

**Second International DTRF
Desmoid Tumor Research Workshop
October 18, 2015**

Participant Profiles

updated on 10.27.15



Mushriq Al-Jazrawe, University of Toronto, Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology

Mushriq received his bachelor of science at the University of Toronto in Genes, Genetics, and Biotechnology. He is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology, University of Toronto in Dr. Benjamin Alman lab, studying the role of platelet-derived growth factor signaling and microRNAs in desmoid tumors.



Benjamin Alman, MD, Department Chair, Orthopedic Surgery, Duke University

Dr. Alman is an orthopaedic clinician-scientist, whose research focuses on understanding role of developmentally important processes in pathologic and reparative process involving the musculoskeletal system. The long-term goal of his work is to use this knowledge to identify improved therapeutic approaches to orthopaedic disorders. He makes extensive use of genetically modified mice to model human disease, and has used this approach to identify new drug therapies for musculoskeletal tumors and to improve the repair process in cartilage, skin, and bone. He also works on cellular heterogeneity in sarcomas, and has identified a subpopulation of tumor initiating cells in musculoskeletal tumors. In this work, he also has identified specific cell populations that are responsible for joint and bone development. He has been recently recruited from the University of Toronto to Duke University to chair the department of orthopaedics, which was established in 2010, and includes a large musculoskeletal research component. He has half his time protected for his research work. Dr. Alman is the Principal Investigator in the DTRF-funded collaborative project, "Collaboration for a Cure: Identifying new therapeutic targets for desmoid tumors." Profile [here](#).



Radhika Atit, Assistant Professor, Case Western University

Dr. Radhika Atit has worked in various aspects of skin biology for the last 19 years. She has used sophisticated mouse conditional genetic tools during embryonic development to demonstrate that β -catenin activity in dermal fibroblasts is required sequentially for survival, cell identity, proliferation, and hair follicle initiation. Dr. Atit has identified β -catenin binding to enhancer elements and to understand how it regulates expression of key lineage determinant genes in dermal fibroblast and cranial bone progenitors. She has also generated unique dermal restricted animal models of Wnt signaling to study the etiology of skin fibrosis in adult mice. She's presented her work in invited talks and as posters at the Gordon conferences in Craniofacial Biology, Epithelial Biology and Regeneration, Society of Investigative Dermatology and American Academy of Dermatology. Dr. Atit is an active reviewer for several scientific journals and is an internationally recognized expert on β -catenin signaling and dermal fibroblast biology. Profile [here](#).



Steven Attia, DO, Assistant Professor of Oncology, Mayo Clinic

Dr Steven Attia is a medical oncologist at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. He is fellowship trained at the University of Wisconsin. His sole clinical and research focus is patients with desmoid tumor, sarcomas of soft tissue and bone including gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST), as well as chordoma, epithelioid hemangioendothelioma (EHE) and other locally aggressive or malignant tumors of soft tissue and bone. He is the research chair for the Mayo Clinic Sarcoma Disease Oriented Group. Aside from clinical trials and patient care, Dr Attia has an interest in optimizing the way patients with rare tumors are discussed. He chairs a first-in-kind, CME accredited, weekly international sarcoma tumor board which he founded in 2010 that connects 10 sarcoma centers in the United States and Europe by videolink to review challenging cases seen at these centers. Profile [here](#).



Christina Baumgarten, Sarcoma Patients Euro Net (SPAEN) Co-founder and Board member, President sos-desmoid e.V. Germany

Christina Baumgarten started her work for desmoid patients 2005. In 2009 she founded sos-desmoid e.V the german association for desmoid patients and co founded SPAEN the european association for GIST, desmoid and sarcoma patients. The aim of the european organisation is to extend information services, patient support advocacy so that patients across the whole Europe benefit. SPAEN is acting in partnership with experts, the healthcare industry and other stakeholders. SPAEN will work to improve treatment and care of GIST, desmoid and sarcoma patients in Europe through improving information and support and by increasing the visibility of sarcoma, desmoid and GIST patients supported by leading european sarcoma, desmoid and GIST experts.

