

**Third International DTRF  
Desmoid Tumor Research Workshop  
September 25, 2016**  
*(revised 9.15.16)*

**Participant Profiles**



**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](#).



**Mushriq Al-Jazrawe, HBSc, PhD Candidate, 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.



**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 videoconference to review challenging cases seen at these centers. Profile [here](#).



**Robert Benjamin, MD, Clinical Professor, Sarcoma, University of Texas- MD Anderson Cancer Center**

Dr. Robert Benjamin is a Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Department of Sarcoma Medical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He has worked in the area of Bone & Soft Tissue Sarcoma for more than 40 years and was the department's former chairman for more than 20 years. Dr. Benjamin was awarded the P.H. and Fay E. Robinson Distinguished Professorship in Cancer Research as well as the Gerald P. Bodey Professorship. In 2012 Dr. Benjamin received Herman Suit Award for his exceptional contribution to CTOS. In 2013 was the recipient of the Mendelsohn Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Benjamin was a founding member of the Connective Tissue Oncology Society (CTOS), an international, multidisciplinary society devoted to the study of sarcomas, and he is past CTOS president. He is also on the Advisory Board of the Sarcoma Alliance for Research through Collaboration (SARC), a clinical trials group of CTOS members. He served on the NCI Program Review Group (PRG) for Sarcomas and was co-chairman of the PRG committee on Better Clinical Trials. Through SARC and CTOS, he has organized an international symposium on reassessing imaging techniques to determine response to treatment in sarcomas.



**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.

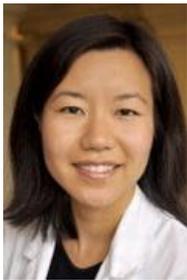
During her doctoral research she had the great opportunity to work with Dr. Lev and Dr. Pollock, two experts in desmoid tumors. The main goal of her work is to extensively investigate molecular driving forces in desmoid tumors. Also, her future goals include educating people about desmoid tumors.



**Chiara Colombo, MD, Post Doctoral Fellow, Institute for Rare Diseases- B.I.R.D Foundation**

Chiara Colombo, MD is in charge at Sarcoma Service, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT), Milan- Italy as Surgical Oncologist. Dr. Colombo graduated in Medicine in 2003 with distinction at University of Milan and obtained the General Surgery Board Certification in Milan in 2009. Since 2009 she started her full-time collaboration at the Sarcoma Service at INT under the supervision of Dr. Alessandro Gronchi.

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. Presently she is in charge as Surgical Oncologist and gained surgical experience on soft tissue sarcoma surgery of the limbs, trunk and retroperitoneum. She also continues her translational research mainly on desmoid tumors. She won in 2011 a 3-years Young Research Grant (MFGA) and in 2013 DTRF grant for clinical and translational study on desmoid tumors. Since 2009, Dr. Colombo co-authored more than 30 original papers in high-ranking international journals and participated to several international meetings as presenter.



## **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."



## **Casey Cunningham, MD, Chief Scientific Officer, Sante Ventures**

Casey Cunningham, MD is the Chief Scientific Officer of Santé Ventures. Dr. Cunningham received his fellowship training in oncology and hematology at Harvard Medical School, where he subsequently served on the faculty. He was also one of the founding members of the Division of Experimental Medicine at the Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, where he established a basic research laboratory in Cell and Molecular Biology. He has over 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals and many abstracts and meeting presentations. Casey received his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School with a residency in Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Casey returned to Texas in 1999 as the Associate Director of the Mary Crowley Cancer Research Center in Dallas, a position he held until 2007. He joined Santé Ventures shortly after its founding. He has served in operating roles in Terapio, Molecular Templates and Beta Cat Pharmaceuticals and has been, or is currently on, the Boards of Terapio Corp., Molecular Templates, Lyric Pharmaceuticals, AbVitro and Mirna Therapeutics.



