



THINK TANK

2023 Program Schedule

August 2-4, 2023 | Washington, DC

Collaborating to Move Research Forward

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

- 10:00 – 4:00 Registration Check In
- 3:30 – 4:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks with BCAN CEO Andrea Maddox-Smith and Co-Founder Diane Zipursky Quale, Chair Bishoy Faltas, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine and Co-Chair Eugene Pietzak, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- 4:15 – 5:15 Patient Voice Panel
- 5:15 – 6:15 Meet the 2023 John Quale Travel Fellows
- 6:30 – 7:30 Happy Hour – Meet & Greet
- 7:30 – 9:00 Welcome Dinner

Thursday, August 3, 2023

- 7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 – 8:30 **Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) mUC Case Competition** University of California San Francisco, School of Pharmacy IPhO Chapter Winners Presentation with James Alexander, PharmD, IPhO CEO
- 8:30 – 10:00 **BCAN 2022 Young Investigator Awardees** Presentations with introduction by scientific review group chair Peter Black, MD.
- Raie Bekele, PhD, Dana Farber Cancer Institute
 - Laura Bukavina, MD, MPH, Fox Chase Cancer Center
- BCAN 2021 Bladder Cancer Research Innovation Awardee** Presentations with introduction by Scientific Review Group Chair Rosalyn Adams, MD
- Weiguo Cui, PhD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- 10:00 – 10:30 Networking Break
- 10:30 – 12:30 Breakout sessions (see page 3 for full descriptions)
- 12:30 – 2:30 Lunch & Networking Break

2:30 – 4:30 **If | Then: If it is true, then what does it imply?**
Co-chairs Max Kates, MD, Johns Hopkins Medicine and Shilpa Gupta MD, Cleveland Clinic
“If this is true, what does it imply?” guides scientific research for many of Dr. Donald Coffey’s trainees at Johns Hopkins Medicine. If what we observe in other diseases is real, what does it mean for bladder cancer? By extension, how does that truth affect or change our thinking? How does it guide the next questions we must ask to improve our understanding of bladder cancer?¹ Join us for a lively discussion of mRNA vaccines, epigenetic regulators, and drug delivery. How does progress made translate into the next novel treatments strategies for bladder cancer?

¹[Am J Clin Exp Urol.](#) 2018; 6(2): 26–31.

Invited panelists:

Vinod P. Balachandran, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Joshua Meeks, MD, PhD, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
Laura Ensign, PhD, Johns Hopkins Medicine

4:45 – 6:30 2023 John Quale Travel Fellow Poster Session and Happy Hour

* *Dinner on your own.*

Friday, August 4, 2022

7:00 – 8:30 Breakfast –

8:30 – 9:30 BCAN Research

2022 Young Investigator Awardee Presentation – Presentation with introduction by scientific review group chair Peter Black, MD

- Weisi Liu, PhD, Weill Medical College of Cornell University

2022 Patient Centered Clinical Young Investigator Awardee – Presentation with introduction by scientific review group chair Sarah Psutka MD

- Ava Saidian, MD, Moores Cancer Center at the University of California San Diego Health

9:30 - 10:00 Networking Break

10:00 – 12:00 Breakout sessions (see page 5 for full descriptions)

12:00 – 1:00 Networking Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 **The Road to Health Equity in Bladder Cancer**

Chair Samuel L. Washington III, MD, MAS, University of California, San Francisco

The road to equity in bladder cancer is littered with social determinants of health and potholes of historical and contemporary injustices. How does the bladder cancer community navigate the intersection of molecular, genetic, social, or built environments, and institutional factors that affect health disparities in cancer? Is zip code or genetic code more impactful? Paving the way for a fair and equitable opportunity in bladder cancer prevention, detection and treatment is attainable with the right roadmap. The Think Tank community has the talent to navigate the path necessary to ensure all bladder cancer patients are on the road to attaining their highest level of health.

Invited panelists:

Scarlett Lin Gomez, MPH, PhD, UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center
Stephen B. Williams, MD, MBA, MS, FACS, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
Stella Koutros, PhD, MPH, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute

Closing remarks.

