WINTER 2024 SYMPOSIUM

IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access of Underrepresented Patients to Clinical Trials

PROGRAM BOOK

Thursday, February 15, 2024
8 am - 12 noon - ET - Orlando, Florida
In accordance with the ACCME Accreditation Criteria, The GOG Foundation, Inc., as the accredited provider of this activity, must ensure that anyone in a position to control the content of the educational activity has disclosed all relevant financial relationships with any ineligible company *(formally known as commercial interests). All Committee/Planning/Faculty members were required to disclose all financial relationships and speakers were required to disclose any financial relationship as it pertains to the content of the presentations.

The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be an ineligible company. “Relevant” financial relationships are financial transactions (in any amount) occurring within the past 24 months that may create a conflict of interest.

Please note we have advised the speakers that it is their responsibility to disclose at the start of their presentation if they will be describing the use of a device, product, or drug that is not FDA approved or the off-label use of an approved device, product, or drug or unapproved usage. The requirement for disclosure is not intended to imply any impropriety of such relationships, but simply to identify such relationships through full disclosure, and to allow the audience to form its own judgments regarding the presentation.

All of the relevant financial relationships listed for these individuals have been mitigated. However, if you perceive a bias during a session, please report the circumstances on the session evaluation form.

NEW TERM *An “ineligible company” is any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

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<th>NAME</th>
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<td>Bhavana Pothuri, MD, MS</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
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<td>Nadine Barrett, PhD</td>
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<td>Tashanna Myers, MD</td>
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Winter Symposium

IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access of Underrepresented Patients to Clinical Trials

Thursday, Feb 15, 2024 – 8 am to 12 pm (Eastern)
NRG Oncology 2024 Winter Meeting
Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Fl

Program Chair: Bhavana Pothuri, MD, MS - Co-Chair: Jeffrey Hines, MD

Program Description

The Winter 2024 Educational Symposium includes noted Oncologists and Scientists serving as speakers and moderators. The targeted audiences are members and non-members of the NRG research teams to include: Gynecologic Oncologists, Medical Oncologists, Radiation Oncologists, Pathologists, Patient Advocates and others engaged in oncology research and/or clinical practice; Oncology Nurses, Nurse-practitioners, Clinical Research Coordinators (CRC) and other interested Allied Health professionals.

The speakers will focus their presentations on providing a framework for the barriers and solutions to increasing IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) of underrepresented patients to clinical trials.

Learning Objectives

Following this activity, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize barriers underrepresented patients encounter with clinical trial participation
- Identify physician and care team related barriers to clinical trial opportunities for diverse patients
- Explain institutional barriers to clinical trial access
- Distinguish ways in which advocacy at the local, community, and national level can be leveraged to improve IDEA
- Identify protocol design and implementation barriers to clinical trial accrual of underrepresented patients

