



Leadership Development Program Participant and Coach Bios

2025-26 ASCO LDP Participants



Atlal Abusanad, MD, MSc, ABIM, FRCPC, CIP | *King Abdulaziz University*

Dr. Atlal Abusanad is a Professor of Medical Oncology and Head of the Medical Oncology Unit at King Abdulaziz University Hospital (KAUH) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In 2025, she became the first Saudi and GCC woman to attain this academic rank. She also leads the breast cancer unit and serves on national oncology committees. She is board-certified by the ABIM and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, with fellowships from McGill University and a Master's in Experimental Medicine focused on molecular oncology.

Her research focuses on young women with breast cancer, survivorship, and physician burnout. She led the BOMENA study and authored the first paper on female oncologists in the GCC. She founded Najia, a digital support platform for breast cancer survivors. Dr. Abusanad received the Women in Oncology MENA Award and the Jeddah Innovation Award. She is a mentor in ASCO's VMP, a featured ASCO Connection blogger, and recently appointed member of ASCO's International Education Steering Group.



Nabil Adra, MD | *Indiana University Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center*

Dr. Nabil Adra is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Urology at Indiana University School of Medicine. He serves as program leader for Genitourinary Oncology. Dr. Adra also serves as Service Line Leader for Medical Oncology and Medical Director at the IU Health Simon Cancer Center. Dr. Adra serves on the ASCO annual meeting education committee. His research focus is on novel therapeutics and biomarkers in testicular and prostate cancer.



Daniel V. Araujo, MD | *University of Florida*

Dr. Daniel Araujo is a Medical Oncologist and Associate Professor at the University of Florida, specializing in genitourinary and skin cancers. He completed his medical oncology residency at AC Camargo Cancer Center in São Paulo (Brazil), followed by a clinical and research fellowship at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto (Canada). Prior to joining UF, he was a medical oncologist at BC Cancer Abbotsford and held a faculty appointment at the University of British Columbia (Canada). Earlier in his career, he served as Head of Medical Oncology at Hospital de Base in São José do Rio Preto (Brazil), leading service expansion and multidisciplinary initiatives. Dr. Araujo is a recipient of ASCO's 2020 Young Investigator Award and 2017 International Development and Education Award, and he served as a member of ASCO's International Innovation Grant (IIG) review committee. His academic interests include treatment optimization, health systems improvement, and collaborative research in genitourinary oncology.



Stephen Bagley, MD, MSCE | *University of Pennsylvania*

Dr. Stephen J. Bagley is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Section Chief of Neuro-Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. As a clinician-scientist, Dr. Bagley focuses both his research and clinical efforts on patients with primary brain tumors. He has particular expertise in translational immunotherapy trials for gliomas, as well as an interest in using blood and cerebrospinal fluid for less invasive molecular characterization and monitoring of brain tumors. Dr. Bagley has led biomarker studies, single institution investigator-initiated clinical trials, and multicenter trials conducted nationally through the National Cancer Institute sponsored National Clinical Trials Network. In addition, he has chaired numerous Neuro-Oncology committees and workshops with international scope through the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) and the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Dr. Bagley earned his MD and Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology degrees from Penn and completed both his internal medicine residency and hematology/oncology fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.



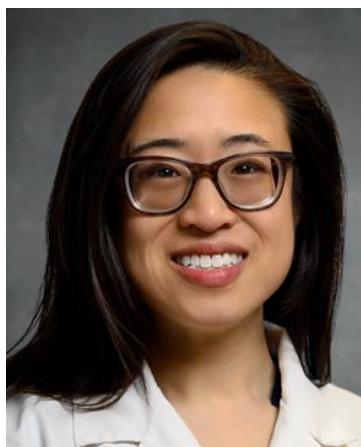
James Bates, MD | *Emory University*

Dr. James Bates is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Emory University focusing on the treatment of head and neck cancers and lymphomas. He additionally serves as the Associate Director of Clinical Research within his department. His research primarily focused on the cardiac late effects of cancer treatment in long-term survivors of childhood cancer and biomarker-driven treatment de-escalation in patients with HPV-related head and neck cancers. He has leadership roles on various committees within ASTRO, NRG Oncology, and the Head and Neck Cancer International Group (HNCIG). He is a graduate of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and completed his residency in radiation oncology at the University of Florida.