Thursday Breakout Discussion Sessions Descriptions:

Cultivating resilience across the spectrum of bladder cancer care: developing a multimodal (p)rehabilitation toolkit. Co-chairs Sarah Psutka, MD, MSc, from the University of Washington Medical Center and Jessica Engle, DO, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Dive into the science behind prehabilitation and rehabilitation strategies and explore practical strategies for the integration of these tools into clinical care of patients with bladder cancer from diagnosis, in the care of non-muscle invasive, muscle invasive, and metastatic bladder cancer. Learn practical evaluation tools to characterize frailty, capacity, function, and resilience. Contribute to the discussion of multimodal interventions directed at optimizing physical function, strength, balance, and independence, cognition, nutrition, and social support to optimize clinical outcomes and quality of life during bladder cancer treatment and survivorship Jessica

Invited discussion leader(s):

Hannah Oh Hunter, MD, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Improving Bladder Cancer Research Opportunities. Co-chairs, William Dahut, MD, American Cancer Society, David McConkey, PhD, Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute and Rebecca Johnson, MPH, BCAN

Bladder cancer funding has not kept up with the growth and opportunity the best and brightest in bladder cancer research contribute during the Think Tank each year. What needs to occur to position the bladder cancer community to be more attractive to both government and private funding sources? How can the team science-oriented ideas that occur in our annual collaborative and interdisciplinary meeting get support to become a real opportunity to change the bladder cancer landscape? What types of innovative funding mechanisms are needed or would be best to fund and answer critical questions in bladder cancer research? Join the conversation about the current state of available bladder cancer research funding and engage in collaborative thinking about high-impact focus areas for future research funding.

Survivorship Task Force. Co-chairs Mary Dunn, RN, MSN, OCN, NP-C, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and Krisztina Emodi, FNP, MPH, CNS, University of California San Francisco Health.

Improving survivorship care remains a key focus of BCAN and the greater bladder cancer community. To better understand the needs of bladder cancer patients and their caregivers, the Survivorship Task Force has developed and disseminated surveys to gather data to use to work toward future projects. Surveys have also been distributed to a diverse group of providers who care for bladder cancer patients, to determine what survivorship programs already exist and to get input on how to improve survivorship care. This session will highlight the data that has been gathered from these groups and focus on potential areas of research.

Carcinogenesis of Bladder Cancer: Exploring/Uncovering Environmental and Internal Risk Factors. Co-chairs Sima P. Porten, MD, MPH, University of California, San Francisco and Sunil H. Patel, MD, MA, Johns Hopkins Medicine

"Why did I get bladder cancer?" is a question posed by many and often. A clinician's response of "We do not know," leaves us with a dilemma. Can we honestly say that the development of bladder cancer is due to external causes alone or are there internal risk factors that propagate or allow for carcinogenesis? Recent research in germline testing may shed light on internal factors. External factors, such as smoking and environmental or occupational toxin exposures may provoke the development of bladder cancer. What do we know? And better yet, what is left to discover about the cause of bladder cancer?

Invited discussion leader(s):

Bishoy Faltas, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine
Laura Bukavina, MD, MPH, Fox Chase Cancer Center
Philip Abbosh, MD, PhD, Fox Chase Cancer Center
Lauren Trepanier, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DACVCP

Beyond bladder preservation: Radiotherapy across the spectrum of bladder cancer treatment

Co-chairs: Leslie Ballas, MD, Cedars-Sinai and Monika Joshi, MD, MRCP, Penn State Cancer Institute

Stepping out of the 'gray' zone to address bladder preservation and 'rad' new options for treating bladder cancer, urothelial cancer experts will discuss the role of utilizing radiation therapy in both localized and advanced bladder cancer in the era of immunotherapy. The session would include presentations about organ preservation utilizing checkpoint inhibition with chemoradiation, updates on ongoing clinical trials with chemoradiation +/- immunotherapy, the role of radiation in advanced/oligometastatic disease and potential future clinical trials to evaluate an expanded role for bladder preservation.