Presentation agenda on next page
### Winter 2024 Symposium Agenda

**IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access of Underrepresented Patients to Clinical Trials**

**Thurs, February 15, 2024 – 8 am to 12 pm ET**

**Program Chair: Bhavana Pothuri, MD, MS**  
**Co-Chair: Jeffrey Hines, MD**

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<td>6:30 am</td>
<td>Breakfast Buffet</td>
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<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome/Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Bhavana Pothuri, MD, MS</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Hines, MD</td>
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| 8:10 am  | **Session 1 – Physician and Patient Barriers to IDEA for Underrepresented People** | **Moderators:** Angeles Alvarez Secord, MD  
Michelle Lightfoot, MD |
| 8:10 - 8:25 am | Physician Barriers: What can you do - “Just Ask”!  | Nadine Barrett, PhD                                    |
| 8:25 - 8:45 am | **Breakout 1:** Case Black woman- “She’s never going to comply, so I’m not going to bother discussing trial” (implicit bias, othering). |                                                        |
| 8:45 - 9:00 am | **Patient Barriers:** Let’s educate and address social determinants of health. | Tashanna Myers, MD                                     |
| 9:00 - 9:20 am | **Breakout 2:** Young Hispanic patient wants to participate in cvx ca trial but is concerned about food insecurity, and transportation. |                                                        |
| 9:20 - 9:35 am | Q/A                                              |                                                        |
| 9:35 am  | **Session 2- Addressing Institutional Barriers and Leveraging Advocacy to Improve IDEA** | **Moderators:** Dana Chase, MD  
Tara Castellano, MD |
| 9:35 - 9:50 am | Institutional Barriers to Clinical Trials | John Farley, MD                                         |
| 9:50 - 10:05 am | Advocacy at the Local, Community and National Level to Improve IDEA | Kimberly Richardson                                    |
| 10:05 - 10:20 am | Q/A                                              |                                                        |
| 10:20 - 10:30 am | Coffee Break                                     |                                                        |
| 10:30 am  | **Session 3 – Clinical Trial Design and Implementation** | **Moderators:** Amanda Jackson, MD  
Ana Tergas, MD |
| 10:30 - 10:45 am | Eliminating Disparities: Careful Protocol Design | Roisin O’Cearbhaill, MD                                |
| 10:45 - 11:00 am | Clinical Trial Implementation                    | Colleen McCormick, MD                                  |
| 11:00 - 11:20 am | **Breakout 3:** Black patient with Htn, DM and CrCl=40 |                                                        |
| 11:20 - 11:30 am | Q/A                                              |                                                        |
| 11:30 - 11:55 am | **Session 4 – Diverse Patient/Patient Advocate Panel: Q & A** | **Panelists:** Aisha McClellan, Kimberly Richardson, Yee Won Chong, Mary Whitaker  
**Moderators:** Brianne Bodin, RN, OCN  
Bhavana Pothuri, MD, MS  
Jeffrey Hines, MD |
| 11:55 - 12:00 pm | Closing Remarks                                   |                                                        |
Accreditation Statement
The GOG Foundation, Inc. is accredited by the ACCME to provide Continuing Education for physicians.

AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™
The GOG Foundation, Inc. designates this live activity for a maximum of 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The GOG Foundation Inc. Continuing Education (CME) Program Mission Statement
The purpose of The GOG Foundation, Inc. CME program is to provide and promote an infrastructure dedicated to enhancing the knowledge base of meeting participants and guests centered on the development, execution, analysis and application of GOG-supported clinical trials. To that end, the CME Program engages in these discussions member researchers and invited clinicians committed to reducing the risk and improving outcomes for women at risk for or afflicted with a gynecologic malignancy.

Disclosure Declaration
In compliance with ACCME regulations, The GOG Foundation, Inc., as the accredited provider of this activity, must ensure that anyone in a position to control the content of the educational activity has disclosed all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest. All reported conflicts are managed by a designated official to ensure a bias-free presentation. Please see the complete disclosure list included with this program.

How do I collect CME Certificates?
Evaluations
- You should receive a link via email with the symposium evaluation
- Click link to access and complete evaluation
- Click submit and your certificate will automatically be emailed to you.

CME Evaluations must be submitted by: March 4, 2024

If you have issues accessing your certificate or questions about CMEs, please contact: cmeinfo@gog.org.

Slide Presentations
A PDF version of all final slide presentations are available in the Symposium Session content on the Attendee Hub and the Meeting App.

For questions or comments about this CME activity, please contact: Michelle N. Small, MHA Dir, Education Programs/CME Compliance at msmall@gog.org
Dr. Bhavana Pothuri is a Professor in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Medicine at the New York University (NYU) School of Medicine, Medical Director of Clinical Trials Office (CTO), Director of Gynecologic Oncology Clinical Trials, Director of Gynecologic Oncology Research, and Site Principal Investigator for the Perlmutter Cancer Center, NYU Langone Health. Her roles nationally include: Gynecologic Oncology (GOG) Foundation Director of Diversity and Health Equity for Clinical Trials, GOG Partners, Associate Clinical Trials Advisor (Ovary and Endometrial Cancer), Society of Gynecologic Oncology Board of Directors, SGO Co-Chair COVID-19 Task Force, and NY Obstetrical Society (NYOB) Executive Council, Treasurer.

Dr. Pothuri earned her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. She completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Jefferson Health System and a fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Pothuri has substantially contributed to groundbreaking research in use of the PARP inhibitor, niraparib as frontline maintenance treatment for ovarian cancer, as well as dostarlimab, PD-1 inhibitor in endometrial cancer. Both of these agents have been FDA approved for their respective disease sites. She is also passionate about diversity and equity and in her new role on the GOG Foundation will help bring her efforts to improve minority and underrepresented patients in clinical trials to a national level.