Lior Z. Braunstein, MD | *Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center*

Dr. Lior Braunstein is an Associate Attending in Radiation Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Program Director of the Radiation Oncology Residency Training Program. His research is focused on optimizing radiotherapy approaches for breast cancer, studying biomarkers of treatment response, and developing computational tools for the research and practice of clinical oncology. He holds several national leadership roles, working routinely on committees within ASCO, ASTRO, ABR, ACR and NRG Oncology. He also serves as principal investigator on a number of national and international clinical trials studying breast cancer. Dr. Braunstein holds an A.B. summa cum laude from Princeton University in molecular biology, an M.D. with honors from Harvard Medical School, and completed his residency training at the Harvard Radiation Oncology Program, along with training in clinical trial conduct at the Harvard School of Public Health, and post-doctoral training in cancer genomics at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.



Kimberly Ku, MD | *Illinois CancerCare*

Dr. Kimberly Ku is a community medical oncologist and hematologist at Illinois CancerCare in central Illinois. She earned triple board certifications in Medical Oncology, Hematology, and Internal Medicine, along with certification in Genomic Cancer Risk Assessment. Her broad expertise spans clinical care, research, and healthcare administration, with a strong focus on improving patient outcomes while recognizing financial and social responsibility.

Dr. Ku is also a passionate advocate for diversity and empathy-driven community teamwork in healthcare. As the 2024 ResearchER ambassador for the American Cancer Society, she is committed to breaking down barriers and fostering collaboration among healthcare institutions. This work led to her becoming the current Value Based Care Physician Champion for her practice through US Oncology and leading her practice's department in Quality and Value Based Care.



Ciara C. O' Sullivan, MB, BCh, BAO | *Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN*

Dr. Ciara O'Sullivan is an Associate Professor of Medical Oncology focusing on clinical and translational research in breast cancer at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She is a prior recipient of an ASCO Career Development Award (2018). She has led three multisite investigator-initiated trials, including an FDA registration trial, CompassHER2 RD (CompassHER2 Trials Examining Escalating and De-Escalating Therapy in HER2-Positive Breast Cancer: Optimizing Treatment in Residual Disease [NCT04457596; A011801]). She is a Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology breast committee member and has participated in NCI and NTCN working groups. She received both an NCI Research Specialist (Clinician Scientist) Award (R50) and a Breast Cancer SPORE Developmental Research Program award (Co-PI) in 2024. Other research interests include patient advocacy, and strategies to mitigate physician burnout and career attrition in Oncology. She also serves as a Physician Advisor for the Breast Cancer Support Network and regularly participates in patient support group meetings.



Matthew Painschab, MD | *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Dr. Matthew Painschab has a primary interest in reducing global cancer disparities through prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer in sub-Saharan Africa as well as increasing research capacity through training international and domestic researchers to work globally. Dr. Painschab works primarily in Malawi at UNC Project Malawi to study HIV-associated malignancies, especially multicentric Castleman disease, lymphoma, and Kaposi sarcoma and has been involved in multi-national clinical trials through the AIDS Malignancy Consortium.

His global health research experience includes a Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholarship in Puno, Peru (2010-2011), a UJMT Fogarty International Research Fellowship in Malawi (2017-2018), and a Fogarty International Center International Research Scientist Development Award K01 (2019-2024). Critically, his first fully independent research project was funded by the ASCO Global Oncology Young Investigator Award (GO YIA) (2018-2019) and he has served on the ASCO GO YIA selection committee since 2020 including as co-chairperson from 2022 to present.



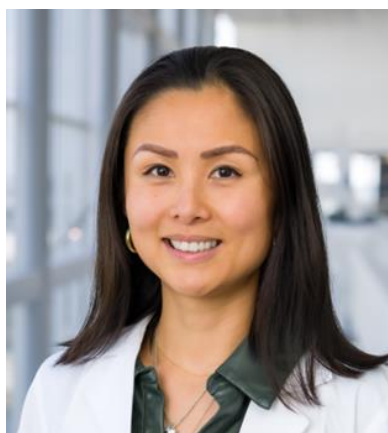
Carolyn Presley, MD, MHS | *The Ohio State University*

