

Roster of Speakers and Moderators

Think Tank on Advancing [Gastric Cancer Prevention](#)

NCI Shady Grove Campus
Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr. Conference Room (TE-406/8/10)
Friday, May 17, 2024, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM



Christian Abnet, PhD is a leading expert in the etiology of esophageal and gastric cancer and in the study of the oral microbiome. His research interests are driven by a desire to meet the needs of populations in limited-resource settings who are at highest risk for these diseases. Dr. Abnet serves as a principal investigator for the Nutrition Intervention Trial, the [Golestan Cohort Study](#), several case-control studies of esophageal cancer in East Africa, and the NCI [Connect for Cancer Prevention Study cohort](#). He was elected to the American Epidemiological Society in 2022.



Martin Blaser, a medical doctor specializing in Infectious Diseases, holds the Henry Rutgers Chair of the Human Microbiome and directs the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine at Rutgers University. He has been studying the relationship of the human microbiome with asthma, obesity, diabetes, inflammatory diseases, and cancer with a focus on early-life events and the host-microbial interactions during development. He has mentored many trainees, and with them has authored >650 original scientific articles. He wrote *Missing Microbes*, a book targeted to general audiences, translated into 20 languages.



Constanza Camargo, PhD, MS, MHA is an Earl Stadtman Investigator in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute. Her research program focuses on *Helicobacter pylori* infection, premalignant gastric lesions, and gastric cancer. Her program combines studies on cancer causation with projects that may have translational application for cancer screening, prevention, and treatment.



Philip E. Castle, PhD, MPH is the Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) and a Senior, Tenured Investigator in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG) at the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI). Previously, he was a Tenured Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (2014-20), Chief Scientific Officer of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (2011-2), and Senior, Tenured Investigator (2010) and Tenure-Track Investigator (2003-10) in DCEG/NCI. Dr. Castle was a Cancer Prevention Fellow in DCP/NCI (1999-2002). Dr. Castle received a PhD in Biophysics (1995) and MPH in Epidemiology (2000) from the Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD, USA) and a BS in Biological Sciences from Carnegie-Mellon University (1986).

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Andrew T. Chan, MD, MPH is a gastroenterologist, the Daniel K. Podolsky Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Chief of the Clinical and Translational Epidemiology Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Director of Epidemiology at the MGH Cancer Center. Through work spanning population epidemiology to clinical trials, Dr. Chan's research focuses on prevention and treatment of gastrointestinal cancers. He is the Lead for the Stand Up to Cancer Gastric Cancer Interception Team, an NCI Outstanding Investigator, American Cancer Society Research Professor and member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and Association of American Physicians.



Stephen Chanock, MD is the Director of the NCI Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics since 2013. He is a leading expert in the discovery and characterization of cancer susceptibility regions in the human genome. He has received numerous awards for his scientific contributions to our understanding of common inherited genetic variants associated with cancer risk and outcomes, including the Niehaus, Southworth, Weissenbach Award in Clinical Cancer Genetics, the Jeffrey M. Trent Lecture, and the AACR-American Cancer Society Award for Research Excellence in Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention. Dr. Chanock was recently recognized as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Il Ju Choi is an MD, PhD, and gastroenterology specialist (Seoul National University, South Korea). He has worked as a gastroenterologist and endoscopist at the Center for Gastric Cancer, National Cancer Center Korea, since 2001. Main research interests are *Helicobacter pylori* infection, gastric cancer screening, endoscopic treatment for early gastric cancer (ESD), and epidemiological studies on gastric cancer. He is now leading several RCTs including gastric cancer prevention by *H. pylori* treatment in the general population (HELPER study) in collaboration with IARC, ESD vs. surgery for undifferentiated type EGC (ERASE-GC trial), and aspirin use for gastric cancer prevention (EASTERN trial).



Marcia Cruz-Correa is a physician scientist trained as a gastroenterologist with a doctorate degree in Clinical Investigation and Genetic Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She is professor of Medicine at the University of Puerto Rico, with adjunct appointments at Johns Hopkins University and MD Anderson Cancer Center (U.S.). Her multidisciplinary research program has been continuously funded by the NIH for over 20 years and is aimed at understanding the etiology and genetics of gastrointestinal cancer. Her career has combined therapeutic endoscopy focused on cancer interception for patients with pre-malignant gastrointestinal disease and hereditary cancer. Dr. Cruz-Correa is a past board member of the National Cancer Advisory Board and of the American Gastroenterological Association.

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Steven J. Czinn, MD is a pediatric gastroenterologist recognized for innovative treatments for children with chronic gastric and intestinal disorders. His areas of interest include mucosal immunology, *H. pylori* infections, and the gut microbiome. In 2010, Dr. Czinn helped develop guidelines to diagnose and manage food allergies for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He also has lectured on the unique differences between children and adults with irritable bowel disease. Most recently, he was asked to update the Children’s Digestive Health Foundation’s educational slide set on Pediatric GERD. From 2009 to 2013, Dr. Czinn was a scientific reviewer for the National Institutes of Health in gastrointestinal mucosal pathobiology studies. He has served as an associate editor of the American Journal of Gastroenterology since 2003. He currently serves as an associate editor of both the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Pediatric Research.



