



SPEAKER AND PANELIST INFORMATION

Bill Zito – Florida Panthers President and GM



Bill Zito was named General Manager of the Florida Panthers on September 2, 2020. He was promoted to President, Hockey Operations and General Manager on April 15, 2024. He is responsible for the club's hockey operations, including all matters relating to player personnel, scouting and minor league operations.

In his five-season tenure as general manager, Zito's Panthers secured their first-ever Stanley Cup championship (2023-24), won their second title (2024-25), made the Stanley Cup Final three times (2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25), won the club's first Presidents' Trophy (2021-22) and captured the Atlantic Division title twice (2021-22 and 2023-24). The Cats have made the Stanley Cup Playoffs in all five seasons, the longest postseason streak in club history.

Off the ice, Bill and his wife Julie proudly support "Panthers on the Prowl" is a one-of-a-kind fundraiser benefiting the American Cancer Society. This exciting initiative brings together art, community, and philanthropy to support cancer research and patient services, while celebrating Florida's iconic wildlife and hockey pride.

Inspired by Chicago's famous "Cows on Parade," this campaign will feature life-sized panther sculptures, displayed in key locations across South Florida. These stunning panther statues symbolize strength, resilience, and the united effort to defeat cancer. Proceeds will help the American Cancer Society's mission of improving the lives of those battling cancer and their families to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat and survive cancer.

Kristen Dahlgren – Cancer Vaccine Coalition Founder and CEO



Kristen Dahlgren is an award-winning journalist turned Breast Cancer advocate and founder of the nonprofit Cancer Vaccine Coalition. For the first 30 years of her career, Kristen traveled the world, documenting some of the biggest news stories of our time. She reported for NBC Nightly News and NBC's Today show, was nominated for an Emmy award for leading the network's coverage of the Parkland School shooting, served as a backup anchor for Lester Holt, and won an Edward R. Murrow award for her feature reporting.

In 2019, she was diagnosed with Breast Cancer and immediately decided to share her story to help other women to recognize the different ways their own cancers could present. Through her reporting, Kristen also learned about the research that was happening on Breast Cancer vaccines.

After a conversation with UW Cancer Vaccine Institute's Dr. Nora Disis, Kristen realized that vaccines for breast cancer were no longer a "Pie in the sky" idea but something that was close and achievable. She couldn't stand by and watch anyone else suffer. CVC is partnered with the nation's top vaccine and cancer researchers with a goal of getting a safe, effective cancer vaccines to market in 5 to 10 years.

Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP – Cancer Nation CEO



Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP, is CEO of Cancer Nation—the voice of the 18 million Americans living with, through, and beyond cancer. Under her leadership, Cancer Nation (formerly the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship) pushes for bold policy change to ensure every survivor has the right to not just survive—but thrive. From Capitol Hill to cancer centers, Shelley elevates survivor voices and demands care that actually works for the people living it.

A defining part of her work is helping survivors and caregivers find their voice in the democratic process—whether it's their first visit to Capitol Hill or telling their story to someone in power. Through advocacy training and deep community-building, she empowers people to speak out, be heard, and help shape the policies that shape their lives.

Before joining Cancer Nation in 2013, she led public policy initiatives at Susan G. Komen. She holds degrees from Rice University and the Harvard Kennedy School. Shelley's advocacy is deeply personal – rooted in love for her friend Dr. Brent Whitworth, a compassionate physician who died of cancer at 43, and in solidarity with countless others in her life affected by cancer.

She lives in Maryland with her husband and three sons. When not pushing for a cure for care, she's likely found on a paddleboard, in a yoga class, or solving a crossword.

