

# ADDRESSING **Disparities** IN CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

**A one-day summit for Georgia's oncology community**

FRIDAY, Sept. 30, 2022 • 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Mercer University • University Center (President's Dining Room)  
1501 Mercer University Drive • Macon, GA 31207



8:00 AM

## **COFFEE AND NETWORKING**

8:30 AM

## **WELCOME**

- Jean Sumner, MD, Dean, Mercer University School of Medicine
- Sharad Ghamande, MD, Georgia Cancer Center, Augusta University, GASCO President

8:45 AM

## **KEYNOTE – DEFINING THE PROBLEM AND EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS (EBIS)**

- Bradley Carthon, MD PhD, Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University

9:15 AM

## **PANEL DISCUSSION: CURRENT EFFORTS FOR DIVERSITY IN CLINICAL TRIALS**

*Topic Description:* Twenty years ago, Georgia's leaders made cancer research and clinical trials a priority for the state. There has been an eight-fold increase in the number of clinical trials since then, but barriers to participation remain. This panel of experts will discuss current availability of clinical trials, the types of trials available and initiatives to increase the reach of these trials, and the advances that have been made relating specifically to diverse populations.

**Facilitator:** Crain Garrot, MD, GA Cancer Specialists

### **Panelists:**

- Trena Davis, BSN RN CCRC, Northeast Georgia Medical Center
- Theresa Gillespie, PhD MA FAAN, Winship Cancer institute, Emory University
- Anand Jillella, MD, Georgia Cancer Center, Augusta University

10:10 AM

## **PANEL DISCUSSION: BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS**

*Topic Description:* Studies have shown, and the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated, that there are barriers to participation in clinical trials. A deficiency of information and access to clinical trials is heightened for Black, Asian, Hispanic, and other ethnic and racial minorities. Rural residents also suffer from diminished access to cutting edge research and treatments. This panel of experts will discuss the impediments they see in their practices and hospitals to increased equity to cancer clinical trials.

**Facilitator:** Brian Rivers, PhD MPH, Morehouse School of Medicine

### **Panelists:**

- Rodolfo Bordonni, MD, Georgia Cancer Specialists
- Chirag Jani, MD, Phoebe Putney Medical Center
- Pooja Mishra, MBA/MHA FACHE, Grady Health System
- Jayanthi Srinivasiah, MD, Georgia Cancer Specialists

11:05 AM

## **BREAK AND MOVE TO BREAKOUT SESSION**

11:15 AM

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### **1.) From the Beginning: Educating and Empowering Patients at Initial Diagnosis**

*Session Description:* Are patients being informed of potential clinical trials at initial diagnosis? How can this be done effectively and compassionately? In this session, participants will discuss practical ideas to include the introduction of the possibility of clinical trials in these initial interactions.

**Facilitators:** Martha Tingen, PhD RN FAAN, Georgia Cancer Center and Andrew Weatherall, RN OCN CCRC, Atrium Health Navicent

### **2.) Increasing Accruals through Improving the Consenting Process**

*Session Description:* After a patient shows interest in participating in a clinical trial, there are often process centered barriers, healthcare system barriers and, patient barriers such as language or cultural impediments that make it difficult to accrue and retain diverse patients on a clinical trial. Session attendees will discuss these difficulties and potential improvements in the consenting process that could yield a more diverse patient population.

**Facilitators:** Mary Egan, BS CCRC and Kylie Graden, BSA, University Cancer & Blood Center

### **3.) Easing Socioeconomic Barriers to Participation**

*Session Description:* Patients who are socioeconomically disadvantaged may have multiple barriers to participation including transportation, housing/hoteling, absences from work, or home health care. This session will explore data about socioeconomic disparities and engage in a discussion about potential actions to alleviate some of these barriers.

**Facilitators:** Lisa Flowers, MD MPH FACOG, Emory University and Grady Health System and Ajay Nooka, MD MPH FACP, Emory University

12:15 PM

## LUNCH (Break and go through buffet line)

12:30 PM

## THE PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE

- Kimberly Michelle Smith, Patient Survivor and Advocate and Sheryl Gabram, MD MBA, Chief Scientific Officer, Georgia CORE

12:45 PM

## ASCO HEALTH EQUITY INITIATIVES

- Christopher Cross, PhD, Director of Health Equity Strategies, ASCO

1:00 PM

## LUNCH PRESENTATION: BLUE BUTTON PROJECT: INNOVATIONS IN DATA SHARING/MATCHING SERVICES

- Mark Fluery, PhD, Principal, Policy Development-Emerging Science, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

1:30 PM

## BREAK

1:45 PM

## BREAKOUT SESSION 2

### **1.) Dispelling Myths in Communities of Color**

*Session Description:* Many of us may think we know why communities of color have a lower rate of participation in clinical trials, but do we really? And what can be done to dispel myths and focus on real impediments to participation in these communities? Attendees in this session will identify the myths and discuss how to work with members of communities of color to heighten participation.

**Facilitators:** Pamela Cooper and Roland Matthews, MD, FACOG, Morehouse School of Medicine

## **2.) *Converting the Masses: Encouraging Physicians to Accrue to Clinical Trials***

*Session Description:* A recent NIH study found that only 10 to 20% of physicians inform their cancer patients about clinical trials. This session will focus on practical ways healthcare systems and providers can encourage and support community physicians in their efforts to refer patients for clinical trial participation.

**Facilitators:** Cheryl Jones, MD and Binta Auta, Northside Hospital Cancer Institute

## **3.) *Expanding Rural Access and Outreach***

*Session Description:* Many of Georgia's rural communities have limited access to cutting-edge clinical trials and treatments. In this session, participants will identify barriers for rural residents and seek to identify solutions for this population.

**Facilitators:** Harsh Vyas, MD, Cancer Center of Middle Georgia and Chris Scoggins, MPH, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

2:45 PM

### **BREAK AND RECONVENE**

3:00 PM

### **BREAKOUT GROUP REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

- Andrew Pippas, MD (Chair, Georgia CORE), Director, Medical Oncology, Piedmont Columbus

3:45 PM

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

- Andrew Pippas, MD (Chair, Georgia CORE), Director, Medical Oncology, Piedmont Columbus