## **Maria Vittorio Enzo, PhD, Surgical Oncology, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Tumori di Milano**

Dr. Enzo did a Bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology and a Master's degree in Health Biology from the University of Padova, Padova-Italy. During graduating she became fellow at Department of surgery, oncology and gastroenterological of Padua University Hospital, Italy. During this time she worked on molecular oncology, cancer hereditary predisposition, she investigated potential predictive and prognostic factors involved in several oncologic pathologies. She received her PhD in Oncology and Surgical Oncology from the University of Padua, Italy with the thesis: "Analysis of blood-based markers as predicting tools of pathologic tumour response in rectal cancer patients receiving neo-adjuvant chemoradiotherapy". During this time she worked at the Nanomedicine Department at the Methodist Hospital Research Institute (Chief Prof. Mauro Ferrari, Tutor Prof. Ennio Tasciotti). She optimized a mesoporous chip for isolating the low molecular weight peptides circulating in human plasma of oncological patients in order to identify potential clinical molecular marker. Dr. Enzo did her post doc studies at the "Mauro Baschiroto" Institute for Rare Diseases - B.I.R.D Foundation, Costozza di Longare, Italy. At the present she is focusing on diagnosis analysis and investigation of molecular mechanisms involved in several rare pathologies, in particular on those involved in the desmoid tumors development.



**Yoni Falkson, Director, Global Commercial Development,  
Metabolic Diseases, Pfizer, Inc.**

Yoni recently joined the newly created Pfizer CURES platform which aims to bring together patient foundations, impact investors and venture philanthropy with Pfizer assets that serve specific patient populations. These novel partnerships and alliances with financial, philanthropic and public sector partners 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. Yoni has been with Pfizer since 2012 focused on early commercial strategy in metabolic diseases and global pricing and market access. Previously, Yoni led US payer marketing for Purdue Pharma and was a consultant to various leading pharmaceutical companies to inform global pricing & market access in multiple therapeutic areas. Yoni holds an MBA from NYU Stern and bachelor's degrees in psychology and economics from Cornell University.



**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](#).



**Rick Haas, MD, PhD, Division of Radiotherapy, Netherlands  
Cancer Institute**

Rick Haas is a soft tissue sarcoma focused radiation-oncologist from the NKI-AVL in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where he is employed now for almost 25 years. He is an active member of CTOS (Board of Directors 2015-2017), the EORTC-STBSG (President of the Local Treatment Subcommittee), and the Sarcoma Patients Euronet (SPAEN) Patient Advocacy Organization (Medical Advisory Board). He initiated several sarcoma related clinical trials in phase I (NCT01985295), phase II (NCT02575066, NCT02106312) and phase III (NCT01344018).



**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.



**Peter Hohenberger, MD, PhD, Professor of Surgical Oncology, Mannheim University Medical Center, University of Heidelberg**

Peter Hohenberger, MD, is Head of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Thoracic Surgery at the Medical Faculty Mannheim, University of Heidelberg. He is a boarded surgeon in visceral and vascular surgery as well as in thoracic surgery and surgical intensive care. He got his professional education at the University of Erlangen and, was trained in psychology and pathology. His surgical qualifications were received at the University of Heidelberg. He held senior positions at the Department of Surgery, University of Heidelberg as well as at Charité, Berlin. He is a surgical oncologist now specialized in the treatment of GIST and soft tissue tumors and is the Past-Chairman of the EORTC Soft Tissue and Bone Sarcoma

Group. He is a collaborator to EORTC organisation (GI, melanoma and STBSG) since the 1980s and has been member of the Protocol Review Committee as well as to the Board of EORTC for nine years each. His center has participated in major multinational randomized studies on the treatment of GIST and sarcoma. Trial activities also include the EU-funded EUROSARC and CONTICANET consortia. MITIGATE is a most recently started research network pursuing the treatment of imatinib-resistant GIST. He served on the faculty of the AACR/ASCO/FECS course on Methods of Clinical Cancer Research for seven years and is also member to the advisory board of SPAEN (Sarcoma Patients Euronet), Das LEBENSHAUS and was one of the initiators of SOS-DESMOID. In addition, the Mannheim center hosts the German Interdisciplinary Sarcoma Group (GISG). Profile [here](#).