Frank Penedo, PhD, FABMR, FSBM – UM Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Associate Director for Population Sciences and Sylvester DCC Living Proof Endowed Chair in Cancer Survivorship



Dr. Frank J. Penedo earned his PhD in clinical health psychology from the University of Miami. He completed his clinical residency in psychosocial oncology and behavioral medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. His work investigates the biopsychosocial mechanisms underlying chronic disease and assesses the effectiveness of evidence-based psychosocial interventions—either in person or via technology—in managing cancer and improving both patient-reported and clinical outcomes. Dr. Penedo also conducts translational dissemination and implementation research focused on addressing unmet survivorship care needs, as well as monitoring and managing symptoms and toxicities in ambulatory oncology, leveraging advances in electronic health records (EHR) and AI technologies. He is an internationally recognized leader in cancer survivorship, psychosocial and behavioral interventions, patient-reported outcomes, and digital health.

As Director of Cancer Survivorship and Supportive Care at Sylvester, he oversees implementing supportive care standards and aligning them with translational research programs that evaluate the effects of distress screening, symptom and toxicity monitoring, and survivorship care delivery at Sylvester. He has served as President of the International Society of Behavioral Medicine, and his research and mentoring have been honored with numerous awards from prestigious organizations in his field. He is an elected fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Academy of Behavioral

Medicine Research, and the International Society of Behavioral Medicine. He has also participated in numerous NIH study sections and served as a senior associate editor and reviewer for multiple journals.

Dr. Penedo has authored over 350 peer-reviewed publications on cancer survivorship and disease management, has been continuously funded by the NIH for the past 23 years, and is a member of the NIMHD Council.

Dr. Sarah Temkin – America Cancer Society Senior Director of Early Detection



Dr. Temkin is a gynecologic oncologist who earned her medical doctorate from Georgetown University, completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and completed a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center. She worked as a clinician and a scientist in academic medicine for over two decades. She has a recognized expertise in cancer prevention and screening, clinical trials, women's health, and health equity. Prior to joining the American Cancer Society, Dr. Temkin served as a clinician expert within the Division of Cancer Prevention in the National Cancer Institute and as the Associate Director for Clinical Research within the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health.

In her work at the National Institutes of Health, she coordinated research on women's health across the agencies Institutes, Centers and Offices and provided clinical expertise on matters related to gynecologic cancer and cancer care for women.

Dr. Sue Friedman, DVM – Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE) Founder and Executive Director



Susan Friedman, DVM, was practicing small-animal veterinary medicine when she diagnosed with breast cancer at age 33, and afterwards learned she carried an inherited BRCA2 mutation. After treatment, she founded the nonprofit organization “Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered” or FORCE in 1999 to help people and families facing hereditary cancer find support and credible, relevant information and research in plain language.

As Executive Director, Sue has over 26 years of experience directing FORCE’s education, research, and advocacy programs. As an advocate, Sue has a passion for facilitating informed decision-making, improving health communication between patients and their healthcare teams and increasing health literacy in society as a whole.

Dr. Alejandra Perez, MD – UM Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Braman Family Breast Cancer Institute Medical Director



Dr. Perez completed her training in Internal Medicine at Danbury Hospital, an affiliate of Yale University School of Medicine. After completing her residency, she was appointed as Chief Resident in the ambulatory care setting. She also completed her Hematology and Oncology fellowship training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center in New York. She then brought her passion for the advancement of breast cancer care to Broward and South Florida communities, enriching them for over 25 years in both the private and academic settings.

She works with a multidisciplinary team of breast cancer experts with the goal to address each aspect of Breast Cancer care including access to state of the art clinical trials, precision treatment approaches, as well as addressing the physical, emotional, spiritual, and nutritional needs of our patients, to name a few. She has also developed the CARE (Cancer Assessment Risk Evaluation) Clinic to manage patients at high risk

of developing breast cancer. She has co-authored many manuscripts published in highly respected journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, Annals of Oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology and Breast Cancer Research. She has been the principal investigator for hundreds of breast cancer clinical trials over the years. Her innumerable outreach efforts throughout South Florida have made her a champion for women's health, and the recipient of multiple accolades and awards at the academic, regional, national, and international level including Exceptional Women in Medicine, Exceptional Achievement Award by the American Cancer Society, Hispanic Women of Distinction and Clinical Excellence Award among others.