Dr. Carolyn J. Presley is an Associate Professor with Tenure in the Division of Medical Oncology/Department of Internal Medicine at The Ohio State University (OSU), Comprehensive Cancer Center and The James Cancer Hospital/Solove Research Institute. She is the section chief of Thoracic Medical Oncology. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and her medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School. She completed residency in Internal Medicine and a combined fellowship in Geriatric Oncology and Hematology at Yale University. She completed a Masters in Health Sciences, also at Yale, within the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program sponsored by the VA Connecticut Healthcare System. She is an active member of the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. She has been a long-time member of the International Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG) and the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG). Dr. Presley currently leads studies focused on maintaining functional independence and improving fatigue, quality of life, and survivorship care among older adults with lung cancer. These studies incorporate geriatric assessment, embedded palliative care, and interventions to improve risk factors for treatment toxicity and functional decline. She has been funded by the National Institute of Aging, the BMS Foundation, the Rising Tide Foundation, and is one of the first two women at OSU to ever receive the preeminent Paul Beeson Emerging Leaders in Aging Career Development Award from the National Institute on Aging. She has also received the National LEAD Rising Star Award for Women in hematology and oncology, and the Jimmie Holland Invited Lectureship for Psycho-Oncology.



Brittany Ragon, MD | *Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center - Levine Cancer Institute*

Dr. Brittany Knick Ragon is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, member of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center, and serves as Director of Hematology Operations at Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, NC. Her clinical expertise at LCI is in acute leukemias, myeloid diseases, allogeneic transplant, hereditary hematologic predisposition syndromes, and bone marrow failure syndromes. Her research is focused on utilizing protein and gene exploration to identify biologically informed therapeutic targets for myeloid malignancies. She has a complementary research focus on efforts to mitigate healthcare disparities in acute leukemia patients. She also serves as principal investigator on several clinical trials in acute leukemias, developed the hereditary hematologic malignancy predisposition clinic at LCI, and is a certified Epic Physician Builder. Within ASCO, she has authored the Leukemia Chapter of the ASCO Self-Evaluation Program and serves on the ASCO Practice Quality Improvement Steering Group.



Nina Sanford, MD | *University of Texas Southwestern*

Dr. Nina Sanford is an Associate Professor and Chief of Gastrointestinal Radiation at the University of Texas Southwestern. She grew up in the Boston area, received her bachelor's degree from Princeton University, medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and completed a residency in radiation oncology at the combined Massachusetts General Hospital/Brigham and Women's Hospital program in 2018. Now in Dallas, her academic interests are in clinical trials, both at the institutional and cooperative group levels. She is a member of the NCI Pancreas Task Force and chairs the NRG Pancreas Working Group. Through conducting and researching clinical trials, her goal is to elucidate when and in whom radiotherapy should be used, and how to design trials that can best demonstrate the value of radiotherapy. She also enjoys writing and teaching, and serves on the editorial board for JCO and on the GI ASCO Planning Committee.



Rebecca A. Snyder, MD, MPH | *The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

Dr. Rebecca Snyder is a surgical oncologist caring for patients with pancreatic cancer at MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is a clinical and health services researcher, and her efforts focus on improving the patient-centeredness of pancreatic cancer care, as well as disparities in care delivery related to race and social determinants of health. Dr. Snyder serves as Co-Chair of the Gastrointestinal Surgery Working Group and liaison to the Health Disparities and Cancer Care Delivery Research Committees in the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology. She is an experienced writer and has published original scientific studies and narrative medicine essays in *JAMA*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, and *JNCI*. She currently serves on the Editorial Board of *JCO* and *JCO Oncology Practice*.



Laura Spring, MD | *Massachusetts General Hospital*

Dr. Laura Spring is a clinical/translational investigator and breast medical oncologist at the Mass General Cancer Center and Harvard Medical School. She received her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and completed residency in internal medicine at Brigham & Women's Hospital followed by fellowship training in medical oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Massachusetts General Hospital. Her primary research interest is neoadjuvant therapy for breast cancer, including clinical trials and translational studies, and her work has been supported by several grants. Administratively, Dr. Spring is very involved with the Mass General Cancer Center Network, having served as the breast cancer liaison for several years and is now the Network Director for medical oncology. In addition, she serves as the chair of the Mass General Brigham P&T oncology subcommittee.



Umang Swami, MD | *Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah*

Dr. Umang Swami is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine at Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah, specializing in genitourinary cancers. After graduating from Sawai Man Singh Medical College, India, he worked at Montefiore-Einstein Cancer Center on phase I studies for advanced solid tumors. He completed an Internal Medicine residency at St. Barnabas Hospital, NY, and a Hematology-Oncology fellowship, along with an MS in Clinical Investigations at the University of Iowa. With over 140 publications, Dr. Swami has presented internationally. He serves on multiple institutional committees as well as ASCO guideline panels. A dedicated mentor, he has guided numerous students and trainees in oncological research and has been an ASCO Virtual Mentor since 2020.