Phillip Daschner is a Program Director in the Cancer Immunology, Hematology, and Etiology Branch in the Division of Cancer Biology, NCI. He currently manages a portfolio of basic research grants that investigate mechanisms of biological carcinogens (mostly viral and bacterial) and the role of host predisposing states such as diet/nutrition/obesity that are etiological factors or cofactors in carcinogenesis. He has leadership roles on both the trans NIH Microbiome working group and the trans NCI Microbiome working group, which coordinate ongoing microbiome-related initiatives and activities at the NIH and Institute levels.



Jeremy Davis is a surgical oncologist and Associate Research Physician in the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Davis completed a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He joined NCI and developed a gastric cancer research program with a specific focus on *CDH1*-driven diffuse-type gastric cancers. Dr. Davis is the principal investigator of multiple investigator-initiated clinical trials at NIH. He directed the NCI Surgical Oncology Research Fellowship from 2016 to 2020, and from 2018 to 2023 served as Surgeon-in-Chief of “America’s Research Hospital”, the NIH Clinical Center.



Mário Dinis-Ribeiro is a Senior Consultant of Gastroenterology at the IPO-Porto/Porto Comprehensive Cancer Center and Full Professor at Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto (FMUP). He is currently the Head of Medicine Department, Vice-Director and Group Leader at the Research Centre of IPO Porto, and member of the Scientific Committee of the PhD Programme in Clinical and Health Services Research (FMUP). Also, he is Treasurer of World Endoscopy Organization and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal Endoscopy. He was formerly the Head of Gastroenterology, Fellowship Programme, Porto School of Oncology/Education Department at IPO Porto and Coordinated the Master in Evidence and Decision in Health at FMUP, being also the President of the Portuguese Society of Digestive Endoscopy (2019-2021) and the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (2021-2023). He published over 350 manuscripts (HI = 53 ISI), supervised 13 PhDs and over 30 Master students, and is PI/Co-PI of national and European projects with currently over 2.5M€ of funding. He won the BIAL Award in Clinical Medicine in 2018 and co-authored the Pfizer Award in 2016.

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Emad El-Omar graduated in Medicine from Glasgow University, Scotland, and trained as a gastroenterologist. He worked as a Visiting Scholar/Scientist at Vanderbilt University, TN, and National Cancer Institute, MD, USA, and was Professor of Gastroenterology at Aberdeen University, Scotland, for 16 years before taking up the Chair of Medicine at University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. He is the Editor in Chief of the journal [Gut](#). His research interests include all aspects of the microbiome, inflammation driven GI cancer and IBD. He is the Director of the UNSW Microbiome Research Centre at St George Hospital, Sydney.



Wael El-Rifai is a professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. He is also the Associate Director of Basic Science at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. El-Rifai's leads an NCI-funded research program in gastro-esophageal cancers and has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed articles. Dr. El-Rifai has a long-standing interest in functional genomics and epigenomics for understanding the molecular pathways in tumorigenesis. His research focuses especially on examining the roles of infection, inflammation, and oxidative stress in tumorigenesis to develop more effective cancer treatments.

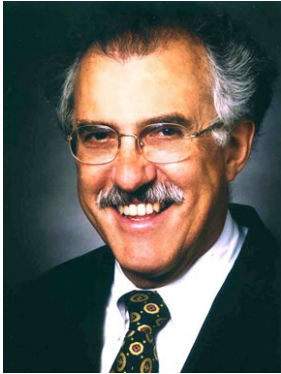


Hashem B. El-Serag is a physician and medical researcher best known for his research in liver cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, and the hepatitis C virus. He serves as the Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine as well as the Director of the Texas Medical Center Digestive Disease Center. El-Serag previously served as president of the American Gastroenterological Association and Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology.



Meira Epplein, PhD is Professor of Population Health Sciences at Duke University and Co-Leader of the Cancer Risk, Detection, and Interception program at the Duke Cancer Institute. She is a cancer epidemiologist who studies modifiable risk factors and health disparities. Specifically, her research seeks to further our understanding of the diversity of the bacteria *Helicobacter pylori*, host response to infection, and the association with gastrointestinal cancers. She is also engaged in local initiatives to understand the prevalence of *H. pylori* in the community and to move towards precision prevention of gastric cancer through targeted *H. pylori* eradication therapy.