In June 2022, Dr. Hines was named the inaugural Chief Diversity Officer for the University of Connecticut Health Center. Jeff is a proven leader with expertise in the field of diversity, equity, and inclusion. He successfully developed strategies and implemented programs with health systems, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations locally and nationally to meet their diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. He is a visionary and results-oriented thought leader and executive with a proven track record of driving and integrating results into all components of organizations.
Jeffrey Freeman Hines is a native of New York. He attended Brown University in Providence, RI as part of the combined Seven-Year Medical Education Program. He received his undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree from Brown in Biology, magna cum laude, in May 1983. Jeffrey received his medical degree from The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University School of Medicine in May 1986.

Dr. Hines completed a four-year residency program in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Aurora, CO from July 1986 – June 1990. In September 1990, Dr. Hines was deployed with the First Cavalry Division as a Battalion Surgeon during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. Dr. Hines completed a three-year fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center in June 1995. Dr. Hines was the Medical Director of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and the Medical Director of the Center for Health Equity at Wellstar Health System in Marietta, Georgia from 2020 to 2022. He also served as the Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology for Wellstar Medical Group from 2013 to 2022. In addition to his duties as Chief Diversity Officer, Jeff currently has faculty appointments in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Public Health Sciences at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Dr. Hines is a Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology with special competence in Gynecologic Oncology, a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and a Full Member of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists. He is also a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the National Medical Association. Dr. Hines serves on the editorial board for the journal Gynecologic Oncology. He is a former institutional investigator for NRG Oncology of the National Cancer Institute. Additionally, Dr. Hines serves on the board of directors for the Society of Gynecologic Oncology and is the chair of the diversity, inclusion, and health equity committee for the Society of Gynecologic Oncology. He is a member of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

Dr. Hines has extensive research interests, background, and is extensively published in the field of papillomaviruses, cervical cancer vaccines, clinical cancer trials, disparities in health care, undergraduate student education, health equity, and racism in medicine. He has presented his work at national and international meetings.

Dr. Hines is the recipient of numerous local and national teaching awards for excellence in undergraduate and graduate medical education. He was the recipient of two awards by the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists and the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation for his research in papillomaviruses in 1994. Dr. Hines is also the recipient of the US Army Meritorious Service Medal. Dr. Hines was one of Atlanta’s Top Doctors in the 2005 - 2022 editions of Atlanta Magazine. In November 2005, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue nominated Dr. Hines to serve on the Governor’s Task Force for the Elimination of Cervical cancer for the State of Georgia.

Jeff’s community service includes the following:

Brown University, Corporation trustee 2015 to 2020, Corporation fellow, 2020 to present.
Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, Board of Directors, January 2022 to present
Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, Spark Giving Circle, serving the Thomasville Heights Community of Atlanta, 2017 to present.
Leadership Atlanta, Class of 2008.
Leadership Greater Hartford Class of 2022
Angeles Alvarez Secord, M.D., M.H.Sc., is a Professor in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Duke University Medical Center. She graduated AOA with Honors from the University of Washington School of Medicine. She completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and her fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at Duke University Medical Center. Upon completing her oncology fellowship in 2001, she accepted a faculty position within the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at Duke. Dr. Secord has received awards from Duke University Medical Center, the Mid-Atlantic Gynecologic Oncology Society, the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, the Gynecologic Oncology Group, and the Foundation for Women’s Cancer for her research regarding biomarkers in ovarian and endometrial carcinomas. She is currently the Director of Gynecologic Oncology Clinical Trials, the Associate Director of Clinical Research, Gynecology Oncology, one of the Principal Investigators for NRG Oncology at the Duke Cancer Institute. In addition, she serves as a member on the NRG Oncology Group Developmental Therapeutics Committee, Ovarian Cancer Committee, and Corpus Cancer Committee. She is also a New Investigator Committee Vice-Chair, GOG-Foundation Education and Mentoring Co-Chair, and prior AAOGF Scholar Committee Chair dedicated to mentoring future oncology leaders. Dr. Secord has also served on the National Cancer Institute Ovarian Cancer Task Force. Dr. Secord’s research interests include development of novel therapeutics and biomarkers in gynecologic cancer, novel clinical trial designs, the role of obesity in gynecologic malignancies, and the development of patient-centric composite clinical endpoints. Dr. Secord is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as being an active member of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Gynecological & Obstetrical Society, and International Gynecologic Cancer Society. Dr. Secord has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed articles along and has been the recipient of numerous clinical trial and basic research grants.

