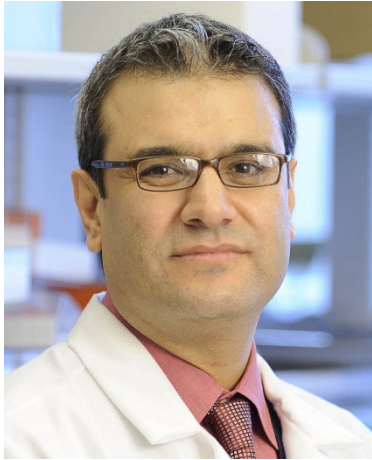


U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET

Invited Speakers



Hikmat Al-Ahmadie, MD
Scientific Director, MSK Biobank
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Al-Ahmadie is an Attending Pathologist and Member at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he also serves as the Scientific Director of the MSK Biobank.

He was born in Lebanon and grew up in Syria where he obtained his medical degree from the University of Damascus, Faculty of Medicine. His pathology training took place at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and the University of Cincinnati Medical Center for Anatomic and Clinical Pathology which was followed by fellowship training in Oncologic Surgical Pathology and Urologic Pathology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

He is a member of the genitourinary pathology service and a member of the bladder cancer disease management team at MSK. His clinical focus is on the diagnosis of tumors of the genitourinary system, and his academic and research focus is on the pathology and molecular biology of urothelial neoplasia.

He is a funded investigator, and his research focuses on the molecular basis for the development and progression of urothelial carcinoma. Another major focus of his research is the study of the underlying mechanisms of phenotypic plasticity in bladder cancer as a mechanism for tumor progression and resistance to therapy.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Rick Bangs, MBA/PMP
Patient Advocate

Mr. Rick Bangs, MBA/PMP, is a bladder and prostate cancer survivor and has worked as a patient advocate in a variety of roles, including research advocacy, government lobbying, educational support, support groups, one-on-one support, and fundraising.

He serves as the Bladder and Penile Cancer Patient Advocate for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), a CPRIT advocate reviewer, and as a Patient Advocate on ASCO and AUA Guideline Panels. He has also served as chair of the SWOG patient advocate committee, SWOG bladder cancer patient advocate, chair of the NCI patient advocate steering committee, NCI cancer care delivery research steering committee patient advocate, and NCI genitourinary cancer steering committee patient advocate. He led or co-led support for SWOG's representation efforts. He also supports the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (where he hosts the **Bladder Cancer Matters** podcast) and Stand Up to Cancer. He is a retired Marketing and IT professional.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Peter Black, MD
Director of the Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia, Canada

Dr. Peter Black is Director of the Vancouver Prostate Centre, and Professor and Head of the Department of Urologic Sciences at the University of British Columbia. He holds the Goldenberg Family Chair and the Stephen Jarislowky Chair in Urologic Sciences. Dr. Black is a urologist with a clinical subspecialty interest in the treatment of urologic cancers, including especially bladder and prostate cancer. He leads the clinical trials unit in the Vancouver Prostate Centre and has an active research program in bladder cancer and prostate cancer.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Sam S. Chang, MD, MBA
Chief Surgical Officer
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Sam S. Chang, MD, MBA, is the Patricia and Rodes Hart Endowed Professor of Urologic Surgery and Oncology and the Chief Surgical Officer of the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center in Nashville, TN. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Vanderbilt University Medical School. He completed his urologic-oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and obtained his MBA at Vanderbilt's Owen School of Business. Since returning to Nashville, Dr. Chang has focused on uro-onc and education and has led efforts in integration of evidence-based medicine in clinical pathways, enhanced national guidelines formulation, and improved urologic cancer staging. He has orchestrated the initiation and expansion of multiple cancer-related treatment protocols at Vanderbilt and elsewhere.

Dr. Chang served as Chair of the Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO) Panel on Hormone Refractory Prostate Cancer, Chair of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) GU Staging Task Force, the facilitator and Vice-Chair of the Renal Malignancy Follow-Up AUA Guidelines Panel, the chair of both of the AUA/ASCO/ASTRO/SUO Guidelines on Nonmetastatic Invasive Bladder Cancer and Nonmuscle Invasive Cancer, and Chair of the AUA Prostate Cancer Core Curriculum Committee. He completed his term (2018-2022) as Assistant Secretary of the American Urological Association in charge of International Relations with Europe and the Middle East, Chair of the American Board of Urology Examination Committee (2020-2024) and served as a member of the initial AUA Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion.