**Stephen Horrigan, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer, Beta Cat Pharmaceuticals**

Dr. Horrigan is the Chief Scientific Officer of BetaCat Pharmaceuticals, a biotechnology company developing inhibitors of the beta catenin signalling pathway. Prior to joining BetaCat Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Horrigan was the Vice President of Research at Avalon Pharmaceuticals, where he directed both internal and collaborative research programs for the discovery and

development of cancer therapeutics. Prior to joining Avalon, Dr. Horrigan was Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University Medical Center where he led a research group focused on cancer genomics and the application of biomarkers in cancer diagnostics. He has also held positions at the University of Illinois, College of Medicine and the University of Chicago School of Medicine.



**Jeffrey Larson, PhD, Vice President, Nonclinical Development, Beta Cat Pharmaceuticals**

Jeffrey Larson, Ph.D., DABT is a board certified toxicologist with 20+ years of toxicology/PK experience. He began his career as a staff scientist in nonclinical drug safety and has held positions in clinical development, pharmacokinetics and basic research. Dr.

Larson has been employed within large pharma (Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, now Sanofi Aventis), mid-size pharma (Allergan) and small start-up pharma (NexBio, Aronex Pharmaceuticals) and is currently the Vice President for Nonclinical Development for Beta Cat Pharmaceuticals and Saliarius Pharmaceuticals. His breadth of clinical therapeutic areas is broad, encompassing oncology, anti-viral, anti-fungal, anti-inflammatory, respiratory, dermatology and ophthalmic indications.



**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](#).



**Robert Lefkowitz, MD, Associate Professor, Radiology, Weill Cornell Medical College/Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**

Dr. Lefkowitz is a radiologist specializing in abdominal and musculoskeletal imaging and he has a particular interest in imaging of soft tissue tumors. Currently, he is involved in several prospective and retrospective research projects evaluating the treatment response of desmoid tumors to medical therapy and the associated changes seen on MRI. Profile [here](#).



**LeAnne Maddux, MA, Consultant/Market Research Manager, Quintiles Advisory Services**

LeAnne has been conducting research-based consulting engagements on behalf of healthcare, biotech, medical device, and pharmaceutical clients for a decade. Strengths include both project management and execution. Her work has included a range of therapeutic categories including pain management, oncology, cardiology, sleep/respiratory and hospital-based research. Expertise includes designing, executing and analyzing qualitative and quantitative research conducted with a variety of audiences including physicians, patients, nurses, and C-Level executives. LeAnne has a Masters degree in Global Marketing Communication from Emerson College and an ALB from Harvard University Extension School with a concentration in Social Sciences.



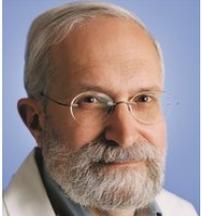
**Robert G. Maki, MD, PhD**

Dr. Robert Maki is Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Orthopaedics, and the Steven Ravitch Chair in Pediatric Hematology-Onocology. 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).



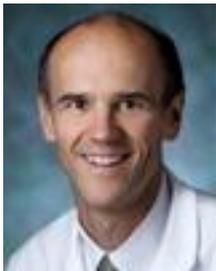
**Michelle Manalang, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Children's Mercy Hospital**

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.



**Paul Meltzer, MD, PhD, Chief, Genetics Branch, National Institutes of Health, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute**

Dr. Meltzer has been Chief of Genetic Branch, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute since 2006. He leads the Molecular Genetics Group. The goal of the Molecular Genetics Section is to characterize the disturbances of genome function responsible for cancer development and to utilize this information to identify genes and pathways responsible for tumor development. The central importance of somatically acquired genetic and epigenetic alterations in the tumor genome is now well established. His work uses genome technologies to attack these problems in the context of specific diseases. Dr. Meltzer received his A.B in Biology from Dartmouth College in 1967. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry/Developmental Biology in 1972 from California Institute of Technology, and his M.D. from the University of Tennessee in 1980. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Genetics at the University of Cambridge from 1972-1974. This was followed by a Residency in Pediatrics at the Arizona Health Sciences Center in Tuscon, Arizona from July 1983-1985. He was a Fellow in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at the Arizona Health Sciences Center, in Tuscon, Arizona from 1983-1985. Before his current position, Dr. Meltzer was a Research Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Arizona Health Sciences Center from July 1985- June, 1987. He was Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Arizona, July 1987 –July 1990. He then became Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Radiation Oncology at the University of Michigan from August 1990-1993. In 1993, he was Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Radiation Oncology at the University of Michigan. In 1993, he became the Chief of the Molecular Genetics Section, Cancer Genetics Branch, National Human Genome Research Institute at National Institutes of Health and he served in that capacity until 2006, when he became Chief of Genetics Branch, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute.



