



# 2021 THINK TANK

## PROGRAM GUIDE

Collaborating to Move  
Research Forward

AUGUST 6-7, 2021

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## About BCAN

The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) is a community of patients, caregivers, survivors, advocates, medical and research professionals united in support of people touched by bladder cancer. We give bladder cancer patients and caregivers the resources and support they need to cope with the disease.

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## About the Think Tank

The Bladder Cancer Think Tank meeting is an essential vehicle for advancing collaborative research efforts in bladder cancer and is the premier annual bladder cancer-specific medical meeting in North America. Since its inception in 2006, the Think Tank meeting has focused on identifying obstacles and creating solutions in bladder cancer research and has fostered discussions to help define priorities for advancing bladder cancer research. Invited participants include urologists, oncologists, researchers, pathologists, social scientists, patient advocates and industry representatives, all who are dedicated to improving the diagnosis and treatment of bladder cancer.

## FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Dear Bladder Cancer Research Community, Patients,  
and Caregivers,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 2021 Annual Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network Think Tank. This year we have embraced the virtual meeting imposed by the pandemic to explore new technology formats and extend the reach of the Think Tank to a more geographically and professionally diverse group of stakeholders.

We have an exciting agenda planned with topics ranging from the science of bladder cancer to new therapeutic approaches to quality of life and survivorship to academic and community practice interactions and collaborations. Additionally, we are thrilled to witness the “hidden” talents of our community with our BCAN's Got Talent segment.

This meeting was made possible by the hard work of our Think Tank committee members, including Arjun Balar, Trinity Bivalacqua, Sia Daneshmand, Mary Dunn, Bishoy Faltas, Noah Hahn, Renata Louwers, Kent Mouw, Diane Zipursky Quale, Sarah Psutka, Karen Saches, Rob Svatek and Chana Weinstock.

We thank you for your commitment to the mission of BCAN,

— Matt and Sima



**Matt Galsky, MD**  
TT21 Chair



**Sima P. Porten, MD**  
TT21 Co-Chair



## ONLINE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### COLLABORATING TO MOVE RESEARCH FORWARD

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#### Friday, August 6, 2021

**11:00–12:30 Meet & Greet.** Log in early to our Think Tank platform to meet your colleagues online to catch up, talk about research, or join the consensus group discussion of clinical trial design and endpoints in bladder cancer.

**Consensus group discussion:** Co-Chairs Ashish Kamat, MD of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Matthew Galsky, MD of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai invite you to join the discussion! Trial design is of utmost importance to optimize the efficiency and efficacy of a trial. The end goals are better treatment options and outcomes for patients via evidence-based practice. Setting trial design standards additionally benefits both patients and researchers by creating more comparable and robust data sets.

**Round Table Meet Ups** – Log in early to access the meeting platform, then join a group to connect or meet others:

RN/Advanced Practitioner – Mary Dunn, MSN, RN, OCN, of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NP-C, Moderator

BCAN Patient Advocate – Karen Sachse, RN, MSN, Moderator

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**12:30–12:45 Welcome Remarks.** Think Tank 2021 Co-Chairs Matt Galsky, MD, Sima Porten, MD of University of California, San Francisco, and BCAN Co-Founder, Diane Zipursky Quale

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**12:45–1:15 Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Awardee**, Michael M. Shen, PhD, of Columbia University presenting his 2018 BCAN-funded project “Modeling bladder cancer metastasis using human patient-derived tumor organoids.” Moderator: Sima Porten, MD

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**1:15–2:45 Tuning the Immune Microenvironment for Immunotherapy Response.** Co-Chairs Ben Vincent, MD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Thomas Powles, MBBS, MRCP, MD, University of London

The tumor microenvironment (TME) and tumor are closely related and interact constantly to both support and impair tumor growth. This session will explore the following questions: How does the TME influence response to immunotherapy like BCG or immune check-point blockade? What cells and molecular pathways are critical for immunotherapy activity? How can we use current and developing therapies that modulate the TME to improve likelihood and duration of immunotherapy response?

