



FDA Oncology Center of Excellence Presents
CONVERSATIONS ON CANCER
Cancer Disparities in Appalachia

Tuesday, July 25, 2023
2:30 - 4:00 PM, EST • Virtual

Biographies

Richard Pazdur, MD, Director, Oncology Center of Excellence



Richard Pazdur, M.D., is director of the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence, which leverages the combined skills of FDA’s scientists and reviewers with expertise in drugs, biologics, and devices to expedite the development of novel cancer products.

Prior to joining FDA in 1999, Dr. Pazdur was professor of medicine at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. From 1982 to 1988, he served on the faculty of Wayne State University.

He received his bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University, his M.D. from Loyola Stritch School of Medicine, and completed clinical training at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center and University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics.

Dr. Pazdur has published more than 600 articles, book chapters, and abstracts, and received many awards, including recognition in Fortune magazine’s 2015 list of “50 World’s Greatest Leaders,” the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center’s “The One Hundred” list in 2016, and one of “The Bloomberg 50” in 2017.

Luckson Mathieu, MD - Moderator



Luckson Mathieu is a medical oncologist and senior reviewer at the Division of Oncology 2, Thoracic and Head and Neck Cancer, US Food & Drug Administration. Dr. Mathieu received his M.D. degree from the Meharry Medical College and completed his residency training in internal medicine at the University of Cincinnati then fellowship in medical oncology at Johns Hopkins; he completed his undergraduate training at Harvard University.

Upon joining the FDA, he was assigned to the Thoracic and Head and Neck Cancers team in the Division of Oncology Products 2 (DOP2) as a reviewer. During this time, he has evaluated various safety and study designs across all stages of clinical development (pre-investigational new drugs through marketing approval). He has played a significant role in the recent FDA approvals of several drug products in the treatment of lung cancer. Dr. Mathieu has also represented FDA in several workshops and lectures. His primary interests are in cancer disparities, thoracic malignancies, and precision medicine.

Angela Stanley - Panelist



Angela Stanley is a cancer survivor from Cabell County, West Virginia. She started her advocacy journey with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, ACS CAN, in 2005 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer at 44, during her son's senior year of high school. Although this was a trying time for their family, Angela continued to work at a law office throughout her treatment.

Throughout her diagnosis and treatment, she found an outlet in poetry and her desire for cancer advocacy. Rather than viewing her cancer diagnosis as a death sentence, she viewed it as God providing her a new opportunity to encourage and support others facing cancer not to give up.

Angela has a heart for reassuring people facing cancer and veterans and has seen the health disparities that many cancer patients are experiencing in Southern WV. Regardless of a person's zip code, Angela believes people deserve access to early detection, quality cancer care and treatment, and hope for a cure.

Patty Davis - Panelist



Patty Davis is a breast cancer survivor, from Romney, WV. She has received national awards for cancer advocacy and has written grants to provide funding for women who were un- or underinsured to receive mammograms.

She helped advocate for Bonnie's Bus, a mobile mammography unit that provides breast cancer screening throughout West Virginia, especially in rural parts of the state with limited or no access to screening mammography, in all 55 counties.

Patty has been doing everything she can to improve access to affordable, quality cancer care in West Virginia and provide hope to those facing cancer.

Heather Foster - Panelist



My husband, Michael, and I have lived in West Virginia for 30 years. Michael's first job brought us to West Virginia, and we decided this is where we wanted to raise our children. I am a mother for three children: Tyler (29, Captain in the Army), Taylor (27, High School Teacher and Coach), Tara (26, Works in the Fitness Industry). I also have two grandsons, Parker and Luke. I worked in the Oil & Gas industry for over 14 years, which really gave me a great opportunity to learn and love Appalachia and its people. I was diagnosed with Triple Negative breast cancer in March of 2020. I was blessed to have participated in a clinical trial at Ruby Memorial Hospital, West Virginia University Medicine (Morgantown). Thankfully, I am a breast cancer survivor!

