

SPEAKER BIOS – CANCER SURVIVORSHIP: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL (11.03.16)



Wendy Baer, MD
Medical Director, Psychiatric Oncology
Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University

Wendy Baer, MD, is Medical Director of Psychiatric Oncology with appointments in the Departments of Psychiatry, Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. Dr. Baer helps patients and families deal with the stress of receiving a cancer diagnosis and of subsequent treatment. As a psychiatrist, she has expertise in treating clinical depression and anxiety both with medications and psychotherapy to help people manage emotions, behaviors and relationships. The fundamental goal of Dr. Baer's practice is to promote wellness and maximize patients' quality of life. Dr. Baer attended medical school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed her residency in Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to moving to Atlanta, she worked at the Swedish Cancer Institute in Seattle, WA.



Lanell M. Bellury, PhD, RN, AOCNS, OCN
Associate Professor and Project Director,
Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant: Dedicated to Diversity
Scholar, Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy
Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, Mercer University, Atlanta

Lanell M. Bellury received a BSN from the Medical College of Georgia, a Master of Nursing in Adult Health Oncology from Emory University, and a PhD in Nursing from the University of Utah, College of Nursing. An Associate Professor of Nursing at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University, her research addresses the needs of older cancer survivors: primarily examining predictors of physical function and bothersome symptoms in survivors of breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer. She is certified as an Advanced Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist and an Oncology Certified Nurse. She is a 2016 Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Faculty Leader Scholar and has received multiple scholarships and awards including the 2015 Distinguished Faculty of the Year award from Georgia Baptist College of Nursing.



Dennis Buttimer, MS
Clinical Counselor and Coach, Chapman Cancer Wellness Center,
Piedmont Healthcare System
Principal, Atlanta Center for Mindfulness and Wellbeing

Dennis Buttimer has coached individuals, couples and executives over the past thirty-five years to help them attain their life and relationship aspirations. At the Chapman Cancer Wellness Center, he works with cancer patients, survivors, and families, developing and facilitating integrative medicine workshops, humor workshops, stress management seminars, and groups for couples, men with cancer, and caregivers support. He is the co-author of *CALM: Choosing To Live Mindfully* as well as *Mindfulness, Yoga, and Compassion: Clinical Interventions for Stress, Anxiety, and Depression*. He has B.A. in Psychology from the University of Georgia and a Master's degree in Counseling from Georgia State University. He is an Emory University- Certified Coach, a Certified Employee Assistance Professional, a Registered Yoga Teacher and a mindfulness meditation teacher.



Rachel Cannady, BS
Strategic Director, Cancer Caregiver Support,
American Cancer Society

Rachel Cannady is the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Strategic Director of Cancer Caregiver Support, serving as the knowledge expert for caregiver initiatives and activities. She is responsible for developing a nationwide strategic framework for coordinating, communicating, and integrating interdisciplinary and inter-organizational cancer caregiver research and program dissemination and implementation. During her 16-year tenure, she's also worked in the Behavioral Research Center, managing the nation's largest, longitudinal dyadic studies of quality of life among cancer survivors and their caregivers. With 36 scientific publications and more than 100 presentations made from ACS-funded data, she has been the ACS point-person for content in caregiver quality of life and adjustment outcomes. In a dual appointment with ACS Cancer Control and the CDC, Rachel served as a Behavioral Scientist for The National Cancer Survivorship Resource Center, assisting in the creation of post-treatment survivorship care guidelines for primary care clinicians, conducting a comprehensive gap analysis on the informational resources available to post-treatment survivors, and collaborating with national partners to advance awareness of the programmatic and service needs of the post-treatment survivorship population. She has a BS in Psychology from Georgia State University.