*Invited Panel:*

Max Kates, MD of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions  
William Y. Kim, MD of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Joshua J. Meeks, MD, PhD of Northwestern University  
Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
with Adam Farkas, PhD

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**2:45–3:00 Break**

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**3:00–4:30 Breakout sessions:**

**Artificial Intelligence – Emerging and Evolving Roles in Bladder Cancer.** Co-Chairs Hikmat Al-Ahmadie, MD, of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and Olivier Elemento, PhD of Weill Cornell Medicine

This session will focus on recent advances in AI and its evolving roles in healthcare focusing on applications to bladder cancer. Panelists will also examine how AI will enhance microscopic/pathologic tumor evaluation, the role of AI in radiology and radiomics, and how AI can be used to predict response to therapy.

*Invited Speakers:*

Joseph Shirk, MD of University of California Los Angeles  
Pegah Khosravi, PhD of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
Bishoy Faltas, MD of Weill Cornell Medicine

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**Biologic Sex Differences in Bladder Cancer.** Co-Chairs Debasish Sundi, MD of The Ohio State University, and Sean Li, PhD of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Sex disparities in bladder cancer are notable (male to female incidence ratio is 4:1, for example), but the biologic reasons for this are unknown. In this session, we will discuss emerging evidence that suggests that sex influences the ability of bladder cancers to establish and/or proliferate. We will investigate sex-specific differences in anti-tumor immunity and also explore the role of key transcription factors and if/how sex-specific hormonal differences factor in. We will also analyze how sex influences the immune response against bladder cancers treated with immunotherapies.

*Invited Speakers:*

Sarah C. Markt, ScD, MPH of Case Western Reserve University  
Hyunwoo (Tony) Kwon, PhD of Medical University of South Carolina  
Molly Ingersoll, PhD of Institut Pasteur & Institut Cochin

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**Integrating Complementary and Alternative Medicine Cancer Care: Focus on Bladder Cancer.** Co-Chairs Sanjay Reddy, MD, FACP, of University of California San Francisco, and Viraj Master, MD, PhD, FACS of Emory Winship Cancer Institute

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) are not thought of as standard medical care and even less is known about many CAM therapies and how they may benefit bladder cancer patients. Panelists will discuss diet, exercise, supplements and herbs including safety concerns, mind-body techniques, non-pharmacologic tools for symptom management, and the role of medical cannabis.

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**Long Term Management of Urinary Diversions – Beyond Selection to Management of Diversions.** Co-Chairs Anne Schuckman, MD of Keck Medicine of University of Southern California, Kamal Pohar, MD of The Ohio State University, and Sylvia Rodriguez, MS of Keck Medicine of University of Southern California

Urinary reconstruction and diversion are surgical methods to create a new way to pass urine after the bladder has been removed. This session will address stomal issues related to continent cutaneous diversions and ileal conduits, including long term metabolic and nutritional issues for patients with urinary diversions, issues related to continence in neobladders with aging, and changes in renal function over time. Panelists will also discuss surgical and non-surgical “mechanical” issues such as ureteral strictures and prolapse.

*Invited Speakers:*

Miriam Quinn, BSN, CWON of The Ohio State University James Cancer Hospital

Debra McCamish, RN, CWON of The Ohio State University James Cancer Hospital

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**Starting Early: Perioperative Optimization Interventions to Enhance Outcomes for Radical Cystectomy.** Co-Chairs Sarah Psutka, MD, MSc, of University of Washington, and Sia Daneshmand, MD of University of Southern California

Panelists will discuss strategies that can be offered to patients to optimize performance and health prior to a radical cystectomy. They will also focus on nutritional optimization, exercise interventions, and identification of other patient-specific vulnerabilities, as well as novel risk stratification measures including frailty, body composition, and multidimensional risk assessments.

*Invited Speakers:*

Jill M. Hamilton-Reeves, PhD, RD, CSO of University of Kansas Medical Center

Jeffrey S. Montgomery, MD of University of Michigan Health System  
Sara Parke, MD of Mayo Clinic

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**Target Practice in Urothelial Cancer - Managing 'Tox' Outside the Box.** Co-Chairs Arlene O. Siefker-Radtke, MD of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Chris Hoimes, DO of Duke University School of Medicine

This session will focus on prevention, recognition, and management of toxicity that can arise during treatment to help guide patients through the tradeoffs that may occur. The discussion will focus on toxicity related to FGFR inhibitors, antibody-drug conjugates, and immune check-point inhibition.