Nadine J. Barrett, PhD, MA, MS
Senior Associate Dean, Equity in Research and Community Engagement, Wake Forest School of Medicine
Associate Director, COE, ATRIUM Health/Wake Forest Comprehensive Cancer Center/Levine Cancer Institute
Chief Community Engagement Officer, Atrium Health Cancer Service Line
Associate Director, Community Engagement, Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, CTSI
Professor, Dept of Social Science and Public Health Policy, Division of Population Health Sciences
Brianne Bodin is a seasoned Registered Nurse with extensive experience in oncology, research, and nursing leadership. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of Clinical Research Operations for the Clinical Trials Office at NYU Langone’s Laura & Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center. With certifications as an Oncology Certified Nurse and Certified Clinical Research Professional, Brianne displays her dedication to excellence in both oncology nursing and research. Her commitment to advancing healthcare is underscored by her unwavering passion for promoting health equity and broadening access to clinical trials for historically underrepresented populations. Throughout her career, Brianne has spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at community outreach and championing diversity, equity and inclusion within clinical trials. Her contributions were recognized when she was honored as a member of the esteemed “40 Under 40 in Cancer” class of 2023. This national acknowledgement celebrates Brianne’s endeavors to drive positive change in healthcare and improve health equity.

Tara Castellano, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Section of Gynecologic Oncology

Dr. Tara Castellano is a Gynecologic Oncologist with the LSU Health Sciences Center Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is originally from the New Orleans area and completed her medical degree at LSUHSC in New Orleans where she first fell in love with the subspecialty of gynecologic oncology. Dr. Castellano completed her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC, where she served as Administrative Chief Resident, won yearly medical student teaching awards and won the 2017 Wake Med Resident of the year award in recognition of her surgical skills and exceptional care of women.

After completion of residency, Dr. Castellano completed a fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at the Stephenson Cancer Center at University of Oklahoma, in Oklahoma City. As a Gynecologic Oncology fellow, Dr. Castellano focused on clinical trial design and was selected for the prestigious ASCO/AACR Jr Investigator
Dr. Dana Chase graduated with honors from Brown University in 1996, and earned her medical degree at the University of California, Irvine, in 2003. She completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California, Irvine, in 2007 and subsequently went on to complete her fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the University of California, Irvine, in 2011. In 2011, Dr. Chase joined the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. She is now a Gynecologic Oncologist at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Dr. Chase's expertise includes research and collaborative projects with colleagues on scientific questions related to quality of life, symptom management, and supportive care. She is a member of NRG Oncology and a member of the group’s Health Outcomes Research Committee, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Committee, Cancer Prevention and Control, Elderly Committee, and is on the group’s Data Monitoring Committee Panel A.

Dr. Chase has authored more than 61 peer-reviewed articles along with over 45 abstracts dealing predominantly with the prevention and chemotherapy of gynecologic malignancies and patient quality of life.

Dana M. Chase, MD, FACOG
Associate Professor, Division of Gynecologic Oncology
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Dr. Farley is a 1986 graduate of the United States Military Academy, and a 1990 graduate of USUHS. I completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology. I started my medical career as an active duty soldier in the US Army and have been stationed in Fort Benning Georgia, Portsmouth Virginia, and Honolulu, Hawaii. I was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Bagram Afghanistan from April 2004 until June 2005 where I was awarded the Bronze Star for my support of the female soldiers in theater and support of humanitarian care to the native Afghan population. I am an active member of NRG Oncology and have executed multi-institutional clinical trials. I have authored over eighty peer reviewed manuscripts, and invited book chapters. I also have been an active participant in the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) and held several committee appointments to include: Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Task Force, and Membership Committee. I currently Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Creighton University School of Medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center and serve as a Chief Division of Gynecologic Oncology and staff physician in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Creighton University at St Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center.

