

US-Latin American-Caribbean HIV/HPV-Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network

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Vikrant Sahasrabuddhe, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.

Dr. Vikrant Sahasrabuddhe serves as Program Director in the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) where he provides scientific direction and strategic guidance for clinic- and population-based precision prevention research efforts for HPV-related cancers. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe directs ULACNet, NCI DCP's newest clinical trials network focused on collaborative research on innovations in optimization of HPV immunoprevention, screening and triage, and precancer treatment in persons living with HIV. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe received his medical degree from University of Pune in India, his master's and doctorate in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and fellowship training in epidemiology at Johns Hopkins and at the NCI. He has published widely across a broad spectrum of clinical, epidemiologic, and implementation research areas on infection-associated cancers with high or rising incidence and mortality burden.



Philip E. Castle, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Philip E. Castle, Ph.D., M.P.H., was appointed Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in July 2020. Dr. Castle earned a Ph.D. in Biophysics in 1995 and, in conjunction with his training in the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP), a Master's in Public Health in 2000, both at The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Castle was a tenured professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York, and a visiting professor at institutions in Singapore, China and Australia. Dr. Castle was previously the Chief Scientific Officer of the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Dr. Castle has been a principal investigator for more than 15 years, initiating, conducting, and leading several large NCI molecular and clinical epidemiologic research studies in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Castle worked in the NCI Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG) as a fellow,

investigator, and then senior investigator from 2002 through 2010. He has co-authored more than 400 published articles on HPV and cervical and anogenital cancers and other cancer-related research.



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Maribel Almonte Pacheco, M.P.H., M.Sc., Ph.D.

Dr. Maribel Almonte Pacheco serves as Head of the Early Detection and Prevention (EDP) group at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France. Dr. Almonte Pacheco received her Master's and Doctorate degrees in Epidemiology from the University of London and her Master's degree in Statistics from the University of Michigan. Among her other projects, Dr. Almonte Pacheco serves as Principal Investigator of the ESTAMPA (Estudio de TAMizaje y triaje con pruebas de Papillomavirus) study, a large multicentric study at 12 study centers in nine Latin American countries, with a goal to evaluate the performance of different triage techniques to detect cervical precancer and to inform on how to implement HPV-based screening programs in low and middle-income countries.



Luisa Lina Villa, Ph.D.

Luisa Lina Villa is Associate Professor at the Department of Radiology and Oncology of the Faculdade de Medicina of the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and Head of the Innovation in Cancer Research of the Center for Translational Research in Oncology of the Instituto do Câncer do Estado de São Paulo (ICESP), São Paulo, Brazil. She graduated in Biological Sciences, USP and has a PhD in Sciences from the Institute of Chemistry of USP (1978). She was a researcher at the São Paulo branch of the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research from 1983 to 2011, and was its director from 2006 to 2010. She is a full member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. In 2018 she received the Biology Prize from The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in Trieste, Italy. Her research involves studies about cervical cancer, anogenital cancer, head and neck cancer, HPV infections in women and men, and prophylactic HPV vaccines. Dr. Villa serves as one of the multiple Principal Investigators of the PHAC-BMPR Consortium in ULACNet, and co-chairs the ULACNet screening and testing working group.



Nicolas Wentzensen, M.D., Ph.D., M.S.

Dr. Wentzensen received an M.D. in 2000 and a Ph.D. in Applied Tumor Biology in 2007, both from the University of Heidelberg. He conducted research in molecular biology, molecular pathology, and molecular epidemiology at the Department of Surgery and at the Institute of Pathology, University of Heidelberg. In 2009 he earned a Master of Science in Epidemiology from the University of Mainz. Dr. Wentzensen joined DCEG as a visiting fellow in 2007, became a tenure-track investigator in 2009, and was awarded scientific tenure by the NIH and appointed senior investigator in 2013. In 2015 he joined the Clinical Genetics Branch as Deputy Chief and head of the newly formed Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU) within CGB. Dr. Wentzensen's research is focused on clinical epidemiology of gynecological cancers.