*Invited Speakers:*

Adela Rambí Cardones, MD, MHSc of Duke University School of Medicine

Dan Gombos, MD of MD Anderson Cancer Center

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**BCG Shortage Update – Alternatives in the Market.** Co-Chairs Chana Weinstock, MD, and Peter Bross, MD of United States Food and Drug Administration

Session panelists will discuss regulatory perspectives related to the implications of the ongoing BCG shortage on patient care, as well as current FDA thinking on trial design issues that might arise as a result. Panelists will also discuss helping patients navigate the BCG shortage.

*Invited Speakers:*

Gary D. Steinberg, MD of New York University Langone Health  
Robert Svatek, MD of University of Texas Health San Antonio

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**Lowering Bladder Cancer Costs: A Targeted Approach.** Co-Chairs Matthew Mossanen, MD, MPH of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and Benjamin T. Ristau, MD, MHA of University of Connecticut Health

In this session, participants will discuss several areas of bladder cancer care for superficial and invasive disease to determine possible areas where costs can be lowered while preserving quality. Several possible project ideas will be shared and discussed in detail while the group brainstorms on the most actionable topics.

*Invited Speaker:*

Deborah Kaye, MD, MS of Duke University

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**Funding for Bladder Cancer the Early-Stage Investigator: Nuts and Bolts.** Co-Chairs Philip Abbosh, MD, PhD of Fox Chase Cancer Center, and Byron Lee, MD, PhD of Cleveland Clinic

This breakout session will focus on the different federal and private funding opportunities available to bladder cancer researchers with emphasis on opportunities for early investigators. We will host a panel of officers from each funding source with intent to query best practices for the preapplication, application, and post application stage, the grant review process, and the different tiers of review at each funding source.

*Invited Speakers:*

Molly Ingersoll, PhD of Institut Pasteur & Institut Cochin  
Donna Kimbark, PhD of Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program  
Diane Zipursky Quale, BCAN Co-Founder  
Sergey Radaev, PhD of National Cancer Institute  
Elisa Woodhouse, PhD of National Cancer Institute

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**4:30–4:45 Break**

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**4:45 – 6:00 Networking Happy Hour** – meet your colleagues one-on-one or in small groups for a video chat and collaborative discussion from the safety and comfort of your own home.

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We are grateful to those who have offered their talents to help provide fun and interactive content for our "BCAN's Got Talent" segments.



*Bill Russell (top) and Angie Smith and her daughter (bottom) prove that without a doubt, BCAN's got talent.*

## Saturday, August 7

**9:00–10:00 Networking Coffee Hour** – enjoy a cup of coffee and a video chat with a colleague.

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**10:00–10:10 Welcome and preview of Saturday Agenda**

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**10:10–11:00 BCAN 2019 New Discoveries Research Young Investigator Awardees:**

- Dr. Neelam Mukherjee of University of Texas Health Science Center presenting her research, "Recombinant CCL2 as a Novel Treatment Strategy for Bladder Cancer."
  - Dr. Sarah Psutka of University of Washington, presenting her research, "Quantifying Risk and Resilience Among Patients with Bladder Cancer: A Novel Personalized, Comprehensive Risk Stratification Program."
  - Dr. Sumeet Bhanvadia of University of Southern California presenting her Patient Centered Clinical Research Young Investigator research, "Understanding the Burden and Impact of Financial Toxicity in Bladder Cancer—A Mixed Methods Study of Two Diverse Patient Populations."
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**11:00–12:30 Breakout Sessions**

**Artificial Intelligence – Emerging and Evolving Roles in Bladder Cancer.** Co-Chairs Hikmat Al-Ahmadie, MD, and Olivier Elemento, PhD. *(Repeated)*

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**Biologic Sex Differences in Bladder Cancer.** Co-Chairs Debasish Sundi, MD, and Sean Li, MD. *(Repeated)*

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**Integrating Complementary and Alternative Medicine Cancer Care: Focus on Bladder Cancer.** Co-Chairs Sanjay Reddy, MD, FACP, and Viraj Master, MD, PhD, FACS. *(Repeated)*

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**Long Term Management of Urinary Diversions – Beyond Selection to Management of Diversions.** Co-Chairs Anne Schuckman, MD, and Kamal Pohar, MD. *(Repeated)*

**Starting Early. Perioperative Optimization Interventions to Enhance Outcomes for Radical Cystectomy.** Co-Chairs Sarah Psutka, MD, MSc, and Sia Daneshmand, MD (*Repeated*)