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James G. Fox, DVM has been studying the pathogenesis of *Helicobacter spp* gastrointestinal diseases in humans and animals for the past 35 years. His laboratory was the first to isolate and characterize enterohepatic *Helicobacter spp* in mice, study their pathogenesis and carcinogenic potential in the gastrointestinal tract, and develop a mouse model to study *Helicobacter spp* gastrointestinal disease. Also, his lab was the first, along with Dr. Adrian Lee, to develop an animal model to study the pathogenesis of *H. pylori*-induced disease and, in conjunction with Dr. Tim Wang, was the first to develop a *H. pylori*-associated gastric cancer model in mice. He has a longstanding interest in studying the gastrointestinal microbiome and how it interfaces and influences the host's immune response to gastrointestinal pathogens.



Robert Genta, MD is an Adjunct Professor of Pathology and Gastroenterology at Baylor College of Medicine and Chief for Academic Affairs at Fulgent-Inform Diagnostics in Irving, Texas. After his residency at Case Western School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio, he was a postdoctoral fellow at NIAID-NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, and a professor at the University of Cincinnati, BCM, and UTSW in Dallas. From 2002 to 2006 he was the director of Pathology at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. His research focuses on *H. pylori* gastritis, gastric cancer epidemiology and prevention, and eosinophilic conditions of the gastrointestinal tract. He is fluent in English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Finnish. During more than 40 years of diagnostic and research activities grounded on the histopathology of gastrointestinal diseases, he has published more than 400 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters.



Markus Gerhard studied medicine in Heidelberg and Hamburg and earned his MD in 1996. From 1997 to 2004 he completed his medical training leading to German medical board certification in internal medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine at Klinikum rechts der Isar. From 2004 to 2006 he worked at the Netherlands Institute for Developmental Biology in the research group of Professor Hans Clevers. From 2006 he headed a research group in the Department of Internal Medicine at TUM, where he also acquired his postdoctoral teaching qualification (habilitation) in internal medicine in 2009. In 2010 he was appointed associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology at the Institute for Medical Microbiology and Immunology, a unit within TUM. The research work of Prof. Markus Gerhard explores how pathogens interact with the host in gastrointestinal infections. Professor Gerhard's research group investigates the mechanisms that suppress the immune response of the host to allow the establishment of chronic infection as well as inflammatory factors involved in the development of cancer, in order to leverage this know-how for the development of novel preventive and therapeutic strategies.

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Karen Goodman, PhD is an Associate Professor with tenure in the Division of Gastroenterology of the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta, where she currently holds the position of professor, with an adjunct appointment in the University of Alberta School of Public Health. Her research has focused on the epidemiology of *H. pylori* infection. She directed research projects in Colombia, the US/Mexico border region, and Arctic Canada. Dr. Goodman directs the Canadian North *Helicobacter pylori* (CANHelp) Working Group, which links scientists and clinicians with northern Canadian health officials and community leaders to pursue the following goals: 1) Obtain representative data from northern Canadian communities for informing regional public health strategies aimed at reducing health risks from *H. pylori* infection; 2) Conduct policy analysis to identify cost-effective and culturally appropriate *H. pylori* management strategies; 3) Develop knowledge exchange strategies that help community members and their health care providers understand *H. pylori* health risks as well as currently available solutions and unsolved challenges for reducing these health risks.



Katrina A.B. Goddard, PhD was appointed Director of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in October 2021. In this position, she oversees a division that covers a wide range of scientific domains and disciplines, including epidemiology, behavioral science, surveillance and statistics, cancer survivorship, and health services and outcomes research. Prior to joining NCI, Dr. Goddard was a Distinguished Investigator and Director of Translational and Applied Genomics at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research (CHR) in Portland, OR. Before joining CHR in 2007, she was faculty in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (now Population and Quantitative Health Sciences) at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. She was also a mid-career fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Genetics & Public Health Research and Practice.



Satish Gopal, MD, MPH was appointed Director of the Center for Global Health at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2020. In this role, he oversees the development of initiatives and collaborations with other NCI and NIH partners, NCI-designated cancer centers, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to support cancer research, promote science-based cancer control, and build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries. Before coming to NCI, Dr. Gopal was the Cancer Program Director for the University of North Carolina collaboration with the Malawi Ministry of Health.

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David Graham, MD was the Chief of Gastroenterology at Baylor College of Medicine from 1988 until becoming emeritus in 2007. He continues to work as a staff physician at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Administration Medical Center. Prof. Graham is a Past-President of the American College of Gastroenterology (1990-91). He is a Master of the American College of Gastroenterology and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Microbiology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and World Innovation Foundation. Prof. Graham's research lies in the general field of gastroenterology and includes widely diverse topics with particular focus on acid-peptic diseases and *Helicobacter pylori*, viral gastroenteritis, and the possible infectious etiology of inflammatory bowel disease. He is the author of more than 1000 scientific papers, several books, and more than 100 chapters in medical textbooks.