Kate Canterbury, MPA
Director, Oncology Quality
Northside Hospital Cancer Institute

As Director of Oncology Quality at the Northside Hospital Cancer Institute (NHCI), Kate Canterbury provides administrative and strategic oversight for the Department of Oncology Quality, which includes the cancer registry, Multidisciplinary Care Teams, disease-specific programs, and oncology-related accreditations, certifications, and designations. Prior to joining NHCI, she was a Managing Senior Associate at Oncology Solutions, assisting clients with strategic, operational, and financial opportunities for improved performance and long-term growth. Her professional career began with the Georgia Cancer Coalition, where she served as Director of Research Programs, overseeing the State Income Tax Check-Off program and the Distinguished Cancer Scholars program. She is active in numerous state and national oncology organizations and is published in the field of oncology quality and disease-specific program development. In addition, she assists in the development of community-based strategic partnerships focused on expanding capacity to provide underserved patient populations with access to high quality oncology prevention, screening, detection, treatment, and supportive care services. Ms. Canterbury has a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a specialization in Nonprofit Management from Georgia State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Lynn M. Durham
Assistant Vice President and Chief of Staff
Office of the President
Georgia Institute of Technology
Co-Chair GA CORE Survivorship Advisory Board

Lynn Durham is the assistant vice president and chief of staff to the President of the Georgia Institute of Technology. She serves as a senior advisor to the president and a member of the President's Cabinet. Prior to coming to Georgia Tech, Lynn began her career as a congressional staff member then as a researcher and writer for the respected political newsletter, The Tennessee Journal. She earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Radford University and a Master of Public Administration from Kennesaw State University. At Georgia Tech, she has taught a freshman seminar class for six years and has chaired the President's task forces on Mental Health and Sexual Violence Prevention. Lynn is a member of Leadership Georgia's Class of 2013, the Rotary Club of East Cobb and recently served as the co-chair of the Survivorship Advisory Board for the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (GA CORE). She will join the Georgia CORE Board of Directors in November. She is a two-time cancer survivor and is the mother of teenage twins.



Kelly Erola, MD, FAAHPM, FAAFP
Hospice Savannah Chief Medical Officer
Palliative Medicine Steward Center for Palliative Care

Dr. Erola is a board certified Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician. She is the Chief Medical Officer for Hospice Savannah and The Steward Center for Palliative Care in Savannah, Georgia. Dr. Erola has been involved full-time in palliative medicine since 2002. She graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, with a degree in Physical Therapy and later pursued her medical degree at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. She completed her Family Medicine residency in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Erola is the chair of the GC3 palliative care working group; member of the ethics committees and cancer committees at Memorial Medical Center and St. Joseph's/Candler health systems in Savannah, Georgia; Clinical Assistant Professor for Mercer University medical school and Augusta University (MCG); chair of the Chatham County Board of Health; President of the Georgia Medical Society; and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Memorial.



Cam Escoffery, PhD, MPH, CHES
Associate Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health
Education at Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University

Dr. Escoffery is an Associate Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University. Her areas of interest are health promotion, implementation science and cancer prevention and control. She has studied the prevention of cancer to evaluate the special events for cancer promotion, use of evidence-based intervention among cancer serving organizations, and patient education and self-management needs through NIH and CDC grants. She is a member of the Cancer Prevention and Control program of the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University.



Anand P. Jillella, MD
Associate Director for Community Outreach, Winship Cancer Institute
Professor, Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Emory
University School of Medicine

In his role as Winship Associate Director of Community Outreach, Dr. Jillella leads the efforts of the Winship Cancer Network and expands Winship's role in bringing clinical and population-based cancer research to communities throughout Georgia and surrounding states. Dr. Jillella's primary clinical interest is in the area of bone marrow transplantation with specific emphasis on patients with leukemia, multiple myeloma, and other blood-related malignancies. He received his Doctor of Medicine from the Government Medical College in Kurnool, India. He completed a rotating internship in Kurnool, followed by an internship at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, MD, where he focused on pediatrics and internal medicine. He completed his residency at the Medical College of Georgia, and a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the Yale University School of Medicine. His research focus is in Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL), has now received approval as an ECOG trial. The plan is to make this a global initiative.