Dr. Carmen Calfa, MD – UM Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Associate Director of Community Outreach and Medical Co-Director of the Survivorship Cancer Program



Dr. Calfa is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Associate Director of Community Outreach and Medical Co-Director of the Survivorship Cancer Program at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

She also serves as the Clinical Research Lead for the Breast Site Disease Group and Physician Leader of the Genetic Predisposition Syndrome Initiative at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Furthermore, she leads Sylvester's Multidisciplinary Survivorship Clinic Program and plays a key role in the Adolescent and Young Adult Steering Committee.

Carmen Calfa, M.D., dedicates her efforts to increasing cancer survival through access to innovative research and improving the quality of life for survivors and their caregivers. Dr. Calfa is the recipient of the Zubrod 2020 Outstanding Clinical Researcher of the Year Award and the 2020 Miami Dolphins Everyday Hero Award.

She is the institutional principal investigator for several clinical trials, and she leads the Precision Medicine Clinical Trials Initiative at Sylvester.

Dr. Calfa serves as the institutional principal investigator for the ASCO's TAPUR Study and has served as the chair of TAPUR's steering committee. She is looking forward to continuing her work with the ASCO-TAPUR team and expanding precision medicine options to patients everywhere.

She earned a medical degree from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu-Mures in Romania and has completed Internal Medicine Residency as well as

Hematology-Oncology Fellowship training at Jackson Memorial Hospital/ University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine.

***Maray Salina, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC – Memorial Cancer Institute
Director of Oncology Support Services***



Maray Salina, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC has been working in the healthcare field for over 15 years. She obtained her bachelor's in nursing from Florida International University and her master's in science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Nova Southeastern University. She is a member of the South Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (SFCCC) where she has served as the co-chair. She is an active member of the Florida Society of Clinical Oncology (FLASCO), where she serves on the board and participates in the Disparities and the Foundation Board Committees. She is an associate member of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) researching evidence-based practices regarding the wellbeing of oncology patients and their caregivers. Ms. Salina practiced as a Nurse Practitioner in the Integrative Medicine Program and Survivorship Clinic at Memorial Health Care System, where she assisted in the development and growth of the programs. She currently serves as the Director of Oncology Support Services at Memorial Cancer Institute, where she leads initiatives and a team focused on eliminating barriers in cancer care.

***Dr. Susan T. Vadaparampil, PhD MPH – Moffitt Cancer Center
Associate Center Director for Community Outreach and Engagement***



Dr. Susan Vadaparampil serves as the Associate Center Director for Community Outreach and Engagement and is a Senior Member in the Health Outcomes and

Behavior Program within the Division of Population Sciences at Moffitt Cancer Center. Her work is grounded in transdisciplinary collaboration, contributing meaningfully to both scientific literature and clinical practice.

Dr. Vadaparampil's current research focuses on breast and cervical cancer prevention, genetic risk assessment among cancer survivors, reproductive health in adolescent and young adult cancer patients, and strategies to increase participation in clinical trials.

Since 2006, her research has been continuously supported by grants from the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society.

She has authored over 370 scientific publications and co-directs Moffitt's T32 Postdoctoral Training Program in Translational Behavioral Oncology. Her exceptional contributions to cancer research and public health have been recognized through her appointment to the National Cancer Advisory Board (2020–2024) and her role as Co-Chair of the American Cancer Society's National Roundtable on Cervical Cancer in 2023.

Lainie Jones – The Early Detective



Lainie Jones is a seven-time cancer survivor and known on social media as The Early Detective. Diagnosed with cancer for the first time at 18 months old, after her third diagnosis in her twenties, found out she had Li-Fraumeni syndrome (LFS)—a rare genetic condition that predisposes her to multiple cancers. Lainie has faced adrenal carcinoma, sarcoma, breast cancer, thyroid cancer, melanoma, lung cancer, and is currently undergoing treatment for glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer.

Through it all, she remains positive the whole way, ensuring others hear her story, as she is deeply committed to the importance of early detection, prevention, and knowing one's risk—because that's what has saved her life.

