

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

Therapy Optimization

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

3:00 – 5:00 PM

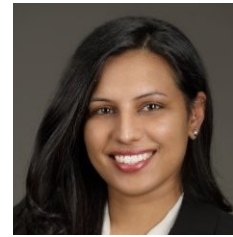
The Westin Washington, DC Downtown Hotel
Ballroom Level, Salon 1 and 2
Washington, DC

 **ECOG-ACRIN**
cancer research group

Agenda

3:00 PM	Welcome	Peter J. O'Dwyer, MD and Mitchell D. Schnall, MD, PhD <i>University of Pennsylvania and ECOG-ACRIN</i>
3:07 PM	Optimization of Therapy: Personalization with Possible Pitfalls	Kim A. Reiss, MD <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
3:14 PM	New Technologies to Improve Liquid Biopsy Testing	Viktor A. Adalsteinsson, PhD <i>Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard</i>
3:21 PM	Regulatory Perspective: ctDNA in Oncology Clinical Trials	Harpreet Singh, MD <i>Food and Drug Administration</i>
3:28 PM	Resistance Mechanisms Uncovered by ctDNA Sequencing: Planning for the Long Haul	Dustin A. Deming, MD <i>University of Wisconsin</i>
3:35 PM	Changes in ctDNA as an Early Endpoint in Lung Cancer Clinical Trials	Mark Stewart, PhD <i>Friends of Cancer Research</i>
3:42 PM	Can Interception of Minimal Residual Disease Prevent ER-Positive Breast Cancer Recurrence?	Angela DeMichele, MD, MSCE <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
3:49 PM	Leveraging Molecular Dependencies for the Development of Imaging Biomarkers That Inform Therapy	Terence P. Gade, MD, PhD <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>
3:56 PM	Using Steroid Receptor Imaging Biomarkers to Guide Therapy Optimization for Breast Cancer	Amy M. Fowler, MD, PhD <i>University of Wisconsin</i>
4:03 PM	Granzyme B PET Imaging for Immuno-Oncology Therapy Guidance	Umar R. Mahmood, MD, PhD <i>Massachusetts General Hospital</i>
4:10 PM	Panel Discussion	Moderator: David A. Mankoff, MD, PhD <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>

Speakers



Harpreet Singh, MD

US Food and Drug Administration

Dr. Singh is a medical oncologist and director of the Division of Oncology 2 in the Office of Oncologic Diseases at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In this role, she oversees drug development for thoracic and head and neck cancer, neurologic tumors, pediatric solid tumors, and rare oncologic cancers. She is also associate director for Cancer in Older Adults and Special Populations in the Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE) at the FDA. Dr. Singh received her MD degree from the University of Southern California (USC). She completed her Internal Medicine residency and Geriatrics fellowship at USC, followed by a Medical Oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Dr. Singh maintains her clinical credentials at the NCI.



Mark Stewart, PhD

Friends of Cancer Research

Dr. Stewart is vice president of science policy at Friends of Cancer Research (*Friends*), an advocacy organization based in Washington, DC that drives collaboration and has been instrumental in the creation and implementation of policies ensuring patients receive the best treatments in the fastest and safest way possible. Dr. Stewart leads the development and implementation of the organization's research and regulatory policy agenda, as well as oversees research partnerships designed to support science and policy. Mark establishes unique partnerships to help develop innovative policy proposals and consensus-driven solutions to address challenges and accelerate cancer drug development. He regularly participates in policy discussions and meetings throughout the year to help catalyze meaningful change for oncology healthcare and patient care.

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 focuses on novel therapy development, primarily in pancreatic and colorectal cancers.



Kim A. Reiss, MD

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Reiss is an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Hematology-Oncology at the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a clinical and translational investigator with a research focus on improving outcomes for patients with pancreatic cancer. She has led multiple investigator-initiated and national trials for this population. Currently, she is leading EA2192, a randomized phase 2 study of adjuvant olaparib vs. placebo for patients with *BRCA*- or *PALB2*-associated pancreatic cancer. To uncover therapeutic mechanisms and new biomarkers, Dr. Reiss collaborates with several translational laboratories at the Abramson Cancer Center. This work is thematically centered around understanding response and resistance to targeted therapies in pancreatic cancer. Dr. Reiss serves as co-chair of the ECOG-ACRIN GI Cancer Committee.