Janice McKenzie-Crayton, MA
Board Member, Susan G. Komen of Greater Atlanta
Chief Executive Officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta

Janice McKenzie-Crayton is a three-time breast cancer survivor and member of the Board of Directors of Susan G. Komen of Greater Atlanta. She is part of Komen Atlanta's Sisters of Promise, a group of prominent African American women who serve as ambassadors to aggressively and proactively ensure access to good information. For 20 years, she has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta (BBBSMA), one of the largest and oldest mentoring programs in the south serving 12 metro Atlanta counties and approximately 2,500 children. Prior to joining Big Brothers Big Sisters, Janice was the Vice-President for Development at Spelman College and held positions with Howard University, Hampton University and the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Howard University.



Susan McLendon, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC
Rural Community Health Nurse Specialist
Meadows Regional Medical Center
Southeast Georgia

Susan McLendon is a community health nurse specialist at Meadows Regional Medical Center, dedicated to serving the poor in her community who don't have access to healthcare. On behalf of her organization, she has applied for and won several grants, including the Georgia Breast Cancer License Tag grant, to connect indigent women with the resources they need. She has an MS in Nursing from Georgia Southern University and is continuing her education at the University of Alabama. McLendon needed resources of her own when she was diagnosed with Stage III breast cancer.



Pooja Mishra, MBA, MHA, FACHE
Executive Director,
Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence
Grady Health System

Pooja Mishra is the Executive Director of the Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence at the Grady Health System, the fifth largest public hospital in the United States. As such, she is responsible for leading accreditation and compliance, programmatic growth and operational and strategic initiatives. She has extensive management experience in Atlanta's healthcare community, most recently with the Wellstar Health System and Kennestone Regional Medical Center in Marietta, where she served as Director of Oncology Operations for five years, achieving Commission on Cancer Gold commendation for the system. Pooja has a BS in Business Management from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee and an MS in both Business Administration and Healthcare Administration from Georgia State University. She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Matthew P. Mumber, MD
Radiation Oncologist, Harbin Clinic, Rome
Co-Director, Harbin Integrative Oncology
Program Founder, Cancer Navigators, Inc.

Matt Mumber MD is a practicing, board certified radiation oncologist with the Harbin Clinic in Rome, Georgia. He earned undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Virginia, completed his radiation oncology residency at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, and graduated from the Associate Fellowship Program in Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona. He serves as the Medical Advisor of local and regional cancer initiatives through the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), which also supports his Integrative Oncology research as a Distinguished Scientist. In 2002, he founded Cancer Navigators Inc., a non-profit that provides nurse, education and service navigation for those touched by cancer. He also facilitates residential retreats for cancer patients and physicians. In the publishing arena, he's on the editorial board for the Journal of Oncology Practice, he edited "Integrative Oncology: Principles and Practice," and in 2012 published "Sustainable Wellness, An Integrative Approach to Transform Your Mind, Body and Spirit." He has been recognized with the Hamilton Jordan Founders Award for involvement in statewide oncology activities and was named a Health Care Hero by Georgia Trend. A Past-President of the Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology, the ASCO state society, he now serves on ASCO's Clinical Practice Committee. He is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Living School for Action and Contemplation through the Rohr Institute.



Christopher Parker, MBBS, MPH
Associate Project Director, Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC)
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University

Dr. Chris Parker is an Associate Project Director at the Georgia Health Policy Center in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University. He has played a pivotal role in many of the Center's projects related to public health and program evaluation. He is a skilled facilitator who has

guided significant number of multi-sector, state and local organizational strategic and evaluation plans. Over the past decade, he has helped guide the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium in providing oversight to cancer control activities across the state. He is Co-PI for the *Bridging for Health Initiative*, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and leads the Center's growing healthcare workforce portfolio with a focus on Georgia's primary care assets and implications for policy action to address gaps in light of the Affordable Care Act. Chris is a graduate from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University where he completed his MPH degree, with an emphasis on Health Policy and Management. As a trained family physician and prostate cancer survivor, who has worked with underserved populations and faith-based organizations, he brings a wealth of personal and clinical experiences to his understanding of public health issues and practice.