Dr. Chang also served on the AUA Renal Mass Guidelines as well as the AUA Upper Tract Cancer Guidelines and is a past member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Bladder Cancer Panel.

His current leadership roles include Secretary of the SUO (2022-2026) and Trustee for the American Board of Urology (2024-2030). While maintaining a busy clinical surgical practice, Dr. Chang has authored more than 350 original publications, multiple book chapters, and several textbooks.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET

For his academic efforts, he received the SUO's first-ever Distinguished Service Award, a Cap CURE Young Investigator Award, and has been named multiple times as a Journal of Urology's Best Reviewer. Dr. Chang has been awarded the American Urologic Association Gold Cystoscope Award and Hugh Hampton Young Award and from the AAGUS he was honored by the Barringer Medal. His education and mentorship efforts have been recognized with his Department's Best Teaching Faculty Award as well as the Christina Manthos Mentoring Award from SWIU.



Bishoy Faltas, MD
Chief Research Officer and Director
Englander Institute of Precision Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Bishoy M. Faltas is an internationally recognized physician-scientist known for advancing our understanding of genitourinary cancers by studying the molecular mechanisms behind bladder cancer genomics and tumor progression. As a board-certified medical oncologist, Dr. Faltas serves as the Chief Research Officer and Director of Bladder Cancer Research at the Englander Institute of Precision Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Faltas is the Gellert Family-John P. Leonard, MD Research Scholar in Hematology and Medical Oncology and an assistant professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Dr. Faltas has received many prestigious awards for his dedication to innovative research, including the ASCO Young Investigator Award, the AACR NextGen Star Award, the Irma T. Hirschl and Monique Weill-Caulier Research Award, and the ASCI Young Physician-Scientist Award. Dr. Faltas continuously publishes in high-impact journals such as *Nature*, *Nature Genetics*, and *Nature Communications*. His work was featured on the cover of *Nature* for revealing the interplay between mutagenesis and extrachromosomal DNA in urothelial cancer evolution (Nguyen et al. *Nature*, 2024). Dr. Faltas's notable impact on cancer research is underscored by his current funding from the NIH R37 MERIT Award, the NIH R01 Award, and the BCAN Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Award.

The Faltas laboratory concentrates on bladder cancer to understand the complex biological mechanisms underlying human cancer development. His published and ongoing research on the

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET

role of the APOBEC3 family of mutagenic enzymes is leading to new models of cancer evolution aimed at targeting these “evolutionary drivers” of cancer. His work employs innovative experimental tools and models with a clear goal of translating fundamental discoveries into clinical treatments that enhance patient outcomes. His study of germline mutations in urothelial cancer patients has set new standards for clinical testing, while his research on FGFR3 mutations has directly contributed to the development of targeted therapies currently in clinical trials. This bench-to-bedside approach reflects the lab’s dedication to advancing early-phase and innovative clinical trials, striving to bring scientific progress directly to the patients who need it most.



Matthew Galsky, MD
Director of Genitourinary Medical Oncology
Deputy Director, Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center