Together with her colleagues from the board of SPAEN and Prof. Kasper and Prof Hohenberger from Germany he initiated a "round table" meeting to create a consensus paper for the management of desmoid tumors based on patients and professionals expertise. The paper was published by Prof Kasper in the EJC January 2015.



Danielle Braggio, PhD, Post-Doctoral Researcher on Sarcomas, Ohio State University

Dr. Danielle Braggio is a Post-Doctoral Researcher at The Ohio State University currently being mentored by Dr. Raphael Pollock. She started her sarcoma research as a Master's student studying gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs). In February 2011, she started as a graduate student at A.C Camargo Hospital, where she was introduced to the desmoid tumors research. During her doctoral research she had the great opportunity to work with Dr. Lev and Dr. Pollock, two experts in desmoid tumors. The main goal of her work is to extensively investigate molecular driving forces in desmoid tumors. Also, her future goals include educating people about desmoid tumors.



Belen Carrillo- Rivas, DPhil, Head of R&D Innovation Projects, Pfizer

Currently Belen serves as Head of R&D Innovation Projects and Strategy at the BioTherapeutics (BioTx) R&D Division at Pfizer leading the identification, creation and implementation and of key strategic innovative initiatives in direct support of Pfizer R&D activities. In this aspect, Belen identified, lead and established ground-breaking partnerships and alliances with external partners (i.e. 23andme, MIT/Pfizer Synthetic Biology Alliance) to extend the capabilities and innovation of BioTherapeutics research and development teams across different therapeutic areas and to update Pfizer's Pharmaceutical Sciences platforms being instrumental in the realization of the Pfizer's End-to-End Biologics initiative to transform Pfizer's science and approach in the development of optimized biologics across all stages of the drug development process through to commercialization.



Alice Chen, MD, Investigational Drug Branch, NCI- NIH

Dr. Chen is the acting head of the Early Clinical Trials Development Program, DCTD, NCI. She received her Medical Oncology training at Baylor College of Medicine and completed a Clinical Oncology and Regulatory Sciences fellowship with FDA and NCI. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology. Dr. Chen had served for 10 years as a medical officer in the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program,

NCI specializing in HSP 90 inhibitors, PARP inhibitors and other agents in the DNA damage and repair process. She has served as a primary and associate investigator in a broad spectrum of clinical trials ranging from phase 0 through phase 4. She directs the NCI's Developmental Therapeutics Clinic which focuses on determining proof of concept, biomarkers and experimental trial designs in early drug development working toward more successful confirmatory late phase trials. She is the primary investigator for two of the NCI sponsored Precision Medicine Initiative trials: Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice (NCI MATCH) and Molecular Profiling based Assignment of Cancer Therapeutics (MPACT). She is the recipient of 6 NIH Awards of Merit for her contribution to international relationships, adverse event reporting, CTCAE, PRO-CTCAE, and NCI-MATCH. Profile [here](#).



Nancy Cho, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Nancy Cho received her A.B. from Harvard College, magna cum laude in Biochemical Sciences, and M.D. from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. She completed her General Surgery training at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) where she spent two years as a Clinical Research Fellow in Surgical Oncology studying the molecular biology of carcinogenesis. Following residency, she was recruited to join the faculty at BWH where she is currently an Associate Surgeon and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Harvard

Medical School. Her clinic practice focuses on endocrine diseases of the thyroid/parathyroid glands as well as melanoma surgery. Her primary research focus involves studying tumor-stroma interactions with the goal of developing more effective, patient-specific treatment strategies. Dr. Cho is the recipient of a number of career development awards including the Eleanor and Miles Shore Fellowship, Harvard Catalyst KL2 MeRIT Award, Associate of Women Surgeons Faculty Award, Karin Grunebaum Cancer Research Foundation, and Franklin H. Martin Faculty Research Fellowship from the American College of Surgeons. She is currently the recipient of a DTRF grant for her project "Targeting Hyaluronic Acid in Desmoid Tumors." Profile [here](#).