Invited discussion leaders:

Scott E. Delacroix, Jr., MD, Louisiana State University Healthcare Network
Parminder Singh, MD, Mayo Clinic Arizona
Brian C. Bauman, MD, Washington University St. Louis

What's the deal with Carcinoma in Situ (CIS) anyway and why does it matter? Co-chairs Eugene Pietzak, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Andres Matoso, MD, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Tis flat tumors are found only on or near the surface of the bladder, join us as we do a deep dive into Carcinoma in Situ (CIS) to explore why it is clinically and biologically significant, and why there is often so much disagreement surrounding CIS. In addition to discussing ways to improve the identification and diagnosis, we will explore recent insights into the biologic underpinnings of CIS and how these inform bladder cancer pathogenesis, including re-visiting the "two pathway hypotheses" of bladder cancer development. This session will also touch on other poorly understood bladder tumor entities including pre-malignant lesions.

Invited discussion leader(s):

Joshua Warrick, MD, Penn State University Health
Carissa Chu, MD, University of California, San Francisco
Cathy L. Mendelsohn, PhD, Columbia University
Noah M. Hahn, MD, Johns Hopkins Medicine

What is the clinical utility and potential for urine biomarkers? Co-chairs Yair Lotan, MD, University of Texas Southwestern Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and Alexandre Zlotta, MD, Mt. Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto.

Urine biomarkers show promise in detection and surveillance of bladder cancer. They also can be utilized in hematuria evaluation. Are we harnessing the full potential of currently available biomarkers and those in development? What is the clinical utility and potential for biomarkers in screening and treatment selection?

Invited discussion leader(s):

Joshua J. Meeks, MD, PhD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Friday Breakout Discussion Sessions Descriptions:

Innate Immunity vs Adaptive Immunity in bladder cancer: Targeting novel immune pathways Co-chairs Neelam Mukherjee, Ph.D, University of Texas Health San Antonio, and Petros Grivas, MD, PhD, University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

Explore the critical role of innate immune cells vs adaptive immune cells in bladder cancer. The innate immune field is a promising and slowly evolving area of research that has the potential to significantly impact bladder cancer immune therapeutics and patient outcomes in the future. How do we focus on immune therapeutic interventions targeting these pathways and how they can be utilized in the development of novel prognostic biomarkers and treatment strategies in bladder cancer?

Invited discussion leaders:

Amir Horowitz, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai

Madhuri Koti, DVM, MVSc, PhD, Queen's University School of Medicine, Ontario

Robert Svatak, MD, University of Texas Health San Antonio

Keith Syson Chan, PhD, Houston Methodist

The Oncobiome: Real world applications of Microbiome in Bladder Cancer Co-chairs Laura Bukavina, MD, MPH, and Shilpa Gupta MD, Cleveland Clinic and Krisztina Emodi, FNP, MPH, CNS, University of California San Francisco

The relationship between the microbiome, probiotics, and bladder cancer is complex and not fully understood. However, there is growing evidence that the microbiome may play a role in tumorigenesis and treatment response through changes elicited by bacterial imbalance (dysbiosis) of the gut. Microbiome modulation such as use of probiotics, dietary changes or microbiome transplant can restore a healthy balance of gut bacteria and potentially alter the immune system's response to cancer cells. We hope to focus on real world, actionable data around microbiome, its modulation and how to incorporate the data into your practice.

Invited discussion leaders:

Gail Dykstra, BCAN Patient Advocate

Lisa DeRosa, PhD, Gustave Roussy Cancer Institute

Leigh Greathouse, PhD, MPH, MS, RD, Baylor University

Exploring rare variant subtypes of bladder tumors. Co-chairs Roger Li, MD, Moffit Cancer Center and Karima Oualla, MD, MSc, Hassan II University Hospital, Morocco

The newly formed IBCG-GSRGT Joint Committee on rare variants of bladder tumor brings together stakeholders to collaborate on research, education, and clinical trial endpoints with a focus on bladder cancer variants. Join the discussion to identify knowledge gaps in the biological, genomic, and clinical features related to various bladder cancer variants, immediate unmet needs, and ways to overcome these challenges. We hope to engender interest and form a global coalition to accelerate progress in this field.