**Christian Meyer, MD, PhD, Medical Oncologist, Johns Hopkins Medical**



**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.



**Jonathan Northrup, CEO, Beta Cat Pharmaceuticals Inc.**

Jon is CEO of Beta Cat Pharmaceuticals, a Houston based biotech developing a small molecule inhibitor of beta catenin. The program should begin clinical studies this year. Unlike other programs, Beta Cat's is unique in drugging the pathway right before transcription at the very bottom of the pathway. We believe this holds promise for an inhibitor that is more specific and potent than any other program currently in development.

Jon has been CEO of Beta Cat since its founding and he is also a co-founder of the company. Prior to that, Jon was COO of Jubilant Innovation, the venturing arm of a large Indian CRO, founding partner of Horizon Biotechnologies, and a VP in Business Development, and many roles in Sales and Marketing for Eli Lilly and Company.



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

Scott Okuno is from Prospect Heights, Illinois and is a graduate of St. Olaf College. He attended Medical School at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He did his residency in Internal Medicine and Hematology and Oncology Fellowship here at Mayo Clinic. He is presently a Professor of Oncology and is Chair of the Outpatient Care Delivery Platform for Mayo Clinic and Chair of the Outpatient Practice in Rochester.



**Geraldine O'Sullivan Coyne, MD, PhD, Staff Clinician (VP),  
Investigational Drug Branch, NCI- NIH**

Geraldine O'Sullivan Coyne, MD, PhD is a clinical fellow in the Early Phase Developmental Therapeutics Team. She obtained exceptional clinical training at several excellent programs and institutions prior to joining the team. She was awarded her PhD in Molecular Medicine from University College Cork, Ireland, in 2010, and is a winner of the Prof. Denis J. O'Sullivan medal (Cork University Hospital, Ireland, 2006). Her PhD work was short listed for the St. Luke's Young Investigator of the Year (2008), and she also holds a diploma in Health Care Management from the Smurfit Graduate Business School at University College Dublin. She has authored and co-authored various translational papers and clinical reviews, and continues to pursue her interest in early phase clinical trials and drug development working in the DTC.



**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](#).



**Nicolas Penel, MD, PhD, Medical Oncologist, Centre Oscar Lambret**

Dr. Penel has been practicing as a Medical Oncologist since 1999. He is an expert in Clinical Research Methodology and his fields of expertise are early phase trials, conjunctive tissue tumours, urological cancers, carcinoma of unknown primary site, rare cancers. Profile [here](#).



**Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD, FACS, Professor and Director, Division of  
Surgical Oncology, Surgeon in Chief, James Comprehensive Cancer  
Center, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center**

Dr. Pollock is a surgical oncologist treating patients with soft tissue sarcomas. He has specific expertise with gastrointestinal stromal tumors, Kaposi sarcoma, spine sarcoma and myxosarcoma.

He serves as vice chair for clinical affairs at the OSUCCC – James, surgeon-in-chief for the OSUCCC – James, as well as surgeon-in-chief for The Ohio State University Health Care System, and professor and director of Ohio State's division of surgical oncology. Dr. Pollock is also the director of the Sarcoma Research Laboratory at OSU. Research has been an important part of Dr. Pollock's career and he has been entrusted to run many research efforts, including a recent \$15 million Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) that targets some of the most difficult-to-treat forms of sarcoma. He is driven every day knowing that time is of the essence for cancer patients and their families. To stay involved with the latest cutting-edge therapies, Dr. Pollock serves as chair of the American Joint Committee on Cancer's Sarcoma Committee, and as a member of the advisory boards of the Sarcoma Foundation of America, the UICC TNM

Expert Advisory Panel on Sarcoma, and the Bone and Soft Tissue Cancer Protocol Review Panel of the College of American Pathologists. Profile [here](#).