Meredith Chuk, MD, Pediatric oncologist and Medical Officer/ Scientific Liaison, FDA

Dr. Meredith Chuk obtained her medical degree from The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in 2001. She subsequently completed her residency and chief residency in Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and went on to complete a pediatric hematology/ oncology fellowship at the Johns Hopkins/National Cancer Institute (NCI) fellowship program. She served as an instructor in the Pediatric Oncology Branch of the NCI

while completing a Master's Degree in Clinical Research through Duke University. Dr. Chuk was an assistant professor of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in the Department of Hematology/ Oncology before joining the FDA as a medical officer in the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products on the Sarcoma/Melanoma team. Dr. Chuk was recently named the Scientific Liaison for Sarcoma at the FDA, and in this role interacts with various groups with the goal of furthering drug development for new agents in sarcoma.



Chiara Colombo, MD, Surgical Oncology, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Tumori di Milano

Chiara Colombo is in charge at Sarcoma Unit, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT) , Milan- Italy as Surgical Oncologist. Since 2009 she started her full-time collaboration at the Sarcoma Unit at INT. In 2010 Dr. Colombo won an AIRC grant for abroad fellowship and she joined the Sarcoma Research Laboratory at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center where she focused her studies on sarcomas and mainly

on desmoid tumors under the supervision of Dr. Dina Lev. She continues her traslational research on sarcoma

and mainly on desmoid tumors. She received in 2011 a 3 years Young Research Grant (MFGA) for clinical and translational study on Toremifene in desmoid tumors. She is also a DTRF grant recipient.



Aimee Crago, MD, PhD, Assistant Attending Surgeon, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Crago is a surgeon-scientist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center where she serves as an Assistant Attending. As a member of the institution's Sarcoma Disease Management Team, she is an active participant in the care of patients with desmoid fibromatosis and coordinates clinical research and basic science efforts examining the causes of desmoid formation and progression. Her research has been funded by the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American College of Surgeons, the Kristen Ann Carr Fund, Cycle for Survival and the MSKCC SPORE in soft tissue sarcoma. Most recently she has worked to create a nomogram that uses clinical characteristics to predict outcome after surgical resection of desmoid tumors, and she is actively engaged in work characterizing genomic changes that mediate formation of desmoid tumors. Profile [here](#).



Alessandro Datti, PhD, Director of Scientific Operations, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute at Mount Sinai Hospital

Alessandro Datti coordinates and oversees the scientific operations of the S.M.A.R.T. Laboratory for High-Throughput Screening Programs at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto, ON), and serves as a Senior Lecturer of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Perugia (Italy). Previously, he held a 7-year tenure as a Program Leader at GlycoDesign Inc., a biotechnology company focused on the selection of enzyme inhibitors for anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory therapeutic applications. At the S.M.A.R.T. Laboratory, his main research expertise and competencies are dedicated to the strategic design, development and validation of biological/biochemical assays for applications in high-throughput, robot-assisted screens of chemical and RNA libraries aimed at identifying molecular entities with biological or pharmacological properties.



Palma Dileo, MD, Consultant Medical Oncologist London Sarcoma Service, University College London Hospitals

Dr. Palma Dileo is Consultant Medical Oncologist on the Sarcoma Unit at University College Hospital, UCLH NHS Trust, specialising exclusively in the management of soft tissue and bone sarcomas. The Sarcoma Unit at UCLH, together with the Sarcoma Unit at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, is the London Sarcoma Service (www.londonsarcoma.org) which offers a comprehensive clinical service to patients of all ages with sarcoma at all sites of the body. She continued to provide patient care since 1996 (general oncology), with more emphasis on sarcoma and rare tumours starting from 1998. She completed her training at the Istituto Nazionale Tumori of Milan, Italy and at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA. From 2006 to 2010 she has been Associate Physician, Medical Oncology, Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan working in the Sarcoma Team. She has a strong interest in early phase clinical trials and is a co-investigator for a number of clinical trials in sarcoma. She is a member of the EORTC Soft Tissue and Bone Sarcoma Group and ASCO. Profile [here](#).