Dr. Jackson is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and is fellowship trained in gynecologic oncology. Dr. Jackson received a Bachelors degree from Clemson University and graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Women and Infants Hospital/Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the University of North Carolina. At the University of Cincinnati, she serves as the Vice Chair of Gynecology and the Division Director of Gynecologic Oncology.
Dr. Lightfoot is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology within the Division of Gynecologic Oncology at NYU Langone Health / Perlmutter Cancer Center (PCC), and provides clinical care at the PCC and Bellevue Hospital, the nation’s oldest public hospital. She serves as the Assistant Director for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Core of the NCI-designated PCC. As a physician researcher, she is dedicated to improving care for individuals with gynecologic malignancies through research, quality improvement initiatives and public health measures, and she currently serves on the Society of Gynecologic Oncology Policy, Quality, and Outcomes Subcommittee. In collaboration with researchers at NYU Langone Health’s Institute for Excellence in Health Equity, Dr. Lightfoot’s research focuses on assessing structural barriers faced by patients and providers, and designing community-based interventions to improve the quality of care delivered in medically underserved areas.

Dr. McCormick received a Bachelor of Arts from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana in 1997. She graduated from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 2001. She completed an internship in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She then returned to Baltimore and Johns Hopkins for residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology and for fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology. After fellowship she moved to Portland, Oregon where she worked in established a thriving clinical research program. In 2021 she relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico and returned to academic medicine at the University of New Mexico. At UNM she is the lead of the Gynecologic Cancer Working Group for clinical trials. Her work focuses on increasing access to clinical trials for the women of New Mexico and improving diversity and equity in clinical trials nationally.
Tashanna Myers, MD
Associate Professor, Dept of OB/GYN
University of Mass Chan-Baystate
Vice Chair of Academic Affairs, Department of OB/GYN
Baystate Health and Division Chief of Gynecologic Oncology.

Dr. Tashanna KN Myers, MD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Mass Chan-Baystate. She is the Vice Chair of Academic Affairs for the Department of OB/GYN at Baystate Health and Division Chief of Gynecologic Oncology. She serves on the NRG Oncology cervical cancer subcommittee and the NRG Oncology Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large. She serves on the Board of GOG Partners, and chairs the Quality and Assessment Committee of that organization. She currently serves on the Investigators Council of NRG Partners and chairs the Clinical Trials Equity/Patient Advocacy committee.

Roisin O’Cearbhaill, MD
Associate Professor
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr Róisín O’Cearbhaill is a medical oncologist who serves as the Research Director of the Gynecologic Medical Oncology Service and also is the Section Head for Solid Tumor Malignancies, Cellular Therapy Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), with a joint Associate Professor appointment at Weill Cornell Medical College. A committed advocate of excellence in patient care, Róisín serves as the Director of the Patient and Family Centered Care Grant initiative and she is also the Vice-Chair of the Investigational New Drug/Device Committee at MSKCC. She has extensive clinical and research experience in the treatment of gynecological cancers and has seen first-hand the benefits that access to clinical trials offers patients. Her research focuses on the development of novel targeted and immune-based approaches to improve outcomes for patients with cancer. She serves on several international committees and as the Chair of Developmental Therapeutics in NRG Oncology and vice-chair of the Clinical Practice Committee of SGO. She has received numerous awards for her work, including a Conquer Cancer Foundation Career Development award, a Young Investigator award from the Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation, Excellence in Research and Excellence in Clinical Mentorship Awards from MSKCC, and an Excellence in Teaching award from Weill Cornell Medical College. She is an associate editor for JAMA Network Open. She serves as an external advisor for Clinical Trials Ireland and recently completed 5 years on the US board for Children’s Medical Research Foundation (CMRF). She mentors new clinical trial investigators through various organizations including NRG Oncology and the inaugural Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) Bridges Research Initiative.
Kimberly Richardson
Founder
Black Cancer Collaborative

Kimberly is a survivor of ovarian cancer and early stage, triple positive breast cancer. Her patient advocacy ranges from serving as pre-Reviewer for DOD, serving on external advisory boards for NCI, ACGME and several academic institutions, to creating educational content on cancer research and clinical trials. She was named the 2021 recipient of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship’s Ellen L. Stovall Award for Patient Innovation in Cancer Care. Currently, Kimberly has established a special commission on Gynecologic Cancer in the state of Illinois, is an appointed Board of Governors for PCORI and has recently founded the Black Cancer Collaborative, a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization that creates partnerships between Black cancer patients and the medical and scientific communities on issues of health equity, patient inclusion and clinical trials participation.