Angie Patterson, BA
Vice President, Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education

Four years after being diagnosed with breast cancer, she left the corporate world, BellSouth Technology, to pursue a career where she could make a concerted effort to strengthen cancer prevention, research and treatment in Georgia. Since then, she has been a devoted advocate for cancer survivors, actively publishing and presenting on the subject. She co-founded Cancer Patient Navigators of Georgia, the first statewide organization connecting professionals who guide individuals and their families through the cancer care continuum. She co-chairs Georgia's Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan Steering Team, and has served on the steering teams for the Georgia Pain Initiative and LIVESTRONG Survivorship Centers of Excellence Network. She's on the Advisory Board for the University of Georgia Computer Sciences and for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Survivor Link and on the National Patient Advocate Foundation's Elite Presidential Council. She earned her BA in computer science at the University of Georgia.



Andrew W. Pippas, MD
Chairman, Georgia Center for Oncology Research & Education
Director of Clinical Oncology Research, John B Amos Cancer Center, Columbus

Dr. Andrew Pippas is medical director and director of clinical oncology research with the John B. Amos Cancer Center in Columbus, Georgia. Dr. Pippas' research interests include gastrointestinal malignancies. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Utah, School of Medicine in Salt Lake City, and completed his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in medical oncology/hematology at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. He is board-certified in Medical Oncology. Dr. Pippas is a recipient of the National Institutes of Health's Physician Scientist Award. He is an active member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Society of Hematology.



Pamela Proman, MBA, BSRT (T)
Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives
Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion
St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital
Savannah

Pam Proman serves as the Director of Operations and Strategic Initiatives for the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion at St. Joseph's/Candler (SJC), Savannah, GA. She received her bachelor's degree in science from Armstrong Atlantic State University in 2002. Pam continued her studies and received a master's degree in business administration from South University in 2015. Her oversight spans daily operations of two radiation oncology centers as well as key initiatives for the SJC Oncology Services, i.e., radiation clinical trials, SJC Quality, patient satisfaction, oncology revenue cycle, navigation and survivorship services as well as strategic planning. She has fifteen years of experience in the field of radiation oncology including thirteen years in a leadership role. Under her progressive leadership, she has successfully transitioned the radiation oncology program from a private practice setting to a hospital based program; launched the Cyber Knife service; and developed a complete paperless environment in her department.



Karuna Ramachandran, MA, Ed.M.
Health Programs Director, Center for Pan Asian Community Services Inc.

Karuna Ramachandran serves as Health Programs Director for the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS). She is a counselor by training and has worked with community-based nonprofits in Atlanta and New York City for the last 10 years. She is passionate about providing culturally and linguistically sound chronic disease and cancer prevention, youth development, adult professional development, community coalition building, and alcohol and drug prevention programs.



Brian M. Rivers, PhD, MPH
Director, Cancer Program and Associate Professor
Department of Community Health and Preventative Medicine
Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. Rivers is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine and Cancer Research Program Director at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). He is Co-PI of the NCI-funded Cancer Research Partnership between MSM, Tuskegee University, and UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. A nationally and internationally recognized leader in cancer disparities research, he currently serves as a member of the NIH National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NACMHD). He was recently elected to the Minorities in Cancer Research Council of the American Association for Cancer Research. His specific training and expertise is in health behavior research methodologies for addressing health disparities. His research focuses on prostate cancer disparities among African Americans and the role of novel communication interventions, such as mobile health technology. He's developed several mobile health applications to assist with the delivery of salient and tailored cancer information to African Americans through psycho-educational interventions. Currently, he's leading several trials funded by PCORI and NIH to evaluate and characterize this app usage. He is an active member in the AACR community and regularly serves on the faculty for the Scientist to Survivor program.