Amylou Dueck, PhD, Head of Biostatistics in Health Sciences Research Division, Mayo Clinic

Amylou C. Dueck, Ph.D., joined Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., as a lead statistician in 2005 after receiving a doctoral degree in statistics from Arizona State University. In May 2007, she transferred to the Mayo Clinic campus in Arizona, where she is the current head of the Section of Biostatistics in the Division of Health Sciences Research. Dr. Dueck's primary role at Mayo Clinic is designing and analyzing clinical trials in hematologic malignancies, though she additionally collaborates with investigators in neurology and other departments on studies of

various designs. Profile [here](#).



Armelle Dufresne, MD, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Dr. Dufresne is a French medical oncologist, specialized in the management of patients with sarcoma. Her commitment to sarcoma translational research has developed during her doctoral (PhD) studies with Pr Jean-Yves Blay, working on genetic and epigenetic phenomenon deregulated in desmoid tumors. Her results led to expand projects through national and international collaborations. Then she pursued cutting edge sarcoma translational research with post-doctoral fellowship in Dr Jonathan Fletcher's lab, which is ongoing, exploring deregulated pathways involved in different sarcoma subtypes.



Mrinal Gounder, MD, Assistant Professor and Medical Oncologist, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Gounder is a DTRF grant recipient and is the Foundation's Scientific Director. He is an Assistant Professor and medical oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center specializing in the care of patients with sarcomas of soft tissue and bone and in developing new drugs in all cancers. He has a special clinical and research interest in desmoid tumors and recently showed for the first time that sorafenib is an active drug in desmoid tumors. Dr. Gounder is the Principal Investigator in a trial partially funded by DTRF studying Nexavar/ Sorafenib in desmoid tumors. Profile [here](#).

Shunsuke Hamada, MD, PhD, Medical Staff, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya University

Shunsuke Hamada MD, PhD is now a Medical staff, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine. His present research theme is clinical and molecular analysis of desmoid fibromatosis. He graduated from Mie University of Medical Science, Japan, and passed National Board of Medicine in 2004. He became Japan Orthopedic Association Board certified orthopedic surgeon in 2011.



Katherine Hartley, MD, Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Hartley is currently a clinical Radiologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Assistant Professor of Radiology, Orthopedic Surgery and Emergency Medicine. She completed her residency in Diagnostic Radiology and fellowship in Musculoskeletal Imaging at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. An interest in desmoid tumors developed during her tenure at Vanderbilt in large part through active and ongoing participation in Vanderbilt's Sarcoma Research Group. With her colleagues, Dr. Hartley hopes to expand the fund of knowledge as it relates to desmoid tumors through investigation of imaging biomarkers and the treatment options of desmoids through the exploration of minimally invasive ablative therapies.



Hanna Ihalainen, MD, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Helsinki University Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Center, Finland

Dr Ihalainen graduated from the Nobel-prize awarding medical university Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden in 2003. She is a board-certified plastic surgeon working as a surgical oncologist in the Breast Surgery Unit at Helsinki University Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Center, Finland. She is preparing her PhD in desmoid tumors concentrating on the surgical treatment as well as the genomics and biomarkers of the disease.