Dr. Galsky is the Lillian and Howard Stratton Professor of Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He also serves as Director of Genitourinary Medical Oncology and Deputy Director at the NCI-designated Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center. His research focuses on strategies to optimize treatment intensity for individual patients through the use of biomarkers and response-guided approaches.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Noah M. Hahn, MD
Professor of Oncology & Urology
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Dr. Hahn is a professor of oncology and urology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He serves as the Co-director of the Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute and the director of the medical oncology bladder cancer program. Dr. Hahn is an internationally recognized authority in the conduct of bladder cancer novel therapeutic clinical trials and translational investigations. He maintains active clinical practice and sees patients with urothelial cancers of all locations and stages including non-muscle invasive bladder cancer for which he is regarded as one of the world's leading medical oncology authorities. Dr. Hahn's clinical and translational research interests focus on improving outcomes for patients with urothelial cancers through: 1) The development of novel epigenetic, targeted, and immunomodulatory approaches to treat and prevent urothelial cancer; 2) The credentialing of the naturally-occurring, immunocompetent canine-human tumor model as a relevant comparative oncology model optimal for the pre-clinical study of candidate human urothelial cancer biomarkers and therapeutics; and 3) The identification and validation of predictive biomarkers relevant to urothelial cancers. In addition to his efforts at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Hahn serves as the bladder cancer chairman of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group - American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ECOG-ACRIN), participates on the NCI Bladder Cancer Task Force, and serves on the scientific advisory board of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Donna Hansel, MD, PhD
Division Head of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Donna Hansel completed a Bachelor of Science degree program in Biology at Johns Hopkins University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. She subsequently completed the M.D., Ph.D. Medical Scientist Training Program, pathology residency and urologic pathology fellowship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Hansel joined the Cleveland Clinic Anatomic Pathology Staff as Assistant Professor in 2006 as a subspecialty genitourinary pathologist and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2010. Dr. Hansel was subsequently recruited to the University of California at San Diego as a Professor of Pathology and

Chief of the Division of Anatomic Pathology in 2013. In 2019, she assumed the role of Chair of Pathology at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon. In September 2022, Dr. Hansel joined the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as Division Head of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Dr. Hansel has authored over 190 peer-reviewed publications, edited or authored 5 textbooks on urologic pathology and biospecimen repositories, and has participated in more than 100 national or international talks on bladder cancer. She has participated in the Kidney-Urinary tract panel for the 8th Edition of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual and contributed to the 5th edition of the WHO Classification of Tumours of the Urinary System and Male Genital Organs. In addition, Dr. Hansel is on the editorial board of *American Journal of Surgical Pathology*, *Advances in Anatomic Pathology*, *American Journal of Pathology*, *Histopathology*, and *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine* where she serves as Deputy Executive Editor. She has mentored over 40 residents, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, while remaining active in clinical sign out and overseeing a research laboratory focused on invasive cancer mechanisms. Dr. Hansel is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha and a recipient of the Ramzi S. Cotran Award from USCAP.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Patrick J. Hensley, MD
Assistant Professor of Urology and Pathology
University of Kentucky College of Medicine

Patrick Hensley is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Urology and Pathology at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in Lexington, KY. He completed an SUO Urologic Oncology fellowship at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and his clinical and academic interest is urothelial carcinoma of the bladder and upper tract.

Dr. Hensley's research focuses on predictive biomarkers in the muscle-invasive setting and bladder preservation approaches. He serves on the Board of Directors of the International Bladder Cancer Group and maintains active research, clinical trials, and advocacy initiatives aimed at improving care and outcomes of patients with bladder cancer.



Ashish Kamat, MD
Director of Bladder Cancer Support Program
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Ashish M. Kamat is Wayne B. Duddlesten Professor of Cancer Research and an Endowed Professor of Urologic Oncology (Surgery) at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he also serves as Director of the Bladder Cancer Support Program. He is the founding President of the International Bladder Cancer Group (IBCG) and serves as Associate Cancer Center Director at RFHNS Hospital in Mumbai.

An internationally recognized expert in genitourinary oncology, Dr. Kamat's work focuses on urothelial cancers, with particular emphasis on immunotherapy and the development of evidence-based strategies that improve patient outcomes. He has led numerous clinical trials and

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET

collaborative research initiatives in this field and has authored more than 610 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and scholarly articles. His work has helped shape international guidelines and consensus statements that influence the clinical management of bladder cancer worldwide, including incorporation of IBCG frameworks into the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Dr. Kamat's influence extends globally through leadership roles in major professional organizations. In addition to founding and leading the IBCG, he has been actively involved with the International Bladder Cancer Network (IBCN), the Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU), the American Urological Association (AUA), the Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and the European Association of Urology (EAU), contributing to guideline development, consensus initiatives, and international scientific meetings. He also advises research groups, healthcare systems, industry collaborators, and biotechnology innovators.

