



Exploring New Developments in Cancer: Diagnosis Trends, Outcomes, and Costs

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(In order of appearance on the program)

Caitlin (Cait) Ellis, MPA, is the Vice President and Senior Director of Research Programs. Ms. Ellis joined NIHCM in 2014 and oversees and advises across NIHCM Foundation programming. Ms. Ellis leads the Research department, including directing the Research Grant and Research Award program and overseeing NIHCM's Research Briefs and Infographic programs that translate, contextualize, and visualize research and evidence for a broad audience of policymakers, media, and other health care leaders. Ms. Ellis also co-leads the Policy and Education Programming department, including overseeing NIHCM's monthly newsletter that curates timely health news and initiatives and serving as a contributor and moderator for NIHCM's webinar program.

Ms. Ellis received her Master's in Public Affairs with a concentration in Policy Analysis from the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University Bloomington, and she holds a BA in Politics from Willamette University. Prior to joining NIHCM, Ms. Ellis held political and non-profit fellowship positions.

Lorna McNeill, PhD, MPH, is Professor and Chair in the Department of Health Disparities at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. McNeill's research is on the elimination of cancer-related health disparities in minority populations. Her research has particular emphasis on understanding the influence of social contextual determinants of cancer in minorities, with a special focus on the role of physical activity as a key preventive behavior and obesity as a major cancer determinant. Her research takes place in minority and underserved communities such as public housing developments, black churches, community-based clinics, and low-income neighborhoods-communities with excess cancer death rates. She has been continuously funded, receiving grants from

various funding agencies (i.e., National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, etc.), to better understand and design innovative solutions to address obesity in racial/ethnic minority communities.

She is the PI of several community-based studies, primarily working with African American churches. One is called Project CHURCH, an academic-faith-based partnership established to 1) identify underlying reasons for health disparities in cancer and cancer risk factors (e.g., screening, diet) among AAs using a cohort study (N=2400), 2) engage AAs as partners in the research process, and 3) to ultimately eliminate disparities among AAs. In 2014 Dr. McNeill furthered her partnership through the Faith, Health, and Family (FHF) Collaborative. To date, we have 50 churches as members. Dr. McNeill is also director of the Center for Community-Engaged Translational Research (CCETR) at MD Anderson. CCETR works with MD Anderson faculty to develop collaborations with underserved communities with a focus on conducting high-quality, relevant cancer prevention research.

Monica Berner, MD, Senior Vice President, Markets & Chief Clinical Officer with the Health Care Service Corporation, is responsible for clinical policy and operations that improve access and support efficient delivery of high-quality, affordable medical care. This includes oversight of provider networks, care management, value-based care, accreditation, and quality improvement initiatives.

Dr. Berner previously served as President of Health Care Service Corporation's Montana Plan, leading its operations including sales and account management, government and public relations, provider network management, and medical management. She also served as the Plan's Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director. Dr. Berner spent 12 years working in direct patient care, including with Lewis and Clark County Community Health Center in Helena and as a Veterans Affairs staff physician in the outpatient clinic at Montana's Fort Harrison VA Medical Center. She has a degree in medicine from Baylor College of Medicine.

Kate Duncan, MBA, serves as the Executive Director, Product Strategy and Management with the Health Care Service Corporation. As Executive Director, Ms. Duncan is the Product Owner for Health Care Service Corporation's Health Management & Advocacy portfolio, whose products support over 30 million members. Her responsibilities include product strategy & ideation, product design & delivery support, and ongoing product management, inclusive of P&L oversight. She focuses on the member and how Health

Care Service Corporation can improve outcomes, delight the customer, and lower the total cost of care.

Veda Giri, MD, is a medical oncologist with a specialization in clinical cancer genetics. Dr. Giri is the Division Chief of Clinical Cancer Genetics for Yale Cancer Center and Smilow Cancer Hospital and Assistant Director of Clinical Cancer Genetics for Yale Cancer Center, where she leads an integrated and comprehensive effort in cancer genetic evaluation to inform precision medicine, tailored cancer screening, and hereditary cancer risk. She is also the Director of the Early Onset Cancer Program. In 2023 she was named a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (FASCO).

Dr. Giri's research portfolio includes population science studies focused on genetic evaluation of cancer risk, disparities in access to genetic testing and genetic counseling, and implementation research. She has led numerous studies to advance the field of genetic counseling and genetic testing for inherited prostate cancer. Dr. Giri started the first Men's Genetic Risk Clinic in the US in 2014 focused on genetic evaluation of inherited prostate cancer in the setting of multidisciplinary care. Dr. Giri also co-chaired the 2017 and 2019 Philadelphia Prostate Cancer Consensus Conferences that addressed the development of comprehensive frameworks for genetic evaluation and implementation of genetic testing for prostate cancer. She is the Principal Investigator of multiple grant-funded prostate cancer genetic evaluation studies spanning genetic counseling, genetic testing, disparities, behavioral science, and implementation research. As leader of clinical cancer genetics, Dr. Giri plans to expand population science studies across cancer populations and in the community setting.

Dr. Giri received her medical degree from Sidney Kimmel Medical College (previously Jefferson Medical College) and proceeded to complete her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at the University of Michigan. She then completed advanced training in molecular cancer genetics and cancer risk assessment at Fox Chase Cancer Center. She also has a certification in cancer risk assessment from the City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Giri currently serves on several national committees including the NIH PDQ® Cancer Genetics Editorial Board, ASCO Evidence-Based Medicine Committee, ASCO Cancer Care Delivery Council, ASCO Health Equity and Outcomes Committee, and ASCO Coverage and Reimbursement Steering Committee contributing expertise in cancer risk assessment and genetics at the national level.