Kishore Iyer, MBBS, FRCS (Eng), FACS, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics. Mount Sinai Medical Center

Kishore Iyer is director of adult and pediatric intestinal transplantation at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, surgical director of pediatric liver transplantation and an associate professor of surgery and pediatrics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Iyer is also director of the transplant surgery fellowship program at Mount Sinai. Dr. Iyer trained in general surgery and pediatric surgery in the UK where he worked with Dr Adrian Bianchi and developed his early interest in short bowel syndrome and the use of intestinal lengthening procedures. He pursued research at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London, winning the 1996 British Association of Pediatric Surgeons Prize for his pioneering work identifying phytosterols in soy-based lipid emulsions as a potential cause for parenteral nutrition-associated liver disease in patients with intestinal failure. Kishore trained in transplant surgery at Chicago and Omaha, working as a liver and intestinal transplant surgeon at Omaha for almost 4 years. He was responsible for establishing the intestinal rehabilitation program in Omaha, which he directed before moving to Chicago to establish and direct the intestinal transplantation and rehabilitation program at Northwestern University/Children's Memorial Hospital. His current clinical and research interests are in the areas of surgical management of intestinal failure, intestinal transplant and TPN associated liver disease, as well as complex abdominal tumors at the mesenteric root and portal hypertension surgery. He has published extensively in the areas of intestinal failure and TPN-associated liver disease as well as intestinal and pediatric liver transplantation. Dr. Iyer is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He was until recently on the Pediatric Committee of UNOS (United network for Organ Sharing) and a director on the Board of Trustees of the Oley Foundation, a large support group and information resource for patients with intestinal failure. Profile [here](#).



Dionne, Jones- Dendy, NP-C MSN OCN, Medical Science Liason, Bayer HealthCare



Bernd Kasper, MD, PhD, Professor, Mannheim University Medical Center, Interdisciplinary Tumor Center, Sarcoma Unit

Prof. Bernd Kasper studied Medicine at the University of Heidelberg. In 2001, he finalised his thesis at the German Cancer Research Centre (DKFZ) dealing with new treatment strategies for chronic myelogenous leukaemia patients using the tyrosine kinase inhibitor imatinib. To deepen his training, he stayed in London (Imperial College School of Medicine, Hammersmith Hospital, Department of Haematology) and Brussels (Jules Bordet Institute, Medical Oncology Clinic). In 2007 and 2008, he specialized in Internal Medicine and Medical Haematology/Oncology at the Department of Internal Medicine V at the University of Heidelberg. Currently, he works together with Prof. Peter Hohenberger at the Sarcoma Unit of the Interdisciplinary Tumor Center Mannheim (ITM) at the Mannheim University Medical Center, University of Heidelberg. Since 2011, he is the Leading Physician and coordinator of the ITM. Since 2002, his special interest lies in the treatment of patients with bone and soft tissue sarcomas including GIST and desmoids. He is head of the study center of the German Interdisciplinary Sarcoma Group (GISG) and is active in national and international study groups (AIO, EORTC). Profile [here](#).



Alexander Lazar, MD, PhD, Director, Department of Pathology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Selective (Soft Tissue) Pathology Fellowship Training Program

Alexander Lazar MD/PhD is a practicing academic pathologist at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center where his clinical, academic and research interests are focused on sarcoma and the genomics of solid tumors. Working within a multidisciplinary team at a high volume treatment center for desmoid tumors, over the last decade he has participated with colleagues on multiple projects involving these tumors. Profile [here](#).



Franel le Grange, MBChB, FCRadOnc, Research Fellow at University College London Hospitals & the London Sarcoma Service

Dr. Franel le Grange is a Clinical Oncologist and research fellow at University College London Hospitals (UCLH) and the London Sarcoma Service. She completed her specialist training in radiation oncology at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town in South Africa in 2008. Since 2010 she has been working with the London Sarcoma Service, treating patients with bone and soft tissue sarcomas. Her research focus is optimising radiotherapy for sarcomas using advanced techniques including intensity modulated radiotherapy and proton beam radiotherapy. UCLH will be one of the 2 first sites in the UK to deliver proton beam therapy from 2018. Dr le Grange has a particular clinical interest in the management of desmoid tumours and head and neck sarcomas.



