

Inaugural  
Robert L. Comis, MD  
Translational Science Symposium



Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in ECOG-ACRIN:  
Directions for Cancer Research

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Thursday, October 24, 2019  
12:00 – 3:30 PM  
Marriott Harbor Beach Hotel  
Grand Ballroom E & F – 3rd Floor  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida



# Speakers

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## Naomi Allen, BSc, MSc, DPhil

*UK Biobank / University of Oxford*

Dr. Allen is Co-Chief Scientist for UK Biobank and Professor of Epidemiology at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford. She has been involved in the UK Biobank project since 2011 and is responsible for coordinating the linkage of routine electronic health records into the study for long-term follow-up.



## Regina Barzilay, PhD

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*

Dr. Barzilay is a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a member of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at MIT. Her research interests are in natural language processing. Currently, Dr. Barzilay is focused on bringing the power of machine learning to oncology.



## Keith Flaherty, MD

*Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center*

Dr. Flaherty is Director of Clinical Research at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is the ECOG-ACRIN Study Chair of the NCI-MATCH trial, and serves ECOG-ACRIN as Chair of the Developmental Therapeutics Committee as well as Deputy Chair for the Biomarker Sciences Program.

# Speakers

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## Gad Getz, PhD

*Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard / Harvard Medical School / Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center*

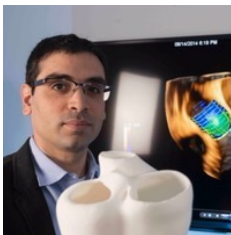
Dr. Getz is a Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School. He is on the faculty and Director of Bioinformatics at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and Department of Pathology, and is an institute member of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, where he directs the Cancer Genome Computational Analysis Group.



## Stanley Hamilton, MD

*The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (UTMDACC)*

Dr. Hamilton is a gastrointestinal and molecular pathologist who is Professor and Head of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UTMDACC since 1998. Dr. Hamilton has administrative responsibility for the clinical laboratories at UTMDACC.



## Tommaso Mansi, PhD

*Siemens Medical Solutions, USA, Inc.*

Dr. Mansi is currently Senior Director of R&D for Siemens Healthineers, Digital Technology and Innovation, in Princeton, NJ, a position he has held since 2016. Dr. Mansi joined Siemens Healthineers in 2010, just after his PhD at Sophia Antipolis, France, in biomedical engineering. Dr. Mansi is expert in medical image analysis, computational modeling and artificial intelligence, with publications in top-tier international conferences and journals.

# Speakers

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## Neal Meropol, MD

*Flatiron Health*

Dr. Meropol is a medical oncologist, clinical investigator and health outcomes researcher who serves as Vice President of Research Oncology at Flatiron Health. In this role, he leads efforts to leverage Flatiron's technology platforms and nationwide provider network to gain insights from real-world data that accelerate research and improve quality of care for cancer patients.



## Peter O'Dwyer, MD

*University of Pennsylvania*

Dr. O'Dwyer is a medical oncologist and Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He also serves as Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program at Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Since 2017, Dr. O'Dwyer has served as Co-Chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group.



## Joel Saltz, MD, PhD

*Stony Brook University*

Dr. Saltz is the Cherith Professor and Founding Chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics and Vice President for Clinical Informatics at Stony Brook University School of Medicine. He is also Associate Director of the Stony Brook Cancer Center. Dr. Saltz is a leader in research on advanced information technologies for large scale data science and biomedical/scientific research and has developed innovative pathology informatics methods.

# Speakers

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## Matthew Schabath, PhD

*Moffitt Cancer Center*

Dr. Schabath is an associate member at the Moffitt Cancer Center with joint appointments in the Departments of Cancer Epidemiology and Thoracic Oncology. Dr. Schabath has expertise in molecular epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, quantitative imaging, and health disparities.



## Mitchell Schnall, MD, PhD

*University of Pennsylvania*

Dr. Schnall is the Eugene P. Pendergrass Professor of Radiology and the Chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Schnall was one of the architects of the merger of ECOG and ACRIN to form the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group. He has served as Group Co-Chair since 2012.



## Larry Shulman, MD

*University of Pennsylvania*

Dr. Shulman is Professor of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine, Deputy Director for Clinical Services at the Abramson Cancer Center, and Director of the Center for Global Cancer Medicine all at the University of Pennsylvania.



## Adam Yala, PhD Candidate

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*

Adam Yala is a PhD Candidate at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and works at the intersection of machine learning and oncology.

# About Dr. Comis

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**Robert L. Comis, MD** was an innovative researcher who recognized the potential for translational research to advance cancer prevention, detection, and treatment. His interest in oncology began early in his career at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) when he was sent to Uganda to provide chemotherapy to children suffering from

Burkitt's lymphoma. After a fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, he embarked on a career focused on lung cancer and developmental therapeutics. He built centers of excellence in the research and treatment of cancer, first in Syracuse then at Fox Chase Cancer Center and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

Some of the most important national late-stage clinical trials were conducted under his leadership as Chair of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG). He led the Group from 1995–2012, spearheading scores of scientific discoveries that changed clinical practice across multiple types of cancer.

Dr. Comis envisioned the merger that resulted in the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group in 2012. He led the effort to coalesce the new group into what it is today: a scientific community of researchers in cancer biology, immunology, therapeutics, molecular and imaging diagnostics, and comparative effectiveness and patient-reported outcomes research, as well as bioinformatics and biostatistical expertise.

A giant in the field, he was a tireless advocate for patient access to trials and a champion for underserved populations. As a mentor, he helped launch many careers by fostering scientific inquiry among early-career oncologists. Many of his trainees are the new leaders in the field, and will perpetuate his legacy.