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**Target Practice in Urothelial Cancer - Managing 'Tox' Outside the Box.** Co-Chairs Arlene O. Siefker-Radtke, MD, and Chris Hoimes, DO. (*Repeated*)

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**Hematuria: the gateway to bladder cancer diagnosis.** Co-Chairs Yair Lotan, MD of University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dan Barocas, MD, MPH, FACS of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Robert Lipman, BCAN Research Advocate

In May 2020, the American Urological Association released the new Hematuria Guidelines with a risk-based approach. This breakout will discuss issues with noncompliance with prior guidelines, ways to improve triaging and evaluation of hematuria, ways to disseminate guideline recommendations to primary care physicians, and potential incorporation of urine markers in detection algorithms.

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**Removing Roadblocks to Collaboration – Connecting Community and Academic Practice.** Co-Chairs Helen Moon, MD of Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center, and Nicholas J. Vogelzang MD, FASCO, FACP of Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada

The panel will discuss the known competition and roadblocks to collaboration. This breakout session will note current changes that are a reality for many bladder cancer patients. Help map out solutions, build bridges and detours around common roadblocks to continue the path to better patient care and outcomes.

*Invited Speakers:*

Eugene Y. Rhee, MD of Southern California Permanente Medical Group  
Stephen G. Williams, MD of Kaiser Permanente Riverside Medical Center  
Marc Dall 'Era, MD of University of California Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center

Trinity Bivalacqua, MD, PhD of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions  
Robert Svatek, MD, MSCI of University of Texas Health, San Antonio



**BCG Unresponsive NMIBC.** Co-Chairs Eugene Pietzak, MD, Sumeet Bhanvadia, MD, Kelly Stratton MD, FACS of The University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, and Janet Kukreja, MD of University of Colorado

Despite the recent and anticipated FDA approval of novel agents for BCG unresponsive NMIBC, the lack of durable benefit for these treatments necessitates a radical cystectomy for many patients. In this session, we will summarize the evidence supporting these agents and engage in a multi-disciplinary discussion on trial design that will include rational combinations of novel agents, practical approaches to future comparative studies, and biomarker development to provide insight on which patients will benefit from which treatment(s). We will also discuss how best to develop data-driven clinical trial inclusion/exclusion criteria for the many patients with recurrent NMIBC who are not eligible for BCG unresponsive trials but need novel therapies to prevent the development of BCG unresponsive disease.

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**12:30–1:00 Break**

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**1:00–2:00 Meet the 2020 John Quale Travel Fellows**

Due to the pandemic, BCAN postponed our introduction of the dynamic young clinicians and researchers who received the 2020 John Quale Travel Fellowships. Join us for an interactive hour to learn about their research and welcome them to the bladder cancer community! Moderated by Petros Grivas, MD, PhD of the University of Washington Medicine.

- Nathan Brooks, MD of University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
  - John Christin, MD, PhD of Columbia University Irving Medical Center
  - Carissa Chu, MD of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
  - Ali Khaki, MD of Stanford University
  - Richard Matulewicz, MD of New York University Langone Health
  - Jeffrey Wong, MD, PhD of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
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**2:00–3:30 Making Sense of Germline Variants in Bladder Cancer.** Co-Chairs Kent W. Mouw, MD, PhD of Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, and Bishoy M. Faltas, MD of Weill-Cornell Medicine

Inherited (germline) mutations can impact the risk of cancer development. Emerging evidence suggests that hereditary factors may also play a role in the development and the clinical course of bladder cancer. This session will highlight recent efforts to define the role of inherited mutations in bladder cancer, including risk assessment, screening, variant calling, and implications for bladder cancer treatment and outcomes.

*Invited Panel:*

María Carlo, MD of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Center

Saud H. Al Dubayan, MD of Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Ludmilla Prokunina-Olsson, PhD of National Cancer Institute

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**3:30–3:45 Wrap Up – Closing Comments and BCAN's Got Talent recognition.**

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**3:45–5:00 The Think Tank meeting platform will remain open** for individual or group networking or follow-on conversations.

# POINTERS FOR PARTICIPATING IN BCAN'S 2021 THINK TANK

Thank you for registering for the Think Tank. The information below will help you engage using the meeting online platform. We look forward to your participation!