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Ana Patricia Ortiz, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Ana Patricia Ortiz is Professor of Epidemiology at the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Associate Director of Epidemiology of the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Program at the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer. Dr. Ortiz completed an MPH in Epidemiology and a PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Michigan where she was also a scholar with the Center for Research on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health, sponsored by the NIH. Dr. Ortiz has 15 years of experience in cancer prevention and control research, as well as mentoring undergraduate, graduate and professional students within this field. Her research interests include HPV, HPV-related malignancies, HIV, and women's health. Dr. Ortiz serves on the leadership team of the AIDS Malignancy Consortium and the University of Puerto Rico/University

of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Partnership for Excellence in Cancer Research and serves as one of the multiple Principal Investigators of the CAMPO Partnership Center in ULACNet.



Christian S. Hinrichs, M.D.

Dr. Christian Hinrichs is Senior Investigator in the Genitourinary Malignancies Branch of the NCI intramural Center for Cancer Research (CCR). Dr. Hinrichs received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from the combined 6-year program at the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC). He trained in general surgery at UMKC and in surgical oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He then completed a surgical oncology and tumor immunology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Subsequently he trained in internal medicine at George Washington University and in medical oncology at the Medical Oncology Branch of the NCI. He was awarded tenure at NIH in 2020. Dr. Hinrichs conducts basic and clinical research to discover and develop novel T cell therapies for the treatment of patients with cancer. This

work includes clinical trials of HPV-targeted tumor-infiltrating T cells for patients with HPV+ cancers, which has demonstrated that this treatment can mediate complete regression of cervical cancer in some patients. Dr. Hinrichs' laboratory also has discovered genes for T cell receptors that target HPV, and his group is testing new gene therapy treatments based on these receptors for patients with advanced HPV+ tumors.



Thomas S. Uldrick Jr., M.D., M.S.

Dr. Thomas Uldrick is Deputy Head of the Global Oncology Program at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, where is also Associate Professor in Divisions of Vaccine and Infectious Disease and Clinical Research. Dr. Uldrick received his medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY and his Masters in Biostatistics from Columbia University. Dr. Uldrick is an international expert on HIV-related cancers, especially Kaposi sarcoma (KS) and other diseases caused by Kaposi sarcoma herpesvirus. One of his key research interests is designing clinical trials, including immunotherapy studies, that accelerate the delivery of the most promising curative cancer therapies to low-income settings. He explores whether a type of immunotherapy known as a checkpoint inhibitor may safely improve outcomes in patients with both advanced cancers and HIV. Dr. Uldrick co-chairs the ULACNet precancer treatment working group.



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Joel Palefsky, M.D.



Joel Palefsky, MD is Professor of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. Dr. Palefsky completed his undergraduate medical training and training in Internal Medicine at McGill University and completed his fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Stanford University in 1989. He is the founder and director of the the Anal Neoplasia Clinic at the UCSF Cancer Center, Vice Chair of the NCI-supported AIDS Malignancy Consortium (AMC), and Principal Investigator of the NCI AMC Anchor (Anal Cancer HSIL Outcomes Research) Study. He is the immediate past president of the International Papillomavirus Society and is the founder and immediate past president of the International Anal Neoplasia Society. Dr. Palefsky's research interests include the molecular pathogenesis and natural history of HPV-related disease, including in the setting of HIV infection, HPV prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines, secondary

prevention of anal cancer, and treatment of HPV-related disease. Dr. Palefsky serves as the contact Principal Investigator of the CAMPO Partnership Center in ULACNet and co-chairs the ULACNet precancer treatment working group.



Ann Duerr, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H

Dr. Ann Duerr is Professor in the Divisions of Vaccine and Infectious Disease, Public Health Sciences, and Clinical Research at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Her work focuses on addressing health issues globally with a special emphasis on multidisciplinary studies of HIV prevention and treatment among underserved populations, including sexual and gender minorities in Peru. As director for Scientific Affairs at the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, she leads efforts to support timely publication of results from vaccine trials. She is also the director of Development for the University of Washington Strategic Analysis, Research & Training Center, which provides research consulting to the Gates Foundation, World Health Organization among other clients. Previously, she led a research group at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focused on understanding HIV transmission to women and the clinical course of HIV infection in women. Dr. Duerr serves as one of the multiple Principal Investigators of the Colaboración Evita Partnership Center in ULACNet.