**Daniela Segat, PhD, Senior Researcher, "Mauro Baschiroto" Institute for Rare Diseases - B.I.R.D. Foundation**

After graduating from the University of Padova, Padova-Italy, Dr. Segat became a fellow at the Reference Center of Oncology in Aviano, Italy. During this time she worked in projects studying the role of several extracellular matrix proteins in the migration and invasion of tumour cell lines. She received her PhD in Physiological Chemistry from the Institute of Biochemistry, Cologne, Germany with the thesis: "Expression of monomeric and trimeric recombinant matrilin 1 and its role in the cartilage". At the Faculty of Medicine of Genova, Italy, Dr. Segat did her post-doc studies. She researched the proliferation and differentiation of chondrocytes and the role of EGFr in the endocytosis. She then became a researcher in Padova, Italy and studied the oncogenesis mechanisms in esophageal adenocarcinoma derived from Barrett's metaplasia. She participated in a European project: "Targeted nanosystems for improving photodynamic therapy and diagnosis of cancer". Currently she is a Researcher at the "M. Baschiroto Institute for Rare Disease", Costozza di Longare (VI). She studies the cellular and molecular aspects of the desmoid tumor and she performs molecular diagnosis analyses of several rare diseases.



**Sunil Sharma, MD, MBA, Sr Director Clinical Research and Chief Medical Oncology, Huntsman Cancer Institute**

Sunil Sharma, MD, is the Chief of Medical Oncology, a senior director of clinical research, a director of the Center for Investigational Therapeutics, and an investigator at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI). Sharma is also a professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Utah and a member of the Experimental Therapeutics Program at HCI. He holds a Jon and Karen Huntsman Presidential Professorship in Cancer Research. Sharma is an expert in the development and testing of new cancer therapies. At HCI, he is working to increase the portfolio of high-quality clinical trials, including phase I trials. He is also established a translational oncology lab to support related studies. In addition, his clinical interests are focused on treatment of patients with gastrointestinal cancers (colon, pancreatic, esophageal, rectal, liver), mesothelioma, and rare tumors (carcinoid, neuroendocrine tumors, and carcinomas of unknown primaries).



**Aharona Shulai, MD, MBA, VP of Oncology, INSIGHTEC**

Aharona Shulai, MD, MBA leads the strategic marketing of INSIGHTEC's Oncology portfolio. Aharona was a Medical Manager at Roche Israel and Medical Director in Astrazeneca Israel where she was in charge of medical and regulatory affairs and patient safety. She then joined Philips and lead the oncology roadmap of their advanced visualization and Oncology Healthcare IT solutions. Aharona holds an MD from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and an MBA from Recanati School of Business in Tel Aviv University.



**Keith Skubitz, MD, Professor of Oncology-Hematology, University of Minnesota**

Dr. Skubitz has led the medical oncology arm of the Bone and Soft Tissue Tumor program at the University of Minnesota since 1988. He received an AB in physics and chemistry from Cornell University and an MD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and then did internal medicine training at the University of Minnesota. He completed two fellowships, one in Clinical Pharmacology at Johns Hopkins and one in Medical Oncology at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Skubitz cares for patients with a variety of malignancies and related diseases. His research primarily involves drug development and clinical trials, the use of genomics to identify new drug targets and

predict disease outcome, as well as neutrophil biology and structure.



**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, Pfizer Medical, Pfizer Inc.**

A Pfizer Senior Leader and member of the Pfizer Medical Leadership Team, Lara leads the recently launched Pfizer CURES platform which aims to bring together patient foundations, impact investors and venture philanthropy with Pfizer assets that serve specific patient populations. These novel partnerships and alliances with financial, philanthropic and public sector partners 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.



**Danique van Broekhoven, MD, Oncologic Surgery, Erasmus MC**

Dr. Danique van Broekhoven finished her medical training at University Medical Center Utrecht in the Netherlands. After a year of clinical training as a surgical resident, she started her PhD on desmoid tumors, a collaboration between the Erasmus MC and UMC Utrecht. During the years of research, she has focused on clinical aspects of several treatment modalities. Currently she is finishing up her thesis and is starting as an orthopedic resident.