Invited discussion leaders:

Philippe E Spiess, MD, MS, FACS, FRCS(C), Moffitt Cancer Center
Ashish M. Kamat, MD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Rafee Talukder, MD, Fred Hutch Cancer Center
Samuel A. Funt, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Hikmat Al-Ahmadie, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Francesca Khani, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine

Identifying the Hallmarks of Bladder Cancer - Broadening our knowledge of pathology and therapeutics –
Co-chairs Randy Sweis MD, University of Chicago Medicine and Chong-Xian Pan, PhD, MD, Harvard Medical School

The Hallmarks of Cancer heuristic framework distilled the complexity of cancer into a set of key underlying mechanistic principles. Published in 2000 with six core features, the 2022 update added four new proposed dimensions (unlocking phenotypic plasticity, senescent cells, nonmutational epigenetic reprogramming, and polymorphic microbiomes). We will continue this interactive session from last year to explore how each dimension is being addressed by current bladder cancer research. Help TT23 attendees identify opportunities that will lead to the next breakthroughs in understanding the hallmarks of Bladder Cancer.

Excellence in the community: how to bring specialized care to patients with bladder cancer outside of an academic setting Co-chairs Elizabeth Guancial, MD, Florida Cancer Care Specialists and Research Institute and Suzanne B. Merrill, MD, FACS, Colorado Urology

Community practitioners who care for patients with bladder cancer may not have ready access to multidisciplinary teams and specialized resources to comprehensively care for the disease. Examples of advanced level care that improve outcomes and quality of life include PRehab to optimize patients around the time of chemotherapy and cystectomy and life-long urinary diversion management. Join us for a discussion in which we consider how BCAN can best disseminate these skill sets into non-academic settings through DIY tool kits and facilitate access to existing resources outside of BCAN.

Invited discussion leaders:

Suzanne Dutton, DNP, GNP-BC, RN, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Sibley Memorial Hospital
Armine Smith, MD, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Sibley Memorial Hospital
Linda Arundel, RN , CWOCN at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital

Epigenetics and response to immunotherapy in bladder cancer – clinic to bench and back. Co-chairs Joshua J. Meeks, MD, PhD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Anna Woloszynska, PhD, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Epigenetic regulation of gene expression and its impact on the immune system are well-established in cancer. While clinical developments in the utilization of checkpoint inhibitors provide advanced bladder cancer patients with additional treatment options, not all patients derive the same benefit of immunotherapy. Some patients even fail to respond to this treatment. The impact of epigenetic processes on modulating the immune system either through transcriptional activation of neoantigens or induction of viral mimicry have not been exploited in therapeutic approaches in bladder cancer. This breakout session will provide a platform for synthesis of ideas underlying how epigenetics and epigenetic agents (i.e. EZH2, DNA methylation, and histone deacetylase inhibitors) may impact patient response to immunotherapies and improve future clinical trial design.

Defining treatment lines in metastatic urothelial cancer: Choosing the right targets and combinations at the right time. Co-chairs Scott Tagawa MD, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Tracy Rose, MD, MPH, University of North Carolina

The list of treatment options and promising targets for metastatic urothelial cancer has rapidly expanded. Despite this, many patients have rapid disease progression or co-morbidities and do not receive second- or third-line therapy. Join us for an exploration of new targets and combination therapies for metastatic urothelial cancer and a discussion of future directions to maximize effective lines of therapy for each patient. Discussion will include antibody drug conjugates, FGFR-targeted therapies, immune therapy combinations, and optimal treatment sequencing.

Invited discussion leaders:

Srikala Sridhar, MD, MSc, FRCPC, Princess Margaret Cancer Center
Arlene Siefker-Radtke, MD, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Vadim S. Koshkin, MD, University of California, San Francisco