

About the Symposium and Dr. Comis

The ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group (ECOG-ACRIN) hosts the **Robert L. Comis, MD Translational Science Symposium** at its semiannual Group Meetings. This plenary symposium is open to all attendees. The overall goal of the event is to seed ideas for ECOG-ACRIN's various scientific committees to explore within and across its scientific programs. Each symposium offers a focused examination of a particular field of scientific opportunity.



Robert L. Comis, MD was an innovative researcher who recognized the potential for translational research to advance cancer prevention, detection, and treatment. Some of the most important national late-stage clinical trials were conducted under his leadership of the Group (1995-2017). He spearheaded scores of scientific discoveries that changed clinical practice across

multiple types of cancer. ECOG-ACRIN is pleased to honor him through this event.

Dr. Comis' 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.

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 carry on his legacy.



Robert L. Comis, MD Translational Science Symposium

I/O, I/O, Now Where Do We Go?

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

4:00 – 5:50 PM

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
5th Floor, Salon D
Chicago, IL

 **ECOG-ACRIN**
cancer research group

Agenda

4:00 PM	Welcome	Peter J. O'Dwyer, MD and Mitchell D. Schnall, MD, PhD <i>University of Pennsylvania and ECOG-ACRIN</i>
	I/O, I/O, It's Off to Work We Go!	
4:05 PM	Cancer Immune Monitoring and Analysis Centers (CIMACs): How They Can Support ECOG-ACRIN Investigators?	Ignacio I. Wistuba, MD <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>
4:15 PM	Precision Immuno-Oncology, the Path to Personalized Assays and Therapies	Alexander C. Huang <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
4:25 PM	Beyond PD1/PDL1: What Will It Take to Move the Needle?	Christine M. Lovly, MD, PhD <i>Vanderbilt University</i>
4:35 PM	Guiding Cancer Immunotherapy with PET Imaging	Michael Farwell, MD <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
4:45 PM	Radiomics for Immuno-Oncology: Analysis of EA5163 /INSIGNA Trial	Anant Madabhushi, PhD <i>Emory University</i>
4:55 PM	Tracing the Genomic Fingerprints of Tumor Evolution: Translational Genomics for Precision Immuno-Oncology	Valsamo Anagnostou, MD, PhD <i>Johns Hopkins University</i>
5:05 PM	Panel Discussion	All Speakers
	Moderator: David A. Mankoff, MD, PhD <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	Heather A. Wakelee, MD <i>Stanford University</i> Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD <i>Weill Cornell Medicine</i>
5:40 PM	Summation	Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD

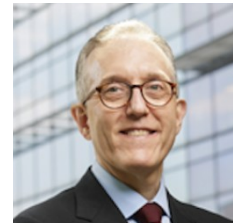
Speakers



Ignacio I. Wistuba, MD

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Wistuba is Professor and Chair of the Department of Translational Molecular Pathology with joint appointment in the Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology, and Co-Director of the Khalifa Institute of Personalized Cancer Therapy at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He is also the Director of the Thoracic Molecular Pathology Laboratory, Director of the UT Lung Specialized Programs of Research Excellence Tissue Bank, Director of the ECOG-ACRIN Central Biorepository and Pathology Facility, Pathologist for the SWOG Lung Cancer Committee and the Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium, and Co-Director of the pre-CLIA Genomic Testing Developmental Laboratory. He is associate editor of *Annals of Oncology* and *Cancer Prevention Research*.

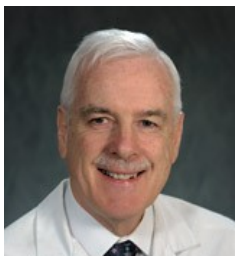


Jedd D. Wolchok, MD, PhD

Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Wolchok is the Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center and Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. He is a clinician-scientist exploring innovative immunotherapeutic strategies in laboratory models, and a principal investigator of numerous pivotal clinical trials. Dr. Wolchok helped establish immunotherapy as a standard approach to cancer treatment and was instrumental in the clinical development leading to the approval of ipilimumab and the combination of nivolumab and ipilimumab for advanced melanoma. He supervises an NIH R01-funded basic science laboratory that is focused on investigating novel immunotherapeutic agents in pre-clinical laboratory models. The focus of his translational research laboratory is to investigate innovative means to modulate the immune response to cancer as well as to better understand the mechanistic basis for sensitivity and resistance to currently available immunotherapies.

Speakers



Peter J. O'Dwyer, MD

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. O'Dwyer is the co-chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group, a medical oncologist at Penn Medicine, and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the CEO and Chair of the PrECOG, LLC Board of Managers and President of the ECOG Research and Education Foundation. Dr. O'Dwyer's research focus is in the area of novel therapy development, primarily in pancreatic and colorectal cancers.



Mitchell D. Schnall, MD, PhD

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Schnall is the co-chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group, a physician at Penn Medicine within its Abdominal Imaging Services program, and the Eugene P. Pendergrass Professor of Radiology and Chair of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania. He is an international leader in translational biomedical and imaging research.