A dedicated educator and mentor, Dr. Kamat served as Fellowship Director at MD Anderson from 2005 to 2016 and continues to mentor medical students, residents, fellows, and visiting international scholars, including through the AUA USMART program. He serves on the editorial boards of leading journals including European Urology Oncology, Urologic Oncology, and the Journal of Urology, and leads the UroToday Bladder Cancer Center of Excellence.

Deeply committed to patient advocacy, Dr. Kamat has worked closely with organizations such as the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) and the World Bladder Cancer Patient Coalition (WBCPC), including serving as inaugural Chair of the WBCPC Scientific Advisory Board. His contributions to the field have been recognized through numerous honors, including the European Association of Urology Platinum Award (London, 2026), listings in Who's Who in Medicine and Best Doctors in America, and the establishment of the Wayne B. Duddleston Professorship in his honor at MD Anderson. In 2025, a lobby dedication at MD Anderson Cancer Center recognized his enduring commitment to patient-centered care and survivorship, reflecting the gratitude of patients and families whose lives he has touched.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Max Kates, MD
Professor of Urology & Oncology
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Max Kates, MD is the Christian B. Evenson Professor of Urology and Oncology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he serves as Director of the Division of Urologic Oncology and Co-Director of the Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute. A nationally recognized expert in bladder cancer, Dr. Kates combines a high-volume surgical practice with leadership of practice-changing clinical trials, including chairing the Phase 3

EA8212 BRIDGE trial which is one of the largest clinical trials ever performed in bladder cancer. His translational research has advanced understanding of immune resistance in BCG-unresponsive disease, pioneered novel intravesical therapies, and explored antibody–drug conjugates and immunotherapy for bladder preservation. He has published widely with over 150 peer reviewed publications in leading urology and cancer journals and has received continuous funding, including an American Cancer Society Career Development Award.



Seth P. Lerner, MD
Director of Urologic Oncology
Baylor College of Medicine

Seth Lerner is Professor of Urology and holds the Beth and Dave Swalm Chair in Urologic Oncology and is Vice-chair for Faculty Affairs in the Scott Department of Urology, Baylor College of Medicine. He is Director of Urologic Oncology and the Multidisciplinary Bladder Cancer Program and co-chairs the GU Disease Working Group in the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center. He earned his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine, completed a surgical internship at Virginia

Mason Hospital in Seattle, and returned to Baylor for his residency training. He completed a two-year fellowship at the University of Southern California in urologic oncology and

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET

reconstructive surgery under Peter Jones and Don Skinner before returning to join the full-time Baylor faculty in 1992. His clinical practice, education, and research activities are devoted to urologic oncology and particularly lower and upper tract urothelial cancer. Dr. Lerner is author of over 250 peer-reviewed articles, and co-editor of a comprehensive *Textbook of Bladder Cancer*. He is the founding co-editor-in-chief of the Bladder Cancer journal. He established and directs the multi-disciplinary Bladder Cancer Research Program at Baylor, and his research interests include use of selective estrogen receptor modulators for treatment of bladder cancer, gene therapy, integrated proteogenomic analysis of bladder and upper urinary tract cancers, and outcomes of radical cystectomy and pelvic lymphadenectomy. He has 32 years of experience as a clinical investigator for both NCI and industry funded clinical trials. He is the PI of the SWOG NCI Phase III trial comparing extended vs. standard pelvic lymphadenectomy at time of radical cystectomy. He is active in the leadership of several national bladder cancer research enterprises and chaired the SWOG Local Bladder Cancer committee for 14 years and is the new chair of the SWOG GU committee. He is founding and former co-chair of the NCI Bladder Cancer Task Force and former co-chair of the NCI CTEP Genitourinary Steering Committee. He co-chaired the Analysis Working Group of The Cancer Genome Atlas Project for muscle invasive bladder cancer. He is currently serving a 4-year term on the NCI Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee. He is very active in the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) as a former member of the Board of Directors; past chair of the Bladder Cancer Think Tank and co-chair of the management committee of the Bladder Cancer Research Network. Dr. Lerner is an active member of the prestigious American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons and is listed routinely among “America’s Top Doctors” and “Best Doctors in America”.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



David McConkey, Ph.D.
Professor and Vice Chair of Research
University of Rochester Medical Center

David J. McConkey, PhD, is Professor and Vice Chair of Research at the University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Urology and holds the Susan P. and Edward M. Messing, MD, Professorship in Urology. He also serves as co-lead of the Wilmot Cancer Institute’s Genetics, Epigenetics, and Metabolism Program.