Robert G. Maki, Clinical Director, Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology; Professor of Orthopaedics, Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. Robert Maki is Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Orthopaedics, and the Steven Ravitch Chair in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology. He has published more than 100 articles on sarcoma treatment and basic science research, having worked on studies related to sarcoma since 1985. He treats adults and children with sarcomas (connective tissue cancers of bone, cartilage, muscle, fat and other soft tissue) and has an interest in translational research and the biology that leads to different types of sarcomas. After his MD/PhD at Cornell Medical College in New York City, he was a resident at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston before a medical oncology fellowship at Dana-Farber, and was on staff at Dana-Farber before starting at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in 1999. In March, 2011 he moved to the Mount Sinai Medical Center to develop the effort in adult sarcoma therapy and research. Dr. Maki's efforts at Mount Sinai will be directed towards an increasingly integrative effort sarcoma biology and treatment of sarcomas. His group will conduct clinical trials in adults with sarcomas, and they will also conduct translational studies in sarcoma biology to identify the next possible targets for new drugs to treat sarcomas. Dr. Maki is also the Director of Translational Oncology at the Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration (SARC). Profile [here](#).



Michelle Manalang, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Children's Mercy Hospital

Dr. Manalang earned her medical degree from University of Illinois. She completed her pediatric residency at University of Iowa in Iowa City IA. Upon completion of her pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City MO, she was invited to join the faculty, where she is currently an Assistant Professor. She has a special interest in solid tumors, particularly hepatoblastoma and desmoid tumors in pediatrics. She is involved with research that examines genetic, transcriptome profile, and protein expression profile differences in hepatoblastoma tumors. Her desmoid tumor research looks at the identification of cytotoxic agents for desmoid tumor cell lines and utilizing this information for the development of pre-clinical trials.



Kelly Mercier, PhD, Research Scientist in Metabolomics, RTI International

Dr. Kelly Mercier is a research scientist in the Systems and Translational Sciences Center at the non-profit institute, RTI International, and conducts research in the NIH Eastern Regional Metabolomics Research Center (RCMRC). Since joining RTI, Dr. Mercier has used metabolomics in several collaborations with basic researchers and clinicians aimed at determining biomarkers and gaining insights into mechanisms of disease. Dr. Mercier has on-going collaborations in neonatal kidney injury, immune system development and allergies, and Barth Syndrome, a rare disease characterized by genetic condition as mutation of the tafazzin gene. Dr. Mercier received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska Lincoln in the area of analytical biochemistry and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences. Her son has suffered from desmoid tumors and she is personally invested in finding a cure.



Yoshihiro Nishida, MD, PhD, Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine

Dr. Yoshihiro Nishida is Associate Professor, Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya University Graduate School and School of Medicine. He has published more than 100 articles on Orthopaedic Oncology and basic research area. His present specialty is surgical and conservative treatment for patients with bone and soft tissue tumors, and doing translational and clinical research. He graduated from Nagoya University School of Medicine, Japan, in 1988. He was selected as a traveling fellow of Japanese Orthopaedic Association—American Orthopaedic association in 2005. He has been a PI of "Study for understanding of current status and established of treatment guideline for patients with extra-peritoneal desmoid tumors" which is selected by Health, Labour, and Welfare Ministry of Japan.



Scott Okuno, MD, Consultant in Medical Oncology, Mayo Clinic

Dr. Scott Okuno is a Professor of Oncology at Mayo Clinic and is a medical oncologist that specializes in sarcoma. He is active in clinical trials for patients with bone and soft tissue sarcoma and works collaboratively with other sarcoma researchers at Mayo Clinic and other institutions. Profile [here](#).



Jean Paty, PhD, Practice Lead/ Principle, Quintiles Advisory Services

Jean is an acknowledged leader in the effective strategies and practices of capturing patient perspective data for use in the clinical development and commercial success of new medical products. He has not only published extensively in the areas of Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) and electronic PRO (ePRO), but also on the regulatory guidance for development and implementation of ePRO. He has worked closely with the international industry and regulatory agencies on ePRO best practices. Dr. Paty's work is well-referenced in a wide variety of peer-reviewed journals and in numerous conferences and events, where he has presented his findings on the scientific, clinical, and regulatory implications of Clinical Outcome Assessment (COA) data collection in clinical trials. Jean has a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Toronto and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. Profile [here](#).