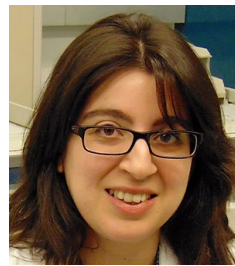


Heather A. Wakelee, MD

Stanford University

Dr. Wakelee is a Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Oncology at Stanford University and Deputy Director of the Stanford Cancer Institute. She serves as the President of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and she is a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. As an experienced lung cancer investigator, Dr. Wakelee has authored or co-authored over 200 medical articles on lung cancer and thymic malignancies and is involved in dozens of clinical trials involving adjuvant therapy, immunotherapy (particularly the use of immunotherapy in the peri-operative setting for NSCLC), and anti-angiogenesis agents. Her research additionally is focused on many specific lung cancer subtypes defined by mutations in *EGFR*, *ALK*, *ROS1*, *RET*, *BRAF* and other relevant genes.

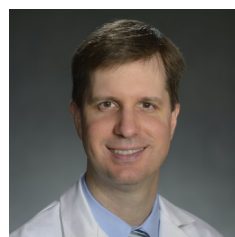
Speakers



Valsamo Anagnostou, MD, PhD

Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Anagnostou is an Associate Professor of Oncology, Director of the Thoracic Oncology Biorepository and co-leader of the Molecular Tumor Board and the Thoracic Oncology Precision Medicine Center of Excellence at Johns Hopkins University. She has established the Molecular Oncology Laboratory that seeks to understand the genomic wiring of response and resistance to immunotherapy through integrative genomic, transcriptomic, single-cell and liquid biopsy analyses of tumor and immune evolution. Her group has discovered novel mechanisms of response and resistance to immunotherapy and is also developing liquid biopsy assays that capture the dynamics of response and may more accurately predict emergence of resistance to immunotherapy. She is the international study chair of the first ctDNA-based molecular response adaptive immuno-chemotherapy clinical trial for metastatic NSCLC. Her long-term goal is to transform medical oncology to personalized molecular oncology, where treatment decisions are tailored not only to baseline genotypes but are also informed by real-time dynamics of liquid biopsies.



Michael Farwell, MD

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Farwell is an Assistant Professor of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania. He runs a translational research laboratory focused on the development of new methods for tracking cellular therapies and imaging the immune response to cancer immunotherapy via PET. He serves as principal investigator on several clinical trials that utilize imaging biomarkers to guide more effective individualized treatment for cancer, including a trial to evaluate if an early tumor flare on FDG PET/CT predicts response to anti-PD-1 therapy. In addition, Dr. Farwell is the imaging lead for a multicenter Phase 2 PET/CT imaging trial that employs a ^{89}Zr -labeled anti-CD8 minibody (^{89}Zr -Df-Crefmirlimab) to image CD8+ T cells in patients receiving cancer immunotherapy. Dr. Farwell is Co-Chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Immuno-Oncology Working Group and he is the Imaging Chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Melanoma Committee.

Speakers



Alexander C. Huang, MD

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Huang is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on translational cancer immunology, taking advantage of innovative clinical trials to 1) identify targets for novel immunotherapies in cancer, 2) understand mechanisms of response and resistance, and 3) ultimately to implement precision immuno-oncology in the clinic. His research involves the integration of immunotherapy trials, flow cytometric and transcriptional approaches, and advanced computational analysis to understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms of immunotherapies in humans. Specifically, he has a long-standing interest in the role of checkpoint blockade on CD8 T cell reinvigoration in human cancer, and defined the early pharmacodynamic immune response to PD-1 blockade in melanoma.



Christine M. Lovly, MD, PhD

Vanderbilt University

Dr. Lovly is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center. Her clinical practice in Medical Oncology focuses on treatment of patients with lung cancer. Her research program focuses on two major themes: 1) stratification of lung tumors into clinically relevant molecular subsets, with a particular interest in those tumors which harbor *EGFR* mutations, *ALK* gene rearrangements, and small cell lung cancer and 2) determination of the molecular mechanisms leading to primary and acquired resistance to targeted therapies. Dr. Lovly is an active member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, and the American Association for Cancer Research. Her team's work has been published in high-impact journals, including *Cancer Discovery*, *Nature Medicine*, *Nature Communications*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, and others.

Speakers



Anant Madabhushi, PhD

Emory University

Dr. Madabhushi is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Biomedical Engineering and a faculty member in the Departments of Pathology, Biomedical Informatics, and Radiology and Imaging Sciences at Emory University. He is also a Research Career Scientist at the Atlanta Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. Madabhushi has authored more than 475 peer-reviewed publications and more than 100 patents, either issued or pending, in the areas of artificial intelligence, radiomics, medical image analysis, computer-aided diagnosis, and computer vision. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, Fellow of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers and a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.



David A. Mankoff, MD, PhD

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Mankoff is the Matthew J. Wilson Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Radiology Department of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He also serves as the Associate Director for Education and Training for Penn's Abramson Cancer Center. He practices Nuclear Medicine, with a special interest in oncologic applications of molecular imaging and radiopharmaceutical therapy. Dr. Mankoff's research focuses on molecular imaging of cancer, primarily on breast cancer, and emphasizes molecular imaging biomarkers for precision oncology, therapeutic monitoring, and identifying biologic factors mediating therapeutic response and resistance. He also works on the translation of new methods into clinical trials and clinical practice and on methods for quantitative imaging and image analysis. At ECOG-ACRIN, he serves as the Scientific Planning Committee Co-Chair, and was the former Chair of the Experimental Imaging Sciences Working Group.