Dr. McConkey is internationally recognized for his leadership in bladder cancer research, with a career focused on understanding the molecular drivers of disease progression and advancing new therapeutic strategies. Dr. McConkey’s research program integrates clinically relevant laboratory models with patient-derived samples to identify biomarkers, uncover mechanisms of treatment response, and support the development of early-phase clinical trials. His work contributed to the development of nadofaragene firadenovec, the first FDA-approved gene therapy for BCG-unresponsive non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer.

Prior to joining URMC, Dr. McConkey was the inaugural Director of the Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute and a Professor of Urology at Johns Hopkins Medicine, where he helped establish a precision medicine program for bladder cancer. He has also held national leadership roles, including Chair for Translational Medicine in the Southwest Oncology Group’s Genitourinary Committee and membership in The Cancer Genome Atlas Bladder Cancer Analysis Working Group.

Dr. McConkey remains an active contributor to the bladder cancer research community and serves on the executive committees of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network and the Bladder Cancer Research Network. He is a member of the International Bladder Cancer Group, American Urological Association, Society for Urologic Oncology, and the Society for Basic Urological Research.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



George J. Netto, MD
Professor and Chair of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Perelman School of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Netto received his medical degree from Damascus University before residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Baylor University Medical Center and fellowships in surgical pathology at the Washington University School of Medicine and urologic pathology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

In 2005 he joined the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine faculty and served as Director of Surgical Pathology Molecular Diagnostics and Professor of Pathology, Urology, and Oncology. In 2016 he assumed the role of Professor and the Robert and Ruth Anderson Endowed Chair of Pathology at The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

He currently serves as Simon Flexner Professor and Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

His research is focused on urologic and molecular diagnostic pathology and has helped characterize the incidence and role of *TMPRSS2-ERG* fusion and *PTEN* loss as a prognostic biomarker in prostate adenocarcinoma. Dr. Netto and collaborators are credited with the important discovery related to the high incidence of *TERT* gene promoter mutation in muscle-invasive bladder cancer and upper tract urothelial carcinoma.

Dr. Netto serves as a Standing Editor of the 6th edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) Blue Book series and Associate Editor for *Advances in Anatomic and Molecular Pathology*. He has served as an expert Editor of the 5th edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) Blue Book on the *Classifications of Urinary and Male Genital Tumours*, immediate past Editor in Chief for *Modern Pathology*. He has authored or co-authored more than 400 articles and chapters, including eight books in urologic and molecular pathology, and is the editor of a widely recognized textbook, *Genomic Applications in Pathology*, currently in its second edition.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



ELIZABETH R. PLIMACK, MD, MS, FASCO
Professor, Medical Oncology
Deputy Director, Fox Chase Cancer Center

Elizabeth R. Plimack is a Professor of Medical Oncology and the Deputy of Director Fox Chase Cancer. She is an expert on the treatment of genitourinary malignancies with a focus on bladder and kidney cancers. Her research effort is directed towards the discovery of novel therapeutic approaches and predictive biomarkers for patients with bladder and kidney cancers. Dr. Plimack has extensive clinical trial experience with targeted therapy, immunotherapy and novel combination therapies. She serves on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines panels for Bladder Cancer, chairs the

Scientific Advisory Board of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network Management and was an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology Board of Directors (2020-2024). She has expertise in novel early phase I/II trial designs, phase III trial designs, multidisciplinary/ multimodality clinical trials, correlative tissue based analysis and biomarker development and validation. Dr. Plimack received her undergraduate degree from Yale University and completed her M.D. degree and residency in Internal Medicine at the New York University School of Medicine. She went on to a Medical Oncology Fellowship at the MD Anderson Cancer Center, and received a Master's in Patient Based Biologic Research from the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Science.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Sima Porten, MD
Chief of Division of Urologic Oncology
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