Raphael E. Pollock, MD, PhD, Professor of Surgery; Director, Division of Surgical Oncology, Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

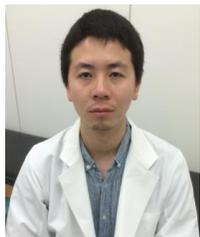
Dr. Raphael Pollock is a professor and the Director of the Division of Surgical Oncology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center College of Medicine's Department of Surgery. He also serves as the chief of surgical services of the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. Previously, Dr. Pollock served as the senior sarcoma surgeon at UTMDACC where he has been a member of the faculty since 1982; he is also the Director of the UTMDACC Sarcoma Research Center, an entity that includes the Sarcoma Research Laboratory, the Sarcoma Tissue Repository, and the UTMDACC Sarcoma database. The Sarcoma Research Laboratory includes faculty from six different clinical and basic science departments (described below); the Sarcoma Tissue Repository was initiated by Dr. Pollock in the early 1990s and currently consists of > 2500 clinically annotated sarcoma tissue specimens, many with autologous normal tissues. Dr. Pollock serves as Chair of the AJCC Sarcoma Committee, is a member of the Advisory Boards of the Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), the Sarcoma Alliance, the Liddy Shriver Sarcoma Initiative, the Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation, the UICC TNM Expert Advisory Panel on Sarcoma, the NCCN Sarcoma Committee, the Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation, the Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration (SARC) Executive Committee, and also serves as Co-Chair of the NCI Genomic Atlas Sarcoma Steering Committee. Dr. Pollock is also a member of the NIH/NCI Board of Scientific Counselors. He is the Principal Investigator of the DTRF-funded project, "A rational search for novel anti-drug therapies." Profile [here](#).



Joanna Przybyl, PhD, Department of Pathology, Stanford University

Dr. Joanna Przybyl is a postdoctoral research fellow in Dr. Matt van de Rijn lab in the Department of Pathology at Stanford University, where she is involved in the DTRF-funded study "Next generation sequencing approach to desmoid tumors".

Dr. Przybyl obtained a joint PhD degree from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium and Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Center – Institute of Oncology in Warsaw, Poland. Her doctoral research was focused on new prognostic and predictive markers for selected soft tissue tumors including synovial sarcoma, Ewing sarcoma and endometrial stromal tumors. She also worked in Dr. James E. Darnell Jr. lab at the Rockefeller University (New York, USA) and Dr. Montse Sanchez-Cespedes lab at the Spanish National Cancer Research Center (CNIO) (Madrid, Spain). She is a member of AACR and ASCO.



Tomohisa Sakai, MD, PhD Student, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya University

Tomohisa Sakai M.D. is now a Ph.D course student, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine. His present research theme is molecular analysis of desmoid fibromatosis. He graduated from Shiga University of Medical Science, Japan, and passed National Board of Medicine in 2008. He got Japanese Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2015.



Kirsi Santti, MD, Oncology, University of Helsinki

Kirsi Santti obtained her medical degree at University of Turku, Finland. Currently she is a PhD student at University of Helsinki and a member of Helsinki Sarcoma Group. She is undertaking her residency in medical and radiation oncology at Helsinki University Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her research interests are oncological therapies of desmoid tumors and their molecular pathologic prognostic factors.



Ty Subhawong, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology, University of Miami

Dr. Subhawong completed his undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee in 2002, and his medical degree from Vanderbilt University in 2006. He completed radiology residency at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. During residency, Dr. Subhawong trained as a Clinician Scientist in Imaging Research under an NIH grant from July 2009-June 2010, before completing a one year fellowship in Musculoskeletal Radiology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2012. His research interests include musculoskeletal tumor, peripheral nerve, and cartilage imaging.