- Use the personalized meeting link emailed to you by Pathable to access the 2021 Think Tank platform. Having trouble finding your link in your email? Use the search term "Pathable" or email [mstout@bcan.org](mailto:mstout@bcan.org).
- Your personalized agenda, including the breakout sessions you selected when you registered, will appear at the bottom of the home page. If you would like to add a networking session to your agenda click the "+" at the top of the session box.
- To view all the possible sessions, click on Schedule at the top of page. You can also schedule a one-on-one meeting with other attendees from the Schedule option.
- You can click on the session box in any of the agendas to see the descriptions, speakers, or to join into the session.
- Click into the session at the time indicated on the session to join it.
  - All sessions will be run through Zoom. Please make sure you have the latest version of Zoom downloaded at [zoom.us/download](https://zoom.us/download).
- Join in the chat, answer polls, and download any handouts from the session page.
- You can view everyone attending the 2021 Think Tank meeting under the Attendees option on the menu at the top of the page. Looking for someone in particular? Type their name in the Search bar.
- Check out the information about the sponsors. We wouldn't be able to put on this meeting without their support.
- Want to send a message to another attendee? Click on Conversations on the top menu.

# COLLABORATE, CONNECT, CATCH UP

Even though we are meeting virtually, there are plenty of opportunities for collaboration! This year, our online platform allows us to tally those connections. Earn points for scheduling a one-on-one video chat with a colleague, submitting a question or watching an archived breakout session. The Collaboration Counter will keep track and the three top collaborators will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the **BCAN Store**! You just can't have enough **#BCANOrange** gear!



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Ladies' Microfleece Jacket:  
Embroidery Design 167499  
\$40.00



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Valucap - Classic Dad's Cap:  
Embroidery Design 167499  
\$18.00

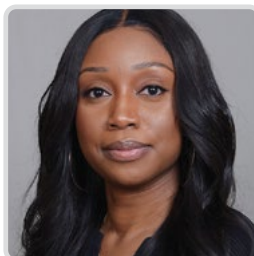
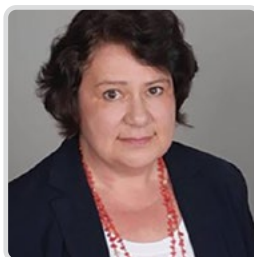
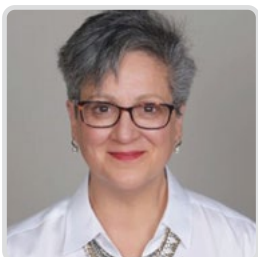


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Sport-Tek Ladies Heather  
Contender Polo: Embroidery  
Design 167499  
\$35.00



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Port Authority Ladies Dry Zone  
Grid Polo: Embroidery Design  
167499  
\$35.00

## WHO TO CONTACT AT BCAN



### TOP ROW:

**Andrea Maddox-Smith, CEO, [amsmith@bcan.org](mailto:amsmith@bcan.org)**

**Mark Story, Director of Communications and Marketing, [mstory@bcan.org](mailto:mstory@bcan.org)**

**Anita Parker, Director of Development, [aparker@bcan.org](mailto:aparker@bcan.org)**

### MIDDLE ROW:

**Stephanie Chisolm, PhD, Director of Education and Research, [schisolm@bcan.org](mailto:schisolm@bcan.org)**

**Morgan Stout, Education and Outreach Manager, [mstout@bcan.org](mailto:mstout@bcan.org)**

**Bernadette Fitzsimmons, Research Grant & Volunteer Manager, [bfitzsimmons@bcan.org](mailto:bfitzsimmons@bcan.org)**

### BOTTOM ROW:

**Rebecca Yannopoulos, Senior Walk Manager [ryannopoulos@bcan.org](mailto:ryannopoulos@bcan.org)**

**Trenny Stephens, Office Manager, [tstephens@bcan.org](mailto:tstephens@bcan.org)**

**Joslyn Brown, Administrative Assistant, [jbrown@bcan.org](mailto:jbrown@bcan.org)**

## 2020 JOHN QUALE TRAVEL FELLOWS

Since 2009, the John Quale Travel Fellowship Program has made it possible for early-career investigators interested in bladder cancer research to attend our annual Bladder Cancer Think Tank Meeting. The Travel Fellowship Program engages early-career individuals such as basic scientists, urologists, oncologists, and pathologists and connects them with hundreds of other bladder cancer researchers and medical professionals for a once-a-year in person opportunity.