For the past 13 years, Lainie has worked with the American Cancer Society, using her story to educate and empower others to take control of their health. She calls herself #TheEarlyDetective (Instagram: @theearlydetective), believing that asking questions and acting early is what continues to protect her life, time and time again.

Lainie encourages others to move past fear and “Listen to your body, if something isn't right, act. You know your body best. Educate yourself—that is your power, and cancer can't have it.”

Loretta Erhunmwunsee, M.D., F.A.C.S – City of Hope National Medical Center Vice President & Chief Health Access & Community Enrichment Officer



Loretta Erhunmwunsee, M.D., F.A.C.S., is the Vice President and Chief Health Access and Community Enrichment Officer at City of Hope (COH) Medical Center where she leads the development and implementation of strategy that addresses health disparities and that fosters inclusion across the COH enterprise. She is a trained thoracic surgeon-scientist who leads a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded R37 grant investigating the impact of social determinants of health on cancer biology and recurrence rates in underserved lung cancer patients. Through her leadership and dedication, she continues to drive progress in reducing cancer disparities, creating more equitable healthcare systems, and improving outcomes for historically marginalized populations.

Dr. Duane Mitchell – UF Assistant Vice President for Research, Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Sciences, Director of the UF Clinical Translational Science Institute, and Co-Director of the Preston A. Wells, Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy



Dr. Mitchell leads a comprehensive neuro-oncology program focused on comprehensive brain tumor care and translational research and is a leading expert in the development of innovative immunotherapy treatments for adults and children with malignant brain tumors. He has pioneered many novel brain tumor immunotherapies that have been translated into first-in-human clinical trials and multi-center phase 2 studies. Dr. Mitchell is an inventor on over 25 patents for novel cancer therapeutics, has received over \$40

million in research awards and has been continuously funded and supported by the NIH, the Department of Defense, and numerous private foundations since 2002.

***Dr. Jonathan D. Licht – University of Florida Health Cancer Center
Director and Marshall E. Rinker, Sr. Chair***



Jonathan D. Licht, M.D., has served as director of the University of Florida Health Cancer Center since late 2015, holding the Marshall E. Rinker, Sr. Chair. Previously, Dr. Licht was professor and chief of hematology/oncology at Northwestern University and chief of hematology/oncology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Licht led the University of Florida to become the 72nd National Cancer Institute designated cancer center in June 2023.

Dr. Licht's laboratory studies aberrant gene regulation as a cause of blood and other cancers and is developing treatment strategies to reverse abnormal, cancer-causing gene function. Dr. Licht's cancer career spans over three decades, and his research program is distinguished by over 30 years of continuous NCI and national foundation funding. Dr. Licht leads a Specialized Center of Research program from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He is principal investigator of four NCI R01 grants. Dr. Licht has authored more than 220 original articles, reviews and book chapters, and his work has been cited more than 33,000 times. He has trained over a dozen Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. students and more than 30 postdoctoral fellows who have gone on to positions in academia and industry. He has recruited and mentored numerous clinical and basic research faculty members. In recognition of his mentorship skills, he received the 2021 American Society of Hematology Basic Sciences Mentor Award. Dr. Licht served as an associate editor of *Oncogene* and on the Editorial Boards of *Cancer Blood Discovery*, *Cancer Research*, *Clinical Cancer Research* and *Clinical Epigenetics*. In 2023 he became the founding Editor-in Chief of *Blood Neoplasia*.

Dr. Licht has served in key positions in the American Society of Hematology (councilor, co-director of the ASH/European Hematology Association Translational Training in Hematology), the American Association for Cancer Research (chair, Taskforce of Hematological Malignancies), and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (Chair, Medical Scientific Board). He has chaired the review panel for Specialized Center grants of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, sat on the NCI Board of Scientific Counselors and served as chair of the Biochemical of the Mechanisms of Cancer Therapy-I study section of NIH.