Lara Sullivan, MD, MBA, Vice President, Pfizer CURES Funding

A Pfizer Senior Leader and member of the Pfizer Medical Leadership Team, Lara leads the recently launched Pfizer CURES Funding arm which aims to bring together venture capital, patient foundations, and venture philanthropy with Pfizer assets that serve specific patient populations. These novel partnerships and alliances with financial, philanthropic and public sector investors will extend the scientific and development innovation opportunities for a select number of quality assets in Pfizer's portfolio that have the potential to offer significant benefits to patients. Lara joined Pfizer in 2011 as Vice President and Head of WorldWide R&D Strategy & Portfolio Solutions within the global R&D organization. Lara joined Pfizer from McKinsey & Company where she was an Associate Partner in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Products Practice serving both Big Pharma and biotech clients across a variety of strategic and operational issues, with a particular emphasis on R&D productivity. Lara holds an MD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA in Comparative Literature from Cornell University.



Erin L. Tomaszewski, MPH, Principal Consultant, Quintiles Advisory Services

At Quintiles, Erin provides day-to-day consulting to achieve client expectations through the development, implementation, and delivery of consulting services. She serves as a consultant on drug development projects that span the lifecycle of product development. Erin serves as the project lead on evaluating, implementing, and designing clinical outcome assessment (COA) and endpoint strategies for sponsors, including patient reported outcome (PRO) instrument development and strategy. Erin also advises on COA related research across all functional groups within Quintiles to develop strategic COA solutions for Quintiles customers. She previously worked in Quintiles Real World & Late Phase Research group as a PRO scientist and lead epidemiologist for observational studies. Erin also manages the licensing and development of PRO instruments that Quintiles owns, including the Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication. Previously, Erin worked in early stage product development supporting COA strategy and implementation at an ePRO technology provider company. She has eight years experience in the industry and her Master's in Public Health, Epidemiology from Boston University. Erin is earning a PhD in Epidemiology at University of Pittsburgh.



Aaron Weiss, DO, Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Maine Children's Cancer Program, Maine Medical Center

Dr. Weiss graduated from the University of Rochester in 1994 and subsequently earned his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1999. He completed a pediatric emphasis internship at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine/Albert Einstein Medical Center in 2000 followed by a pediatric residency at the AI duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE in 2003. He then went on to complete a pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN in 2006. He subsequently spent six years as an attending pediatric hematologist-oncologist at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey/University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Jersey Shore University Medical Center. In 2012, Dr. Weiss joined the Maine Children's Cancer Program at Maine Medical Center in Portland, ME. Dr. Weiss has particular interest in pediatric sarcomas. He has co-authored a number of publications on this subject and is currently involved in conducting pediatric clinical

trials both locally and nationally in the fields of desmoid tumor and non-rhabdomyosarcoma soft tissue sarcoma. He is the Principal Investigator of the DTFR-funded project: Deregulated mTOR in Desmoid-type Fibromatosis: Identification and Validation of a New Therapeutic Target. Profile [here](#).



**Breelyn A. Wilky, MD, Assistant Professor, Hematology/Oncology,
University of Miami's Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center**

Dr. Wilky is board certified in medical oncology and internal medicine. She completed her undergraduate studies at Bates College and graduated from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, receiving her MD degree with Distinction in Research. Dr. Wilky completed her internship and residency program in Internal Medicine, and her Medical Oncology fellowship at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. She is a translational researcher in sarcomas, facilitating bench to bedside development of novel therapies. She works with basic researchers to promote and expand laboratory discoveries into early phase clinical trials. In her dedicated sarcoma clinic, she sees GIST and sarcoma patients, as well as other bone/soft tissue tumors including desmoid fibromatosis, and strives to enroll patients on clinical trials whenever possible. Profile [here](#).