Given that the COVID-19 pandemic persists in threatening global health and safety, BCAN was compelled to cancel the 2020 Think Tank. We are delighted to introduce the 2020 John Quale Travel Fellows at the 2021 Think Tank.

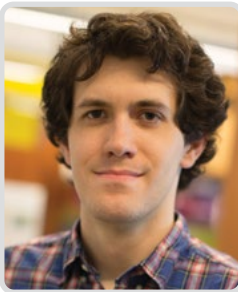


**Nathan A. Brooks, MD**, of MD Anderson Cancer Center

"The care of patients with bladder cancer, defining bladder cancer research, and diffusion of impactful work into the community encompass the passion that fuels my career interest. This was ignited in my work in residency, has been set ablaze by my focus in fellowship, and will provide the kindling on which to build a bright future. The opportunity to participate in the Bladder Cancer

Think Tank via this Fellowship, build lasting collaborative relationships, and continue to grow is one that would provide further fuel for my fire."

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**John R. Christin, MS, PhD**, of Columbia University Medical Center

"This Fellowship allows me to establish connections and collaborations with other professionals in the field of bladder cancer research which will be essential for the advancement of my research. The Bladder Cancer Think Tank meeting provides me with the important opportunity to meet with patient advocates who can provide insight into

the concerns and needs of the patients to whom we are ultimately responsible."



**Carissa E. Chu, MD**, of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center @CChuMD

"As a young physician scientist, I also look forward to finding new mentors at the meeting for advice and career development. Ultimately, I hope to bring my bench work back to my patient's bedside—right where I started as a young PGY-2—to develop better treatments and deliver better care to individuals."



**Ali R. Khaki, MD**, of Stanford University @arkhaki

"The opportunity to attend such a meeting early in my career will serve as a launching pad to future professional growth. I do not take this honor lightly and will remain committed to working toward advancing the field of bladder cancer in the long term."



**Richard Matulewicz, MS, MD**, of New York University School of Medicine @RichMatulewicz

"I am fortunate to have the honor of receiving the eponymous John Quale Travel Fellowship and understand how much the Quale family has contributed and is instrumental in helping BCAN and physicians like myself work to improve bladder cancer diagnosis, outcomes, and survivorship."



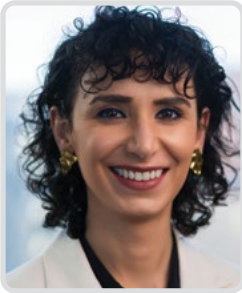
**Jeffrey Wong, MD, PhD**, of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

"It's a distinct honor to be included in the group of past, current, and future JQTFs. The incredible amount of progress toward curing bladder cancer made by these dedicated physicians and researchers has propelled the field forward. I hope to learn from and contribute to this exceptional momentum as I begin my career."

# BCAN SUPPORTING RESEARCH

The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network is committed to advancing bladder cancer research that saves lives. From our inception, BCAN has cultivated strong partnerships with leading members of the bladder cancer medical community, and we encourage collaboration for the study of bladder cancer and its prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment. We are pleased to introduce you to our 2021 research awardees:

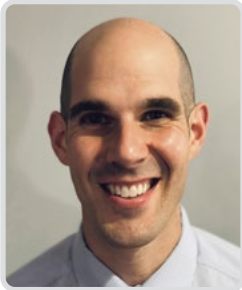
## 2021 New Discoveries Young Investigator Award for Patient Centered Research



**Svetlana Avulova, MD**, of Urologic Oncology Fellow, Mayo Clinic for her research *Sexual Function in Women Undergoing Radical Cystectomy*

"This award validates the importance of a woman's voice in bladder cancer survivorship and hopefully will provide a much needed and overdue platform for further research."

## 2021 New Discoveries Young Investigator Award

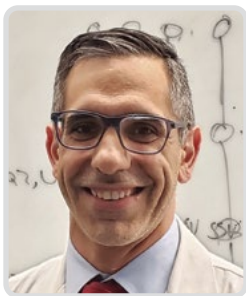


**Eugene Pietzak, MD**, of Assistant Attending Surgeon, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center for his research *Defining the Clinical Impact and Molecular Drivers of "Secondary" Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer*

"My long-term career goal is to translate our laboratory findings into rationally designed investigator-initiated trials that will lead to major practice-changing advancements for patients with bladder cancer. The Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network's Young Investigator Award provides the support and funding necessary to allow me to advance towards those goals and I am incredibly grateful to BCAN for this honor. Receiving this award is invaluable as I continue to establish an independent bladder cancer research program."