Robert Huang, MD, MS is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Stanford University in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. His research is aimed at improving digestive cancer outcomes through data science, cohort building, and biomarker development. His clinical practice is focused on the use of therapeutic endoscopic procedures to detect and destroy cancer and precancerous lesions.



Chin Hur, MD is the Irving Professor of Medicine and Professor of Epidemiology and Director, Healthcare Innovations Research and Evaluation at Columbia University Medical Center. He and his research team utilize advanced statistical and simulation modeling techniques to analyze cancer screening, prevention, and treatment strategies. He has led the NCI CISNET Modeling consortium [esophageal](#) and [gastric](#) cancer group.



Joo Ha Hwang, MD, PhD is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Stanford University. He has both a clinical and research interest in improving the early detection of gastric cancer. His research group uses both epidemiologic and translational approaches to understand risk factors for gastric cancer and develops biomarkers to improve the early diagnosis of gastric cancers. He is also involved in public policy efforts to increase recognition of gastric cancer risk among high-risk populations. Dr. Hwang performs advanced endoscopic procedures including endoscopic submucosal dissection to resect early esophageal, gastric, and colorectal cancers.

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Haejin In, MD MBA MPH is a surgical oncologist, and Associate Professor of Surgery and Health, Behavior and Policy at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. Dr. In specializes in the surgical management of upper gastrointestinal cancers and peritoneal surface malignancies and focuses her research on identifying optimal strategies for early cancer detection and screening of gastric cancer in the US, improving the quality of care and reducing healthcare disparities in gastrointestinal cancer patients.



Harindra Jayasekara, MD, PhD is a public health physician and cancer epidemiologist with expertise in the analysis of large observational study datasets. Harindra's research focuses on cancer risk related to lifestyle-related factors particularly alcohol use, etiology of gastro-esophageal cancer and precancerous lesions, and metachronous cancer, and cancer prevention. He currently leads US NCI Cohort Consortium pooling projects on stomach cancer and esophageal cancer, funded by grants as PI from the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council and World Cancer Research Fund.



Tram Kim Lam, PhD, MPH, is chief of the Environmental Epidemiology Branch of the Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program in NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. Dr. Lam leads a group of program directors who have expertise that spans all domains of the exposome, including the general external (e.g., broader social context), specific external (e.g., lifestyle factors, environmental pollutants, chemical, physical and infectious agents), and internal environments (e.g., biomarkers of effect, early damage). She also oversees a research grant portfolio that focuses on modifiable factors (e.g., infectious agents, environmental exposures, genomics, and lifestyles) and the interplay between determinants of cancer and how they influence susceptibility to cancer nationally and globally.



Monika Laszkowska, MD, MS is an Assistant Attending in the Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She is a clinician-scientist with a growing research program in gastric cancer prevention and management, focusing on premalignant lesions of the stomach and populations at high-risk of developing gastric cancer, including those with a hereditary predisposition. She is also a member of the NCI Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) Gastric Cancer Incubator, which aims to utilize comparative modeling to study gastric cancer disparities and prevention in the US and globally.

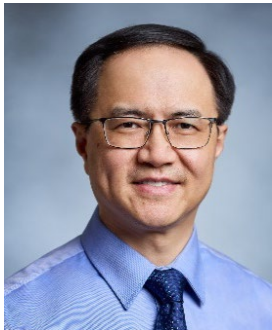
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Yi-Chia Lee, MD, PhD a gastroenterologist and Professor of Internal Medicine at National Taiwan University Hospital, currently serves as the deputy director of Department of Medical Research, overseeing clinical trials and big data science. His research focuses on designing, implementing, and evaluating population programs for digestive tract cancers. One notable achievement is the successful initiation of stomach cancer prevention programs. These programs involve screening and eradicating *Helicobacter pylori* infection and are tailored to diverse populations in Taiwan, with a specific focus on rural areas. This healthcare strategy has demonstrated efficacy in reducing the incidence of stomach cancer and addressing associated health disparities.



Mārcis Leja, MD, PhD is a Professor of Medicine, Director of the Institute of Clinical and Preventive Medicine, University of Latvia, consulting gastroenterologist, and advisor to the Minister of Health of Latvia in oncology and cancer prevention. His special interest lies in the prevention and early detection of gastrointestinal cancer. He is the principal investigator of the population-based gastric cancer prevention study [GISTAR](#), and [TOGAS](#) project aimed to develop guidelines for gastric cancer screening in the EU. He has published more than 200 research papers (out of these at least 120 Scopus or WoSCC), 6 book chapters. HI=32.



Dan Li, MD, is a senior physician and gastroenterologist at Kaiser Permanente Northern California and a clinical researcher at Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research. Dr. Li's research focuses on the screening and prevention of stomach cancer in the diverse U.S. populations. His recent studies evaluated the risk of stomach cancer in individuals with gastric intestinal metaplasia, as well as the effect of *H. pylori* treatment on risk reduction of incident gastric cancer. Dr. Li serves on the guideline committees of American Gastroenterological Association and American College of Gastroenterology for the diagnosis and management of gastric premalignant conditions.