Dr. Michael Hall – Fox Chase Cancer Center Department of Clinical Genetics Chair and Cancer Prevention and Control Co-Director

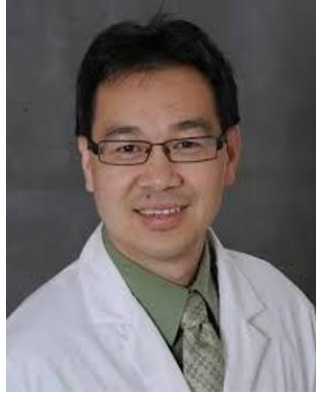


Dr. Hall's primary research focus is clinical research involving individuals at increased genetic risk of gastrointestinal malignancies via survey, large data set secondary analyses, and intervention studies.

In addition to his research expertise, he brings his involvement and leadership in oncology and hereditary risk/prevention to the CPC program. He has served multiple terms on the GI ASCO and ASCO Annual Meeting scientific and education committees, and has contributed to development of educational/training materials, and testing guidelines in genetics for ASCO. He is a member of the NCCN Colorectal Cancer Genetics guidelines committee, and has co-authored Lynch syndrome-specific practice guidelines with the National Society of Genetic counselors, served as an Associate editor of Translational Behavioral Medicine, and currently serves on the editorial board of JCO Precision Oncology. Dr. Hall previously served as a 6-year member and Chair of the ACS Health Services Policy Prevention study section, and as a 3-year member of the ASCO Conquer Cancer study section. He is an active member of the ECOG ACRIN GI research committee, and was the 2019 President of the Collaborative Group of the Americas on Hereditary Cancers.

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Hall has mentored over 10 undergraduates, medical students, and junior faculty who have gone on to careers in medicine, research, and scientific academia. And through the Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Gastrointestinal Cancers, he has participated in career and research mentoring programs for medical students, fellows, genetic counselors, and junior faculty interested in a career and research focused on GI hereditary cancer risks.

Dr. Tim Nguyen, MD – Cleveland Clinic Florida Medical Oncologist



Dr. Tim Nguyen is a Medical Oncologist, specializing in treating patients with gastrointestinal and gynecological cancer at the Cleveland Clinic Florida. He's received medical training in Adelaide, Australia and University of Florida, Jacksonville and has practiced at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston, West Palm Beach, and Vero Beach. Dr. Nguyen is particularly interested in the multidisciplinary tumor board, clinical research, and cancer survivorship. In his personal life, Dr. Nguyen enjoys spending time with wife and three children, and going on long road trips.

Dr. Haneen Abdella



Dr. Abdella is a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. She treats patients with various cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma and solid tumors such as sarcomas, neuroblastoma, kidney, liver and germ cell tumors. She also specializes in benign blood disorders, sickle cell disease, thalassemia and bleeding disorders.

One of her favorite parts of the job is forming personal relationships with patients and their families as she guides them through these very difficult challenges. Together, they decide on treatment regimens, which are always grounded in evidence-based medicine. Most importantly, she emphasizes clear, compassionate communication to ensure a positive and effective patient experience. Her patients inspire her with their courage, resilience and trust.

Dr. Abdella also looks beyond the patient's experience during therapy and examine the late effects that can occur in survivors long after their treatment. At Nicklaus Children's Hospital, she was the founder and director of the Survivor Late Effects Program, which

involved a multidisciplinary team that provided cancer survivors with support services and future surveillance plans to make sure that they thrive as they grow into adulthood. Throughout her career, she's also held multiple leadership positions involving medical education and quality improvement. Dr. Abdella was the quality control physician for the Cancer Committee for nine years and the associate director of the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Fellowship at Nicklaus Children's Hospital. As a result of her commitment to medical education, she was humbled to receive two awards: the Dr. Marielys Rodriguez-Varela Compassion in Medicine Award in June 2022 and the Attending Physician of the Year Award in June 2023.

Dr. Abdella believes it is also essential that hematologist oncologists are actively involved with the Children's Oncology Group (COG), the foundation of research and innovation in pediatric cancer care. As a member, she along with the team determine which oncology patients qualify for available COG clinical trials which could provide innovative opportunities in their care and increase our knowledge to help future children. She is also involved in research investigating the feasibility and clinical utility of ex-vivo drug testing to potentially improve outcomes in relapsed cancers.