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**Filipe De Carvalho, MD, PhD**, of Urologic Oncology Fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital for his research *Clonal Architecture and Tumor Microenvironment of Cisplatin Resistant Localized Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer*

"I am honored to receive this award that will allow me to launch single-cell sequencing studies in bladder cancer and recognize which tools cancers use to grow despite standard treatment. Our results will contribute to better identify patients with bladder cancer that are unlikely to respond to chemotherapy and therefore prevent unnecessary toxicities."

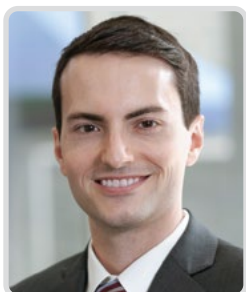
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**Benjamin Miron, MD**, of Medical Oncology Fellow, Fox Chase Cancer Center, for his research *Relationship of Circulating Tumor DNA in Patients with Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer to Pathologic Staging and Disease Prognosis*

"I am honored to have been selected for the BCAN YIA! The research funds for this award will be instrumental to our ongoing project developing circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) as a biomarker for patients with bladder cancer that we can use to optimize treatment strategies in the future."

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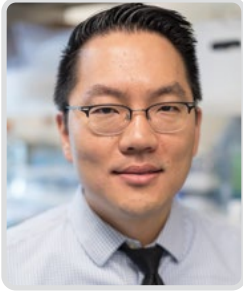
**Brendan Guercio, MD**, of Hematology/ Oncology Fellow, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, for his research *Associations of Patient Diet and Benefit from Immunotherapy in Urothelial Carcinoma*

"In recent years, immunotherapy has revolutionized care for many patients affected by bladder cancer. However, many questions about how to optimize immunotherapy for bladder cancer remain unanswered. Thanks to BCAN's generous support, I will work with my colleagues at Memorial Sloan-Kettering to shed light on whether diet and the gut microbiome can be used to maximize the benefits that patients with bladder cancer receive from immunotherapy. It is truly an honor and a privilege to receive this award and to participate in BCAN's mission to support those touched by bladder cancer. The BCAN 2021 New Discoveries Young Investigator Award will allow me to continue my research to help patients affected by bladder cancer."



## 2021 Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Award

The 2021 Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Award supports two investigators breaking new ground in the field of bladder cancer. The aim of the award is to support exceptionally novel and creative projects with great potential to produce breakthroughs in the management of bladder cancer.

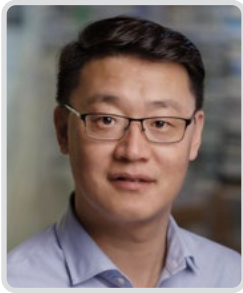


**John Lee, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, for his proposal *Identifying genetic determinants and vulnerabilities of histologic variants of bladder cancer*.

"The BCAN Research Innovation Award will provide timely and important support of our work to better understand variant bladder cancers. Little is known about this group of diseases which are often more aggressive and deadly than conventional bladder cancers. Our hope is that these

studies will provide new insights into how variant bladder cancers arise and are maintained with the goal of informing effective treatment strategies for patients in the near future.

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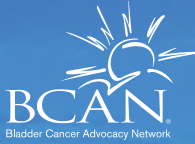
**Weiguo Cui, PhD**, Investigator, of Versiti Blood Research Institute and Associate Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin, for his proposal, *BCG-CAR empowers adoptive cell therapy to treat bladder cancer*.

"T cells are a type of immune cells that can fight off cancer cells; they can get really tired over time and lose effectiveness. This is called 'T cell exhaustion'. The research funded by the BCAN Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Award will

enable me to focus on discovering what factors lead to T cell exhaustion and, more importantly, discovering ways to reverse it. One such technology we have recently developed is to convert exhausted T cells into energized T cells to treat bladder cancer. Using our new technology, we also hope some of these reenergized T cells will form long-lived memory T cells to remember cancer cells, which can fight off cancer cells when they come around a second time. In this way, our memory T cells will protect us from cancer recurrence and metastasis."

# NOTES

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August 3–5, 2022

The Westin Denver Downtown  
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