### **Frits van Coevorden, MD, PhD, Netherlands Cancer Institute**

Surgical oncologist, interested and involved in Sarcoma and Desmoid treatment since 1979. Chair NKI-AVL Sarcoma Unit. Member of CTOS, EORTC STBSG, Dutch Sarcoma Research Group.



### **Matthew van de Rijn, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Pathology, Stanford University Medical Center**

Matt van de Rijn received his MD and PhD degrees from the University of Amsterdam, the latter based on his research at the Netherlands Cancer Institute and the DANA Farber Cancer Institute. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University he completed his residency training in surgical pathology and joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1998 he returned to Stanford where he is now a Professor in Pathology. His research has focused on sarcoma and he reported the first major gene expression profiling study on sarcomas in 2002. The identification of a novel translocation involving CSF1 in PVNS resulted in several ongoing clinical trials. In addition his group discovered a novel diagnostic marker for GIST (DOG1). Gene expression profiling studies also led to the investigation of the role of macrophages in leiomyosarcoma (LMS) and GIST with an opportunity to develop therapeutic targets for these tumors. In addition to his work on LMS and GIST he has performed gene expression profiling studies on Desmoid Tumors to study the biology that underlies the aggressive behavior of these tumors, to develop novel diagnostic markers and discover novel therapeutic targets.

Dr. van de Rijn is Principal Investigator of the DTRF-funded study, "Next generation sequencing approach to desmoid tumors." His lab uses next generation sequencing approaches to study gene expression profiles of desmoid tumors, scars and other fibroblastic lesions with the goal of identifying diagnostic and prognostic markers. Profile [here](#).



### **Victor Villalobos, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Medical Oncology, University of Colorado- Denver**

Dr. Villalobos is a medical oncologist specialized in treating bone and soft tissue sarcomas. He is the director of the Sarcoma Oncology program and Targeted Therapeutics Team (T3) at University of Colorado Denver. Dr. Villalobos specialize in clinical trials development and early drug development. Desmoid tumors are of particular interest to him as they are very interesting biologically and are highly underrepresented in clinical trials. Profile [here](#).



### **Kris Vleminckx, PhD, Professor of Developmental Biology, Ghent University**

Dr. Kris Vleminckx is a cell and developmental biologist at Ghent University in Belgium. He was trained as a cancer cell biologist documenting for the first time the invasion suppressor activities of the cell adhesion molecule E-cadherin. He went for a first post-doc to the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York where he initially studied the developmental role of cadherin complexes during early vertebrate development (using the model organism *Xenopus*) in the laboratory of Dr. Barry Gumbiner, who around that time was one of the first groups to show that beta-catenin, a protein associated with cadherins, had a parallel function in the Wnt signaling

pathway. Kris Vleminckx studied the role of the tumor suppressor gene APC in *Xenopus* development and has ever since focused on investigating the Wnt pathway, primarily in early development. After a second post-doc at the Max-Planck Institute in Freiburg, Germany, he returned to Ghent in 2000 to start up his research group. He is also associated with the Center of Medical Genetics at the Ghent University Hospital. When the novel revolutionary techniques for genome editing using TALEN and CRISPR/Cas9 emerged, he realized that this created unique opportunities for modeling human disease in the model organism *Xenopus tropicalis* and he generated the first genetic cancer model in this organism by mutating the APC tumor suppressor gene, hence mimicking the Familial Adenomatous Polyposis cancer syndrome. Since then, modeling human cancer, including desmoid tumors, is the major focus of his research group.



**Aaron Weiss, DO, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, 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 an Assistant Professor in the Bone and Soft Tissue Cancers Program at the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center in Miami, Florida. She is a clinical and translational researcher who works to develop early phase clinical trials for sarcoma patients. She is the recipient of a Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation 2015 grant to study CTNNB1 mutation status as a predictive marker for response to chemotherapy in desmoid patients, and is also involved in the development of MRI response criteria. Profile

[here](#).