Oladapo Yeku, MD, PhD, FACP, FASCO | *Massachusetts General Hospital*

Dr. Oladapo Yeku is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Director of Translational Research for the Gynecologic Oncology Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He is an Associate Editor at *NEJM Evidence*. Dr. Yeku completed his Medical Oncology fellowship training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) and is an expert on immunotherapy for gynecologic cancers. Dr. Yeku is actively involved as a Principal Investigator in early-phase drug development, immunotherapy clinical trials, and adoptive cellular therapy clinical trials. His laboratory studies the immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment in Gynecologic Cancers and develops immunotherapeutic approaches such as antibody drug conjugates (ADCs), bispecific T-cell engagers (BiTEs), and Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cells to overcome these obstacles.

2025-26 ASCO LDP Coaches



Nasser Hanna, MD, FASCO | *Indiana University*

Dr. Nasser Hanna is a Professor of Medicine at Indiana University and the Tom and Julie Wood Foundation Professor of Lung Cancer Clinical Research. He received his MD from the University of Missouri-Columbia and completed an Internal Medicine residency at the University of Iowa and an Oncology fellowship at Indiana University, where he has remained as a faculty since January 2001. His primary interest has been in the clinical care, research, and advocacy for those with lung cancer. He has served as the Chairman of the Board for the Hoosier Oncology Group, Service Line Leader and Associate Chair of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Program Leader for the Thoracic Oncology Group, and is the current Chairman for End Lung Cancer Now. He was an inaugural member of the Leadership Development Program for ASCO in 2010 and has served on various ASCO committees over the years.



Merry Jennifer Markham, MD, FACP, FASCO | *Moffitt Cancer Center*

Dr. Merry Jennifer Markham is a gynecologic medical oncologist and Senior Member in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center. She was formerly the Chief of the Division of Hematology and Oncology and Associate Director for Medical Affairs at the University of Florida Health Cancer Center. Dr. Markham earned her medical degree from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and completed both her internal medicine residency and hematology/oncology fellowship at the University of Florida. She joined the UF faculty in 2008 and held numerous leadership roles during her tenure, including Medical Director of Women's Cancer Innovation & Survivorship and Research Lead for the Gynecologic Cancers Disease Site Group. She was a member of the 2017–2018 cohort of the ASCO Leadership Development Program and remains deeply involved with ASCO. She has served in multiple leadership roles, including on the ASCO Nominating Committee, the Joint Certifications Council, and the Communications Committee. Dr. Markham's academic interests include therapeutics in gynecologic cancers, quality improvement in oncology care, and patient-centered communication in cancer care.



Sumanta Kumar Pal, MD, FASCO | *City of Hope*

Dr. Sumanta (Monty) Pal is an internationally recognized leader in the area of genitourinary cancers, including kidney, and bladder cancer. He is co-director of City of Hope's Kidney Cancer Program, Director of the Kidney and Bladder Cancer Disease Team and Vice Chair of Academic Affairs for the Department of Medical Oncology & Therapeutic Research. Dr. Pal entered college at the age of 13 and began medical school at UCLA at the age of 17. After completing his residency training at UCLA, Dr. Pal completed a fellowship program in medical oncology at City of Hope's comprehensive cancer center where he has remained on faculty since 2009. Dr. Pal has published more than 500 PubMed cited articles that are featured in journals including: Cancer Discovery, The Journal of Clinical Oncology, The Lancet, Cancer Cell, and Nature Medicine.



Piyush Srivastava, MD, FASCO | *Kaiser Permanente*

Dr. Piyush Srivastava is a practicing GI Oncologist, Palliative Care Physician, and Administrator at Kaiser Permanente, Northern California. He graduated from LDP in 2016 and he feels that his skill set development, relationship building and formal introduction to ASCO propelled him into personal and professional success. Since that time, he has been on several ASCO volunteer committees such as Survivorship and International Affairs. He has been selected from a participant volunteer to a leadership chair role in the Clinical Practice Committee, Governmental Relations Committee, Quality Training Program (where he serves as Faculty and Coach), and Clinician Well Being Task Force. He was elected by the ASCO Membership to be on the Nominating Committee, 2019-2022. Currently, he is Chair Elect for the Practice Quality Improvement Steering Group.

He also attributes his Kaiser Permanente Cancer Center and Organizational Wide Leadership Roles to his time with the LDP.

He is extremely honored and humbled to be a part of the upcoming LDP classes!