Sima Porten received her undergraduate, doctoral and public health degrees from Northwestern University, completing her education in June 2006. She was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society during medical school and also completed a Howard Hughes Medical Institute-NIH Research Scholars fellowship during that time. She then completed her urology residency training at University of California, San Francisco and her Urologic Oncology Fellowship at The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center. Currently, she is part of the multidisciplinary urologic oncology team of the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center where she continues to pursue her clinical and research interests in urothelial cancer. She is Chief of the Division of Urologic Oncology and Fellowship director for the SUO Urologic oncology fellowship.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Sarah Psutka, MD, MS, F.A.C.S
Associate Professor, University of Washington
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Dr. Sarah Psutka MD, MSc, is an Associate Professor of Urology in the Department of Urology at the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. She received her undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard University and completed urology residency training at the Massachusetts General Hospital followed by a Society of Urologic Oncology Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, and concurrently obtained her Masters in Clinical and Translational Science. At UW, she specializes in bladder, kidney, and testis cancer care, leads the urologic oncology program at Harborview Medical Center and is the Program Director of the UW SUO Fellowship in Urologic Oncology.

Dr. Psutka leads research integrating principles of aging research, comprehensive geriatric assessments, body composition, and resilience in patients with advanced GU malignancies with a focus on patient-centric outcomes. She is a clinical trialist, currently leading the UW GetMoving and the UW EMPOWER Randomized Controlled Trials which evaluate personalized home-based prehabilitation exercise intervention delivered via digital applications perioperatively and in survivorship settings. Her research has been funded by the National Institute on Aging (2022-2024 GEMSSTAR award), the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, and the Andy Hill Care Foundation. She was the 2022 Recipient of the Society of Urologic Oncology Young Investigator Award and the 2023 Kidney Cancer Association Christopher G. Wood Rising Star Award. She serves on the SUO Clinical Trials Consortium Board of Directors (Kidney), AUA Practice Guidelines Committee, and is the Cancer Control Committee Liaison for the SWOG Genitourinary Executive Committee. She co-founded the Society of Women in Urologic Oncology in 2019. Dr. Psutka served as the Senior Editor for the Oncology Section of the AUA Core Curriculum from 2019-2023 and is currently the Senior Consultant for Oncology and the Chair Elect for the AUA Core Curriculum 2026. She is an Associate Editor for European Urology.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET



Gary Steinberg, MD
Professor, Department of Urology
Rush University Medical

Gary Steinberg, MD, is a Professor in the Department of Urology at Rush University Medical, and specializes in urologic oncology. He was previously the professor and Director of the Bladder Cancer program at NYU and prior to that professor and the Director of Urologic Oncology at the University of Chicago. He has been instrumental in developing innovative surgical procedures for patients with bladder cancers. He is the AUA representative to the Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Association for stomal therapy. In addition, Dr. Steinberg's research includes developing new treatments for urologic cancers, especially bladder cancer. He has performed over 2500 radical cystectomies and is a national leader in continent urinary tract reconstruction. He has been a national principal investigator, scientific advisor and protocol development advisor for multiple innovative clinical trials and translational research studies utilizing novel agents, including oncolytic immunotherapies, vaccines and immunotherapeutic agents. He has been a key advisor in clinical trial design, protocol development, study completion and analysis for patients with intermediate risk and high-risk non-muscle invasive bladder cancer. In addition, he is also involved with additional innovative intravesical drug delivery systems and other immunotherapy translational research studies. He has been a key protocol advisor on multiple novel neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy trials for patients with muscle invasive bladder cancer and has worked on the development of personalized cancer vaccines for neoadjuvant and metastatic bladder cancer. Dr. Steinberg has been on multiple panels for the FDA and NCI and helped write the guidelines for immunotherapy of bladder cancer for the Society of Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC). He has presented to ODAC and advised multiple companies preparing for ODAC meetings. Dr. Steinberg is the immediate past chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, a member of the International Bladder cancer Group (IBCG) and serves on the executive committee of the Bladder Cancer Research Network. He has published over 300 peer reviewed papers and book chapters.