Wen-Qing Li, MD, PhD, is Deputy Director and Professor of the Center for Clinical Epidemiology, Peking University Cancer Hospital, and PI of the State Key Laboratory of Holistic Integrative Management of Gastrointestinal Cancers in China. He received postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School and National Cancer Institute and once served as assistant professor at Brown University. Focusing on risk assessment and precise prevention of gastric cancer as the main line of research, Dr. Li has authored over 200 publications. He won several national youth awards in China and is a deputy to the National Congress of Chinese Society of Science and Technology.

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Peter Malfertheiner, MD is Professor of Medicine and was Chairman of the Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Infectious Diseases at the Otto v. Guericke University of Magdeburg in Germany, from 1995 until 2016. Since January 2018, he has been a Senior Professor at the LMU, Medical Clinic University in Munich, where he leads several clinical and translational research projects related to *H. pylori* and Gut microbiota. Prof. Malfertheiner has been Chairman of the United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF, 2004), and President of the UEGW 2006 and Education Committee of the UEGF. He is also the Editor of Digestive Diseases, Associate Editor of the American Journal of Gastroenterology, and a member of the Editorial Boards of several other journals; the European Journal of Gastroenterology, *Helicobacter*, Digestive Surgery, and the International Journal of Pancreatology. His main research interests are *H. pylori* infection and related diseases, chronic inflammation and carcinogenesis, gastric cancer, hepatocellular cancer, and gastroesophageal reflux disease. He is one of the founders and executives of the Healthy Stomach Initiative organization established in 2006/2007.



Tamara Matysiak-Budnik, MD, PhD graduated from the Medical University in Poland. She realized her postdoctoral training in Finland and in France. She is currently Professor of Gastroenterology and Digestive Oncology at the University Hospital in Nantes, France. She is a member of the Governing Board of the European Association for Gastroenterology, Endoscopy and Nutrition and European Society of Digestive Oncology. Her research topic is focused on digestive cancers, especially gastric cancer and gastric precancerous lesions, and the role of tumor microenvironment in gastric carcinogenesis. She is currently a French Coordinator of three European projects aiming at evaluation of gastric cancer screening strategy in Europe.



Francis Mégraud, MD has been Emeritus Professor of Bacteriology at the University of Bordeaux since September 2018. He obtained the diploma of Pharmacist and Doctor of Medicine at the University of Bordeaux. He was head of the Laboratory of Bacteriology at Pellegrin Hospital, Bordeaux, France until 2017 and he is a member of INSERM U1312. He was head of INSERM U853 from 2004 to 2015. He created the National Reference Center for Campylobacters & *Helicobacters* in France in 1993, which he headed until 2017. He is one of the founding members and past Secretary of the European *Helicobacter* & Microbiota Study Group. His interest in Campylobacters & *Helicobacter pylori* dates to the early days after the discovery of these bacteria. His main current interests are the role of *H. pylori* in gastric cancer and antimicrobial resistance. Pubmed: 558. H index: 87.

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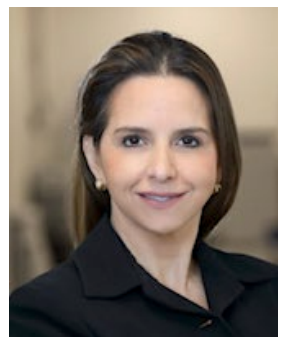
Juanita Merchant, MD, PhD is Regents Professor and Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the University of Arizona, Tucson. She is also interim director of the UA Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her primary research interests include transcriptional control mechanisms regulating cell growth and differentiation in the gastrointestinal tract and microbial-host interactions in the stomach that initiate gastric cancer. Dr. Merchant has made significant scientific contributions involving the role of Hedgehog signaling in normal gastric physiology, preneoplasia and cancer. Her current studies focus on defining mechanisms to target myeloid-derived suppressor cells in the gastric tumor microenvironment.



Karen Miernyk's career as a biologist with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Arctic Investigations Program began in 1993. Her work involves using molecular techniques to identify and characterize infectious agents, as well as immunological response to those agents. They focus on pathogens that disproportionately impact Arctic populations, including *Helicobacter pylori*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, respiratory syncytial virus, SARS-CoV-2, and influenza.



Paul Moayyedi, MD, PhD, Co-Editor-in-Chief of [Gastroenterology](#). Prof. Moayyedi holds the Audrey Campbell Chair of Ulcerative Colitis Research and is currently the Assistant Dean of Research at the Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University. He was Chair of Clinical Practice at the AGA Institute from 2018-2020 and has had extensive editorial experience including being joint Editor-in-Chief of The American Journal of Gastroenterology and the Cochrane Gut Review Group. He is a proponent of evidence-based medicine and has conducted large, randomized controlled trials and observational studies in the areas of gastroesophageal reflux disease, Barrett's esophagus, *Helicobacter pylori*, functional gastrointestinal disease, and inflammatory bowel diseases. He has been the methodologist on three AGA guidelines.