Rebecca Palpant Shimkets, M.S.
Associate Director, The Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism
The Carter Center Mental Health Program

Rebecca Palpant Shimkets is the Associate Director for *The Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism* at The Carter Center Mental Health Program in Atlanta, Georgia. In keeping with former First Lady Rosalynn Carter's mental health issues advocacy, the program encourages public policy and stigma reduction by awarding stipends to professional journalists who produce significant projects relating to those issues. Ms. Palpant Shimkets was instrumental in developing the program in South Africa, Romania, Colombia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. She is an active participant on advisory boards and national and international work groups related to stigma and accurate portrayals of mental illnesses in the media. She serves as a U.S. member of the Global Alliance for Stigma Reduction and the Committee on the Science of Changing Behavioral Health Social Norms for The National Academies. She has published in *Global Health Magazine*, *JAMA*, *MMWR*, *Huffington Post*, and *Everyday Health*. Ms. Palpant Shimkets is a two-time cancer survivor.



Tobyanne Sidman
Retired Businesswoman
Cancer Community Activist

Tobyanne Sidman and her husband, Arnold, are longtime Atlanta residents and retired business owners, who are also both cancer survivors. He had kidney cancer in 1982 and she had breast cancer in 1989. This life experience motivated her to become engaged in organizations that work to eradicate cancer. She was the Founding Member and Past President of the Georgia Breast Cancer Coalition Fund; a former member of The Health Strategies Council of Georgia; and Coordinator of the former Cancer Survivor Leadership Council of Georgia. Today, she is a member of Georgia's Comprehensive Cancer Control (GC3) Plan Steering Team and has served on the GC3 Survivorship working group since 2013. In 2014, she was invited to serve on the Georgia CORE Survivorship Advisory Board.



Kevin Stein, PhD
Vice President, Behavioral Research
Director, Behavioral Research Center
American Cancer Society

Dr. Kevin Stein is Vice President of Behavioral Research for the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the Director of the ACS Behavioral Research Center (BRC) in Atlanta, whose original research strives to reduce cancer disparities, modify cancer risk behaviors, and improve cancer outcomes and quality of life among cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, and the general population. BRC research informs the development and implementation of evidence-based interventions that directly address quality of life and health behaviors. Dr. Stein was formerly Director of Survivorship and Quality of Life Research at ACS. He is the Principal Investigator of the American Cancer Society's Study of Cancer Survivors and has authored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Stein received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Florida and Master's and Doctoral degrees in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Florida. He interned at the James A. Haley Veterans'

Hospital in Tampa, Florida and completed a three-year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Psychosocial Oncology at the Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute.



Winifred Wilkins Thompson, PhD, MSW
Research Assistant Professor
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

A Research Assistant Professor at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, Winifred Wilkins Thompson, PhD, MSW, is the Principal Investigator (PI) of three projects at Grady Health System and Co-Investigator of the Atlanta Clinical & Translational Science Institute Community Engagement Research Program. At Grady, she is PI on the *Avon Foundation Community Education and Outreach Initiative Patient Navigation Program*; *Health Needs Assessment of Metastatic Breast Cancer Patients and Healthcare Providers*; and *Addressing Triple Negative Breast Cancer in the African-American and Caribbean Communities through Education, Navigation and Screening*. She was recently PI on the *Georgia CORE Cancer Survivorship Connection Website Process Evaluation* and Co-Investigator of the *Prospective Surveillance Model for Physical Rehabilitation for Women with Breast Cancer Program*. Dr. Thompson earned a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina (USC) in Health Promotion, Education, & Behavior and a graduate certificate in Women's Studies/Women's Health. She earned her BS in Educational Psychology and MSW from the University of Georgia. She teaches Research Design, Grant Writing, Community Engagement, Community Needs Assessment and Health Disparities in Research.



Domingo Valpuesta, MBA, MSHA
Director, Oncology Services, Gwinnett Medical Center

Born and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida, Domingo received his undergraduate degree from Auburn University and earned an MBA and MSHA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After graduate school, he completed an administrative fellowship at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston Salem, North Carolina, where he was exposed to the field of oncology when he became the Business Manager of Radiation Oncology. He moved into the position of Cancer Center Director at DCH Health System in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, a certified member of the MD Anderson Cancer Network. While at DCH, he developed navigation, survivorship and led the health system to become the first QOPI certified center in the state of Alabama. He joined Gwinnett Medical Center in 2014.