Ana I. Tergas, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery, Division of Gynecologic Oncology
Department of Population Sciences, Division of Health Equities
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. Tergas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Gynecologic Oncology and the Department of Population Science, Division of Health Equity at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center in Duarte, CA, and an Affiliate Member of the Weill Cornell Medicine, Center for Research on End-of-Life Care. She is an NIH-funded physician scientist whose research focuses on health inequities among marginalized groups, particularly in end-of-life care delivery and HPV/cervical cancer screening and prevention. She has been recognized by the NIH as a Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar and an NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities Early Investigator Advancement Program Scholar.

Dr. Tergas is an active member of national professional organizations in the field of gynecologic oncology. She currently serves as an Editorial Board member of the journal Gynecologic Oncology. Previously she served as the inaugural SGO Health Equity Subcommittee Chair and was an active member of the SGO DE&I committee, including co-leading the Diversity, Inclusion, and Health Equity Column in the SGO bimonthly newsletter. She was one of the inaugural co-leaders of the Gynecologic Oncology Fellows Research Network, a member of the Quality and Outcomes committee, and the SGO 2022 Annual Meeting Program Committee, and a former member of the Foundation for Women’s Cancer Patient Education Committee.
She is a dedicated mentor to high school, college, and medical students, as well as ObGyn residents and gyn oncology fellows. She is currently a member of the NCI Career Development Award study section and a mentor for the SGO Leadership, Engagement, and Action in Diversity Program. Previously, she was a mentor in the NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience Program, a summer internship program in cancer research for economically disadvantaged and underrepresented minority high school and undergraduate students.

PATIENT ADVOCATE PANELISTS

Yee Won Chong
Racial and Gender Justice Consultant, Strategist, and Filmmaker

Yee Won uses their lived experience as a political asylee from Malaysia and community-organizing background to uncover our commonalities and our shared struggles. Yee Won’s political asylum status, which was based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, and political opinion, gives them a unique perspective on our world. Yee Won believes that by building on our collective experiences, people can galvanize their power to create a just society.

As an equity consultant, he has trained healthcare institutions, government agencies, and college campuses on creating transgender-inclusive policies, teams, and cultures. He has spoken out on expanding the definition of family and testified in front of Oregon state legislators on this issue. Yee Won shared his personal health story to strengthen and support the national movement for working families to access paid medical leave.

Yee Won is also passionate about using storytelling to change hearts and minds. Yee Won’s TEDx Talk, “Beyond the Gender Binary,” is used widely by educators and trainers to spark conversations about gender. They are a co-filmmaker and one of the main subjects of “Trans Dudes with Lady Cancer” (TDWLC). TDWLC has reached healthcare practitioners through screenings at Oregon Health and Science University, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, GlaxoSmithKlein Oncology, the Veterans Administration, and many more institutions across the U.S. In 2023, Ovacome hosted the film’s UK premiere, and Queering Cancer & Rethink Breast Cancer hosted the film’s Canadian premiere. In November of 2023, the UC Davis School of Medicine will include the film in its first-year students’ core curriculum.
Kimberly Richardson
Founder
Black Cancer Collaborative

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Mary J.E. Whitaker
Patient Advocate Panelist

Mary J. E. Whitaker, is a native of Miami, Florida and proudly served in the United States Air Force for 22 years retiring after achieving the rank of Major. During her military career, Major Whitaker held various leadership roles, including Director of Accounting and Finance, Audit Team Lead with the Air Force Audit Agency, and Air Force ROTC Commandant of Cadets.

Following her retirement from active duty in the military, Ms. Whitaker pursued various other professional careers. She served as an audit team member at Grambling State University, Webster Parish Head Start Director, and Executive Director for the Webster Parish Office of Community Service in Minden, Louisiana. Additionally, she is an ordained minister and has served as an assistant pastor.

Ms. Whitaker’s academic accomplishments include earning a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology, Master’s degree in Public Administration, Master’s degree in Education, and certification as a Fraud Examiner.

Currently residing in Orlando, Florida, Ms. Whitaker enjoys her well-deserved retirement, soaking in the sunshine. She is the proud parent of four adult children and five grandchildren.

In 2018, Ms. Whitaker was diagnosed with stage 4 endometrial cancer. Following a second occurrence of the cancer in 2021, she chose to participate voluntarily in a clinical trial research study. Presently, she is showing encouraging progress and continues to be actively involved in the study.