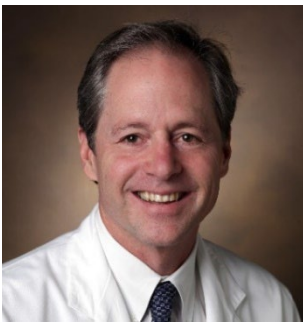


Cecilia Monge, MD, MPH is involved in clinical research focusing on novel first-in-human and early-phase clinical trials within the realm of gastrointestinal tumors and immunology. Her research interests also include Healthcare Disparities. She has served as chair and investigator of multiple early-stage clinical study protocols within the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health. Dr. Monge is part of National Institutes of Health Institutional Review Board and the National Cancer Institute Safety Review Committee.

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Leticia Moreira, MD, PhD has been dedicated, both at the healthcare level and in her research career, to digestive oncology, especially hereditary predisposition syndromes and high-risk conditions, with a main focus in gastric and pancreatic cancer, being in charge of patients with these neoplasms in the High-Risk Digestive Cancer Clinic of the Hospital Clínic. She is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Digestive System course at the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Barcelona. Dr. Moreira has extensive experience in coordinating multicenter studies such as EPICOLON and EPIGASTRIC. She is the Scientific Director of the European and World *Helicobacter pylori* Registries. Total Impact Factor: 835; Citations: 7359; H index: 30; patents: 1.



Douglas Morgan, MD, MPH, FACP, AGAF serves as the Director of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). His central research interest is cancer epidemiology and prevention in Hispanic-Latino populations in Latin America and the U.S. The specific focus is gastric adenocarcinoma in the LMICs of northern Central America, and other collaboration sites in Latin America with research in genetic epidemiology, chemoprevention, and appropriate technology. This is complemented by gastric and colon cancer prevention initiatives in under-served populations in the Southeast. Dr. Morgan received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University. He completed his postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology at the UCSF, and earned an MPH in epidemiology at UC Berkeley, School of Public Health. Dr. Morgan has held faculty appointments at the University of North Carolina and Vanderbilt University. He served as a Peace Corps engineer in Central America prior to medical school.



Jin Young Park obtained her MSc from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and MPhil and PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK. Dr Park is the Lead Scientist of the Gastric Cancer Prevention Team at IARC/WHO. Her research involves a broad range of international epidemiological studies on *Helicobacter pylori* infection and gastric cancer with the aim to search for and implement effective strategies for prevention. She is the IARC principal investigator of large scale randomized clinical trials evaluating the role of *H. pylori* eradication with endoscopic follow-up in gastric cancer reduction (HELPER, GISTAR), global gastric cancer risk factor surveys (ENIGMA studies), studies dedicated to identifying metabolic biomarkers (META-GC, INTL-CC), and European projects for gastric cancer prevention (EUROHELICAN, TOGAS, GC guidelines & QA schemes).

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Richard M. Peek, Jr., MD is the Mina Cobb Wallace Professor of Medicine, Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, and Cancer Biology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He is also Director of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and PI of the NIH P30 Vanderbilt Digestive Diseases Research Center. The overarching theme for Dr. Peek's research is delineation of the signaling events initiated by bacterial:epithelial cell contact that regulate gastric carcinogenic phenotypes using innovative, complementary model systems. His group utilizes ex vivo combinatorial gastric organoid:immune cell systems that closely recapitulate cellular organization in the stomach to examine aberrant host responses to oncogenic *H. pylori* strains, and they have developed robust and reproducible rodent models of *H. pylori*-induced gastric cancer. Dr. Peek's laboratory continually extends their observations into human populations, and they have previously examined interactions between host and pathogen genetic ancestry that influence gastric cancer development in persons at high or low risk for disease. Collectively, his group has made fundamental discoveries regarding gastric cancer pathogenesis that have significantly influenced understanding of the disease and management of patients, and which have provided a foundation for other investigations focused on inflammation-mediated carcinogenesis.



M. Blanca Piazuelo, MD, is a Research Associate Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She earned her medical degree from Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia, and completed a Residency in Anatomical and Clinical Pathology at the same institution. Dr. Piazuelo's main research interest is the precancerous process of the human stomach, primarily caused by *H. pylori* infection. She is Associate Director of the Tissue Morphology Subcore of the Vanderbilt Digestive Diseases Research Center and serves as a research pathologist in projects related to inflammation and carcinogenesis of the GI tract in humans and in animal models.