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Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE)
Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) Division of Oncology 1(DO1)
Contemporary Issues in Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC)
Trial Design and Interpretation
Hybrid Public Workshop
May 18, 2026 | 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM ET

FDA Speakers



Laleh Amiri-Kordestani, MD
Division Director
DO1, OOD, CDER, FDA

Laleh Amiri-Kordestani, MD is the director of the Division of Oncology 1 (DO1) in the Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD) in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Amiri-Kordestani earned her medical degree from the University of Tehran Medical Sciences. She did a year of post-doctoral research fellowship in Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health. She completed a residency in internal medicine at the Georgetown University/Washington Hospital Center, followed by a fellowship in hematology and oncology at The National Cancer Institute. At the FDA, Dr. Amiri served as medical officer, clinical team leader of the Breast Cancer Group and associate director of DO1 prior to assuming her role as director in DO1.



Elaine Chang, MD
Lead Physician
DO1, OOD, CDER, FDA

Elaine Chang, MD is a medical oncologist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Office of Oncologic Diseases (FDA). She completed her hematology/oncology fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine and joined FDA in 2018. She is serving as one of the Team Leads in the Division of Oncology 1.

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Sean Clark-Garvey, MD, MPH
Medical Oncologist
DO1, OOD, CDER, FDA

Dr. Clark-Garvey is a medical oncologist on the Genitourinary team within the Office of Oncologic Diseases at the FDA. Prior to working at the FDA, he received a master's in public health in Epidemiology from the Columbia University School of Public Health and his medical degree from the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. He subsequently completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, and fellowship in Medical Oncology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He joined the FDA in 2024 and focuses on the regulation of drugs and drug approvals for patients with Genitourinary cancers.



Joydeep Ghosh, Ph.D.
Regulatory Scientific Reviewer (Microbiologist)
Office of Gene Therapy-CMC, OTP, CBER, FDA

Dr. Joydeep Ghosh is a Regulatory Scientific Reviewer in the Office of Gene Therapy-CMC, Office of Therapeutic Products (OTP), at the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). A microbiologist by training, he joined the FDA in 2008 and is responsible for the Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Control (CMC) review of complex biologics, including a diverse portfolio of gene therapy products, with a particular focus on microorganism-derived therapeutic products. Dr. Ghosh earned his Ph.D. in Microbiology from Washington State University and completed his Infectious Diseases Scholars Program Fellowship and post-doctoral research at Washington University in St. Louis.

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Hybrid Public Workshop
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Brian Heiss, MD
Clinical Reviewer
DO1, OOD, CDER, FDA

Brian Heiss, MD is a medical oncologist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Office of Oncologic Diseases (OOD), Division of Oncology 1 (DO1). He completed both his oncology and clinical pharmacology fellowships at the University of Chicago and joined FDA in 2021. He is a clinical reviewer on the Genitourinary Malignancies Team in DO1 and works with Project Optimus to improve

dose optimization in clinical trials.

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Daniel Suzman, MD
Deputy Division Director
DO1, OOD, CDER, FDA

Daniel Suzman is a medical oncologist and Deputy Division Director in the Division of Oncology 1 where he oversees review of drugs for genitourinary malignancies. He received his medical degree from the University of Maryland and completed training in internal medicine and medical oncology at the University of California, San Francisco and Johns Hopkins respectively.

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Chana Weinstock, MD
Clinical Team Leader
DO1, OOD, CDER, FDA

Chana Weinstock, M.D. is a medical oncologist/hematologist who joined the FDA in 2015 and was a genitourinary (GU) oncology team leader in the Division of Oncology 1 since 2017. She was the previous acting deputy director of the FDA's Division of Oncology 3. She graduated with high distinction from the University of Toronto, completed her M.D. at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, then trained at Beth Israel Medical Center and the University of Maryland Medical Systems (UMMS). She was then an attending oncologist at UMMS and at the Baltimore

VA. During her FDA career, she has presented at several ODACs and has led multistakeholder workshops and minisymposia. She has published extensively on research topics in GU oncology including in JCO and has presented invited talks at national meetings including ASCO, GU ASCO, BCAN, and KCRS. She is a previous track leader of ASCO's GU oncology kidney and bladder cancer educational committee and a current ASCO research committee member.