Betania Allen-Leigh, M.A., Ph.D.

Betania Allen-Leigh, MA, PhD is a researcher in Medical sciences at the Public Health Methods Department in the Reproductive Health Division in the Center for Population Health Research at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico. Dr. Allen-Leigh received her BA in Latin American Studies from the University of California in Santa Cruz. She also received her Masters and PhD in Anthropological Sciences from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa in Mexico. Additionally, Dr. Allen-Leigh is a professor at the School of Public Health of Mexico where she teaches qualitative research methods. Her research and publications focus on a variety of issues within the broad field of reproductive health. Dr. Allen-Leigh is interested in sexual and reproductive health

research that produces inputs and evidence for policy making, especially relating to quality of care, rights-based care and person-centered care that promotes gender equity.



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Margaret House, R.N., B.S.N.

Maggie House is a nurse consultant in the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) at the NCI and has over 30 years of oncology nursing and clinical trial experience. She earned her Diploma in Nursing from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in 1982 and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Georgetown University in 2000. In DCP, Maggie provides support to the Prostate and Urologic Cancer Research Group studies and to several early phase breast and gynecological clinical trials, as well as serving as Nurse Consultant for ULACNet. In addition, Maggie is responsible for overseeing monitoring/auditing of the DCP Early Phase Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Consortia program, serves on the Accrual Quality Improvement Program (AQuIP) Committee, and serves as Co-Chair of the Clinical Trials Simplification Committee of the DCP Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network (CP-CTNet). Her clinical trial interests include chemoprevention clinical trial recruitment, and process improvement for clinical trial site monitoring and staff education.



Filipa Godoy Vitorino, Ph.D

Dr. Godoy is a native of Portugal and has developed her career studying biodiversity associated with animal and human microbiomes using and developing metagenomics techniques. She received her Ph.D. in Biology (Microbial Ecology) at the University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras and after completing her NSF-funded postdoc studying with metagenomics at the DOE-Joint Genome Institute in Walnut Creek, California, she founded her first Microbial Ecology laboratory in Puerto Rico in 2012. Since 2018, she is at the UPR School of Medicine where she has established the Microbiome Lab that uses multi-omics approaches to study evolutionary dynamics of human infectious diseases and microbiomes. Her laboratory is dedicated to the study of host-microbial symbioses

in diverse systems, especially characterizing microbiomes to understand the co-evolution, transmission and functions of microbial-host symbioses in a wide variety of phenotypes and biological systems.



Grant Ellsworth, M.D.

Grant Ellsworth is a clinical researcher working at Weill Cornell Medicine that is interested in improving screening techniques for HPV-related disease in persons living with HIV. After working as an electrical engineer, he attended the University of Utah School of Medicine and also completed residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics there. He then became an Infectious Disease fellow at Weill Cornell/New York-Presbyterian Hospital and later joined its faculty all while completing a master's degree in Clinical and Translational Science. He recently completed work optimizing the Xpert HPV assay to screen for anal HSIL in women living with HIV which has laid the groundwork for the development of the screening protocol (202) in PHAC-BMPR. Additionally, he is an investigator on the ANCHOR study, and various AMC, ACTG, HPTN studies and more recently Coronavirus Prevention Network/Operation Warp Speed vaccination studies.

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Kerry Thomson, M.P.H., Ph.D.

Dr. Kerry Thomson is Research Officer at PATH in Seattle, Washington working across the Reproductive Health and HIV Programs. Dr. Thomson received her MPH in global health from Emory University and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Washington. She has spent 20 years working across local, state, and federal levels of the US public health system and for international non-governmental organizations including working on refugee health with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, evaluating cervical cancer screening in Guatemala for the American Cancer Society, and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV with Médecins Sans Frontiers in Kenya. Her portfolio at PATH focuses on improving cervical cancer screening and treatment and scale-up of HIV self-testing in low and middle-income countries. Dr. Thomson is a Co-Investigator and Project Director for Estudio Oportunidad, a clinical trial

evaluating novel approaches for cervical cancer screening among women living with HIV in the Dominican Republic, as part of the Colaboración Evita Partnership Center in ULACNet.



Margaret M. Madeleine, M.P.H., Ph.D.