Ellen Richmond, MS, GNP-BC, co-chair of the Think Tank on Advancing Cancer Prevention co-chair, is Deputy Chief of the GI and Other Cancers Research Group (GOCRG) in NCI's Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP), Nurse Consultant for DCP's early phase GI cancer prevention trials and Program Director for GI cancer prevention and Symptom Science grants. Primary research interests are esophageal and gastric cancer prevention and clinical trial accrual. She leads the Accrual Quality Improvement Program (AQuIP), is involved in development and oversight of early phase cancer chemoprevention trials. She is also Project Scientist for [CISNET Incubator Program Gastric Cancer Working Group](#).

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Arnoldo Riquelme, MD, MMedEd, member of the Department of Gastroenterology, Faculty of Medicine, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Dr. Riquelme is a clinical researcher and his areas of expertise include *H. pylori* infection and its relationship with the development of gastric premalignant lesions and gastric cancer. He is former President of the Chilean Society of Gastroenterology and the Panamerican Gastroenterology Organization (OPEG; 2021-2023).



Luz Maria Rodríguez, MD is a board-certified general surgeon and a dual fellowship-trained surgical oncologist and colorectal surgeon who serves as a Program Director and Medical Officer in the Gastrointestinal and Other Cancers Research Group in the NCI Division of Cancer Prevention. She is responsible for developing and supporting ongoing early Phase 0-II prevention clinical trials through protocol development, scientific reviews, and strategic planning. The program seeks to fill the research void between preclinical studies and Phase III trials by emphasizing intervention effects on at-risk tissue-intensive collections and invasive biomarker monitoring. She oversees chemoprevention and treatment trials in organ sites such as the liver, pancreas, stomach, and colon that use study agents such as vaccines, simvastatin, atorvastatin, lisinopril, berberine, curcumin, metformin, erlotinib and aspirin.



Shailja Shah, MD, MPH is Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of California San Diego and VA San Diego and is a member of the Cancer Control Program at UCSD Moores Cancer Center. Dr. Shah's research is focused on *Helicobacter pylori* and risk factors for gastric carcinogenesis, as well as implementation of targeted, cost-effective strategies for gastric cancer prevention and early detection in the United States. Dr. Shah has co-authored multiple national guidelines and practice updates related to *H. pylori* and gastric preneoplasia diagnosis and management. She serves on several national GI committees including the ACG Practice Parameters Committee. Her active sources of funding include the VA, NIH, and the AGA.



Asad Umar received his PhD in Biochemistry and Immunology at Johns Hopkins University. During his postdoctoral training at the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, NC, he discovered DNA mismatch repair defects as the underlying cause of Lynch syndrome. His current scientific interest is to understand the molecular pathways during gastrointestinal carcinogenesis and apply molecularly targeted and immunologic interventions to prevent cancer. As a Program Director, he oversees a wide variety of grants and contracts focusing on cancer prevention translational research, cancer screening, and clinical trials in cancer prevention and screening.

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Tiffany Wallace, PhD is the Lead for the Disparities and Equity Program at the NCI within the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD). In this role, she coordinates and strengthens NCI's overall cancer disparity research activities, encompassing basic, clinical, translational, and population-based research. In addition to her roles in CRCHD, Dr. Wallace co-chairs the NCI's Cancer Disparities Activities Committee and an [NCI Equity and Inclusion Program Working Group](#), as well contributing to numerous health disparity initiatives across NIH.



Andrew Y. Wang, MD, AGAF, FACC, FJGES, FASGE is a Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the University of Virginia. Dr. Wang is passionate about caring for patients by performing advanced endoscopy and by improving the safety and efficacy of endoscopic interventions through education and research. Dr. Wang participates in NIH-funded trials, and he has delivered more than 130 invited presentations and co-authored over 120 peer-reviewed manuscripts. One of Dr. Wang's areas of clinical and research interest is in the screening and surveillance of premalignant gastric lesions, and the use of ESD to treat patients with early GI malignancies.



Timothy C. Wang, MD is the Silberberg Professor of Medicine, Chief of the Digestive & Liver Diseases at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC), and Co-Leader of the Tumor Biology & Microenvironment Program at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center (HICCC). He has served as the President of the American Gastroenterological Association Institute (AGA). Dr. Wang received his BA from Williams College, Summa Cum Laude, and his MD (AQA) from the Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons. He was on the faculty at MGH/Harvard for ten years before moving to UMass Medical School as Chief of Gastrointestinal (GI) diseases in 2000, and since 2004 has been Chief of GI at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons. He has led an independent research lab for over thirty years focused on the relationship between inflammation, stem cells and cancer, and the molecular mechanisms of gastrointestinal carcinogenesis. In recent years, his lab has been known for showing that nerves modulate the growth of solid tumors. His lab, in collaboration with Dr. James Fox at MIT, developed numerous mouse models of *Helicobacter*-dependent gastric cancer, which helped define markers of GI stem cells and key niche signals that promote their progression to cancer. Author of over 370 original publications and 80 invited reviews, editorials and chapters, Dr. Wang is currently Senior Deputy Editor of Cancer Prevention Research and the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Yamada Textbook of Gastroenterology. He has organized numerous conferences, and has headed several multidisciplinary research programs, including the CUIMC NCI U54 Tumor Microenvironment (TMEN) program, the CUIMC NCI Barrett's Esophageal Translational Research Network (BETRNet) program, the NIDDK Intestinal Stem Cell Consortium (ISCC) at Columbia. He is the Associate Director of the NIH-funded Digestive and Liver Disease Research Center at Columbia. He also