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.

Speakers



Viktor A. Adalsteinsson, PhD

Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

Dr. Adalsteinsson is the director of the Gerstner Center for Cancer Diagnostics at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. He also leads the Blood Biopsy Team, a multi-institutional collaboration to profile cancer genomes directly from blood samples. The Blood Biopsy Team includes scientists, engineers, oncologists, and computational biologists spanning numerous investigators and labs at the Broad Institute, MIT, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, and others. The goal of their research is to develop impactful new diagnostic methods that stand to benefit millions of cancer patients, such as novel approaches for cancer detection and monitoring using blood biopsies.



Angela M. DeMichele, MD, MSCE

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. DeMichele holds the Jill and Alan Miller Endowed Professorship in Breast Cancer Excellence as a professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been the co-leader of the Breast Cancer Research Program in the Abramson Cancer Center since 2005, and is co-director of the 2-PREVENT Breast Cancer Translational Center of Excellence. Dr. DeMichele's research focuses on development of experimental therapeutics, investigation of prognostic and predictive biomarkers, and design of novel approaches to identify and treat minimal residual disease to prevent recurrence. She is a Komen Scholar and Leadership Grant recipient, and her work has been recognized with the Potamkin Prize for Breast Cancer Research from the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition (2022) and the ASCO Gianni Bonadonna Breast Cancer Award (2023). Dr. DeMichele serves as co-chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Breast Cancer Committee, and holds leadership roles on several other committees at the National Cancer Institute and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Speakers



Dustin A. Deming, MD

University of Wisconsin

Dr. Deming is the ACI/Schwenn Family Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Departments of Medicine and Oncology, and the Carbone Cancer Center (UWCCC). He is a gastrointestinal medical oncologist with a subspecialty focus in colorectal cancer and is an early-age onset rectal cancer survivor himself. At UWCCC, he leads the Precision Medicine Molecular Tumor Board, JD Fluno Family Colorectal Cancer Precision Medicine Program, and the Developmental Therapeutics Program. He is also the chair of the ECOG-ACRIN Developmental Therapeutics Committee. His NIH-funded research aims to develop innovative treatment strategies for cancers depending on the molecular profile and tumor microenvironment characteristics. His laboratory has developed novel preclinical models, including patient-derived cancer organoid models and transgenic and syngeneic transplantable murine models. His clinical research is investigating the use of ctDNA to guide therapeutics in the adjuvant setting and to sequence therapies in the metastatic setting.

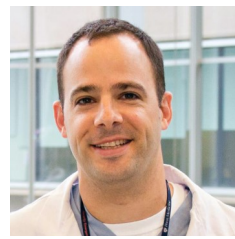


Amy M. Fowler, MD, PhD

University of Wisconsin

Dr. Fowler is an associate professor of radiology in the Section of Breast Imaging and Intervention at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She holds an affiliate appointment in the Department of Medical Physics. Dr. Fowler serves as chair of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging Breast Cancer Imaging Outreach Committee, vice chair of the NRG Oncology Imaging Committee, and as a breast expert panel member for the American Joint Committee on Cancer. Her research program is focused on molecular imaging biomarkers to assess early therapeutic response for breast cancer in preclinical and translational clinical studies.

Speakers



Terence P. Gade, MD, PhD

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Gade is an associate professor of radiology in Cancer Biology and an attending interventional radiologist at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is also a co-director of the Penn Image-Guided Interventions Lab. The research interests of his laboratory lie at the intersection of image-guided interventions, cancer biology, and molecular imaging.



Umar R. Mahmood, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Mahmood is chief of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, director of the Center for Precision Imaging, and associate chair for Imaging Sciences in the Department of Radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital, and professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Mahmood's research has focused on translational applications of molecular imaging to guide precision medicine, with an emphasis on the tumor microenvironment, cancer signaling pathways, changes in cancer metabolism, and the interaction of the immune system with tumors. He is interested in applying image information for disease characterization and optimization of individual treatment response.



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. At ECOG-ACRIN, he serves as the Scientific Planning Committee Co-Chair, and is the former chair of the Experimental Imaging Sciences Working Group.