William Petros, PharmD - Panelist



Dr. William Petros is Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dean of the WVU School of Pharmacy. Most of his career has been spent conducting clinical pharmacology cancer research at Duke and West Virginia Universities, working on dozens of early phase anticancer drug human clinical trials and publishing over 120 scientific publications. In addition to his clinical research career, he has worked in a variety of pharmacy practice settings such as: hospital pharmacist, ambulatory clinics pharmacist, community pharmacist, and cancer drug development consulting for several pharmaceutical companies. His administrative experience also includes two years as interim director of the WVU Cancer Institute.

Hannah W. Hazard-Jenkins, MD, FACS - Panelist



Dr. Hannah Hazard-Jenkins is the Director of the West Virginia University (WVU) Cancer Institute. She is an Associate Professor and the Associate Chair of Cancer Services in the Department of Surgery. She received her medical degree from the WVU School of Medicine and went on to complete her surgical residency at WVU. She continued her surgical training in Chicago with a year fellowship in Breast Diseases at Northwestern University. Dr. Hazard-Jenkins returned to WVU as faculty in the Department of Surgery in 2007.

As faculty in the School of Medicine, she held numerous roles culminating in Assistant Dean for Admissions. She subsequently transitioned to cancer center leadership first fulfilling the role of Cancer Service Line Director and then Director of Clinical Services. In January of 2020, she took over the role of Director of the WVU Cancer Institute where she has led the expansion of regional cancer center sites and supported the development of programs that increase access to cancer care throughout the state with the intent of transforming lives and eliminate cancer outcome disparities.

Stephenie K. Kennedy-Rea, Ed.D. - Panelist



Dr. Stephenie Kennedy-Rea is an Associate Center Director at the WVU Cancer Institute and a faculty member in the division of hematology oncology at the WVU School of Medicine. She directs the office of Cancer Prevention and Control - the outreach, education, and population-based research arm of the Cancer Institute. She oversees multiple programs aimed at decreasing the cancer burden in the state. Additionally, she leads the Community Engagement and Outreach Core for the WV Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Stephenie has a special interest in the education and development of health care professionals and interdisciplinary team research, as well as addressing patient barriers in medically underserved areas. Areas of cancer focus include cancer health disparities; health literacy; Appalachian culture; breast, cervical, lung, and colorectal cancers; and reaching rural, underserved populations.

Nicole L. Stout, DPT, CLT-LANA, FAPTA - Panelist



Dr. Nicole L. Stout is a research assistant professor in the School of Medicine, Department of Hematology/Oncology at West Virginia University Cancer Institute and with the School of Public Health, Department of Health Policy, Management, and Leadership. She also serves as the Associate Director of the WVU Cancer Institute's Survivorship Program where she coordinates the survivorship research agenda and supportive care infrastructure development between the cancer center and community.

Dr. Stout's research focuses on the implementation of prospective, risk stratified functional assessment and symptom management strategies in cancer care delivery and studying community outreach and engagement strategies with rural primary care providers to enable community-based survivorship care. Dr. Stout is the co-chair of the Alliance Clinical Trials Network, Rural Health Working Group, a steering committee member with the Appalachian Community Cancer Alliance, and serves on the board of directors for the West Virginia Oncology Society.

Dr. Stout is an internationally recognized expert and leader in the field of cancer rehabilitation and survivorship care. Her work and research have been foundational to developing the prospective surveillance model for morbidity management in cancer care. She has given over 300 lectures nationally and internationally, authored and co-authored over 90 peer-review and invited publications, several book chapters, and is the co-author of the book 100 Questions and Answers about Lymphedema.

Bhavana (Tina) Bhatnagar, DO - Panelist



Dr. Bhatnagar is an Associate Professor of Medicine and the Director of Hematology and Medical Oncology at West Virginia University Cancer Institute, Wheeling Hospital. She specializes in the care of patients with blood disorders and blood cancers, specifically acute leukemias, myelodysplastic syndromes, chronic myelogenous leukemia, and myeloproliferative neoplasms. She has a wide array of research interests and has led numerous clinical trials pertaining to these conditions.

Given her expertise, Dr. Bhatnagar served as a panelist for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) for both acute lymphoblastic leukemia and chronic myelogenous leukemia. She also has a special interest in healthcare disparities research and improving care delivery for young adults with cancer. She has authored over 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts and is the recipient of many teaching and patient satisfaction awards. She is passionate about providing high-quality, patient-centric care.