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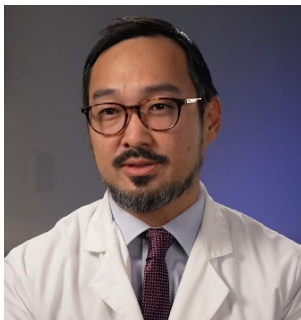
leads the Columbia Institutional Conflict of Interest (ICOI) and is the Columbia Alpha Omega Alpha Councilor. He is a recipient of the NIH/NIDDK Merit Award (R37) as well as the Outstanding Investigator Award (R35 OIA, 2016-2030) from the NCI, among other grants. He received the Arthur and Irene Fishberg Prize for outstanding research from CUIMC, and the Julius Friedenwald medal, AGA's highest honor, for his contributions to the GI field.



Kay Washington, MD, PhD is Professor of Pathology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and has a long-standing interest in gastrointestinal (GI) and liver pathology, having published over 400 scientific papers covering a wide range of topics in GI and liver disease. She received her doctorate and medical degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and trained in pathology at Duke University Medical Center. As Chair of the Center Guidelines Committee for the College of American Pathologists, Dr. Washington helps oversee generation of evidence-based guidelines for pathology clinical practice. She is a member of the Executive Committee for the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), and as Chair of the AJCC Editorial Board (2019-2023), she was charged with leading the 9th revision of their Cancer Staging Manual and developing a new electronic format. She has recently completed a 6-year term as a member of the World Health Organization Standing Editorial Board for the WHO Classification of Tumours fifth series. Dr. Washington directs multiple GI-focused biospecimen resources and histopathology cores and has served as the principal investigator of the Western Division of the NCI-funded Cooperative Human Tissue Network for over 20 years.



Keith T. Wilson is a physician-scientist gastroenterologist. He completed his B.A. from Cornell and MD from Harvard Medical School, residency in internal medicine at Case Western Reserve University and fellowship in gastroenterology at University of Chicago. He holds the Thomas F. Frist Sr. Chair in Medicine, is Professor of Medicine and Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, and founding Director of the Center for Mucosal Inflammation and Cancer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He has directed a basic and translational laboratory for 30 years focused on *H. pylori* infection and gastric cancer, as well as inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer.



Bechien Wu, MD, MPH is a practicing gastroenterologist and serves as the program director for the gastroenterology fellowship training program at the Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center. His research interest is in early detection of gastrointestinal cancers. His work in gastric cancer has focused on risk-stratification, refinement of endoscopic sampling strategies as well as improving care delivery for patients with hereditary cancer syndromes. Dr. Wu's research activities have included both large-scale prospective recruitment and retrospective observational studies, intervention trials, and multicenter collaborations. He is actively engaged in both the teaching and research community within Kaiser Permanente Southern California.

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Yoshio Yamaoka, MD, PhD, is a full Professor and Head of the Department of Environmental and Preventive Medicine, Oita University Faculty of Medicine, Japan, and a Professor of medicine (gastroenterology) at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA. Professor Yamaoka is also the vice president and trustee of Oita University. Professor Yamaoka has a research interest in *Helicobacter pylori*-related gastroduodenal diseases, molecular epidemiology, virulence factors of *Helicobacter pylori*, antimicrobial resistance, immunology of gastroduodenal diseases, gastric cancer, and diagnostic approaches for gastroduodenal diseases.



Matthew Young, PhD is a Program Office for gastrointestinal cancers at the Cancer Biomarkers Research Group (CBRG), Division of Cancer Prevention, the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Young portfolio includes the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancers collaborative group and other grants awarded for colorectal, gastric, and esophageal cancers. Dr. Young oversees the Consortium on Translational Research in Early Detection of Liver Cancer Translational Research Centers (TLC), the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (PCDC), and the Alliance of Pancreatic Cancer Consortia for Biomarkers for Early Detection.



Xiangsheng Zuo, MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Having earned her MD and PhD degrees in China, she completed postdoctoral training at MD Anderson. The long-term goal of her research is to understand and target molecular regulators of stem cell transformation and tumor microenvironment remodeling processes driving tumor initiation and progression, and immune responses, with a particular emphasis on gastric, colonic, and pancreatic cancers.