Margaret M. Madeleine, MPH, PhD, is Research Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health at the University of Washington and an Associate Member of the Program in Epidemiology at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. She received her MPH in Epidemiology from Yale and her PhD from the University of Washington. Dr. Madeleine's research focuses on the epidemiology of infection-related cancer, especially HPV-related cancers and pre-cancerous lesions. She has led studies on immunogenetics of HPV-related cervical and vulvar neoplasia, with a focus on HLA alleles through the International Cervical Cancer Consortium, and completed a cohort study on Skin Cancer after Organ Transplant (the SCOT study), examining the role of cutaneous HPV in non-melanoma skin cancer. She currently is leading an HPV vaccine trial (the VIVA study) to investigate whether the licensed

HPV vaccine interrupts progression of high-grade neoplasia. She also focuses on uptake of HPV vaccination in Washington State. Dr. Madeleine serves as the contact Principal Investigator of the Colaboración Evita Partnership Center in ULACNet.



Anna Giuliano, Ph.D.

Anna R. Giuliano, PhD, is the founding director of the Center for Immunization and Infection Research in Cancer (CIIRC) at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. She received her doctorate from Tufts University, continuing her studies at the University of Arizona as a National Cancer Prevention and Etiology Fellow. Dr. Giuliano was the recipient of an National Cancer Institute Preventive Oncology Career Development Award. Dr Giuliano's career had its inception in the relationship between HPV infections and cervical cancer, and has evolved over the past 26 years to encompass HPV and penile, anal, and oral cancers in men. Her work has contributed significantly to our understanding of the rate at which HPV infections are acquired and cleared, the proportion that progress to disease, and also to HPV vaccine protection

against multiple diseases in women and men. Dr Giuliano was a contributor to 2005 International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) report that concluded for the first time that HPV is a cause of multiple cancers in women and men. In 2013, at the 100th anniversary of the American Cancer Society (ACS), she was the recipient of the ACS Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Award. Dr Giuliano has authored more than 320 peer-reviewed publications.

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Timothy Wilkin, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Wilkin is Professor of Medicine at the Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University. He received his undergraduate degree in Mathematics at the University of Texas at Austin and attended medical school at Ohio State University, followed by residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Chicago Hospitals and fellowship training in Infectious Diseases at Columbia University. While at Columbia, he completed a Master's of Public Health with a concentration in Patient-Oriented Research. Upon joining the faculty of Weill Medical College of Cornell University, he was supported by a K23 Grant (Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award) from NIH to study human papillomavirus infection and anal dysplasia in HIV-positive and HIV-negative men. His other research activities include participating in

protocol teams in the AIDS Clinical Trials Group. He serves as site principal investigator for several industry-sponsored trials conducted at the Cornell Clinical Trials Unit and conducts educational training activities through the AIDS Education and Training Center. Dr. Wilkin serves as the contact Principal Investigator of the PHAC-BMPR Consortium in ULACNet.



Emma Brofsky, M.S.P.H.

Emma Brofsky is a Scientific Program Analyst in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute. She serves as a Project Manager for the US-Latin American-Caribbean HIV/HPV-Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network (ULACNet) and supports other projects within the Breast and Gynecological Cancer Research Group and the division. Emma received a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Public Health in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has experience working with local, state, and federal public health agencies as well as in international field settings on projects related to emerging infectious disease response, health program implementation, and maternal and child health.



Brandy Heckman-Stoddard, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Heckman-Stoddard received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine focusing on mammary gland development and breast cancer before joining the National Cancer Institute as a Cancer Prevention Fellow. As a fellow, Dr. Heckman-Stoddard's completed a Master's in Public Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and completed research focused on drug development for breast cancer prevention and biomarker development. In 2011 she joined the National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Prevention as a program director for the Breast Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials grants portfolio and scientific monitor of early phase breast cancer clinical trials within the NCI Division of Cancer Prevention

Clinical Trials Early Phase Prevention Consortia. In 2016, Dr. Heckman Stoddard became chief of the Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Research Group overseeing staff to support prevention research across the range of women's cancers. Additionally she serves as the breast cancer project scientist for CISNET (Cancer Intervention and Surveillance modeling Network) as well as project scientist for examining cancer outcomes within the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study.