institute, and a fellowship in hematology and oncology at the Wayne State University Karmanos Cancer Institute.



## **Brenda Jesteadt**

Brenda Jesteadt was diagnosed with lung cancer (KRAS G12V) in 2021. Prior to her diagnosis, Brenda worked as a pediatrician for 35 years in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and was an avid runner, cyclist, skier, and scuba diver. She is married to her husband Ron and has two sons.

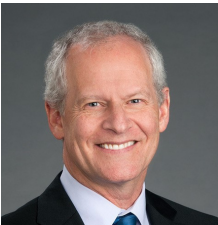
Brenda is currently between clinical trials. Her experience with her last clinical trial underscored the need for advocacy for patients in trials who need a voice. She is hoping that her voice will make a difference for others.

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## **Eric Madsen**

Eric Madsen is a Computer Cloud Architect currently residing in Wolfeboro, NH. He was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer in October 2019 and genetic testing confirmed a KRAS G12C mutation. After responding to some standard of care chemotherapy treatments, he underwent a CRS/HIPEC surgical procedure that was almost curative. Several months later, however, several small nodules started to grow on his lungs and was later confirmed to be metastases from the original colon cancer, and still the same KRAS G12C mutation. No longer being a surgical candidate, he has since participated in two different clinical trials: Mirati's "KRYSTAL-10" trial (a KRAS-G12C inhibitor + Cetuximab) which kept his disease stable for almost 8 months, and JS-Innopharm's JSI-1187 (an ERK inhibitor) which unfortunately did not work for him. He is currently investigating and applying for several potential clinical trials of various types.



## **Russell H. Greenfield, M.D.**

Russell H. Greenfield, M.D., is the Lead Physician, Integrative Oncology at Weisiger Cancer Center/Novant Health and the Sr. Physician Consultant at the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation for the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Greenfield completed residency training in Emergency Medicine at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center as well as a Chief Resident Fellowship at the same institution. After moving to Charlotte, he became involved in the Emergency Medicine residency program at Carolinas Medical Center and was subsequently honored as the inaugural recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. He was founding medical director of Carolinas Integrative Health and a consultant in the development of U.S. national model guidelines for the use of complementary and alternative therapies. He has worked with a variety of organizations promoting employee and community integrative well-being initiatives including Harris Teeter supermarkets, the Veterans Health Administration, Levine Cancer Institute, and Wake Forest Baptist Health.