



## Leadership Development Program: Latin America

### Participant Bios

#### 2024-25 ASCO LDP: Latin America Participants



**Cecilia Castillo, MD** | *Hospital de Clínicas / British Hospital of Montevideo, Uruguay*

Dr. Cecilia Castillo has been an oncologist since 2006 and currently works at the Hospital Universitario de Clínicas, where she is an assistant professor. Hospital Universitario de Clínicas is the only center in Uruguay where doctors are trained to obtain the title of oncologist. Dr. Castillo carries out clinical and research activities, with her area of expertise being breast cancer and, more recently, gynecological cancers. Her research mainly focuses on epidemiological aspects and healthcare quality, aiming to generate results applicable at the local level. Dr. Castillo also works at the British Hospital of Montevideo, a private hospital, where she primarily performs clinical work. Since March of this year, Dr. Castillo has been in charge of continuing medical education for oncologists at this center. Dr. Castillo lives in Montevideo, Uruguay, with her husband and two teenage daughters.



**Bruna Bianca Lopes David, MD** | *Grupo Oncoclínicas / Instituto Nacional de Câncer, Brazil*

Dr. Bruna Bianca Lopes David is a Brazilian medical oncologist leading the Sarcoma team at the Oncoclinicas Group and serving as a clinical researcher at the Brazilian National Cancer Institute (INCA). After completing her oncology degree at INCA, she specialized in sarcomas at the Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT) and later took on the role of project manager for the Sarcoma European Latin America Network consortium, an intercontinental collaborative group. During that time, Dr. David had the opportunity to collaborate with significant initiatives focused on rare cancers. Since then, she has joined various established Sarcoma and Public Policy Committees at both local and international levels, including co-founding the Brazilian Sarcoma Group. Working with colleagues in Global Oncology has resulted in initiatives focused on rare cancers in Latin America, elevating these issues in discussions with policymakers and providing support for healthcare professionals and patient advocacy groups in the region.



**María Lucila González Donna, MD** | *Instituto Nacional del Cáncer, Paraguay*

Dr. Maria Lucila González Donna is a highly accomplished medical oncologist and clinical researcher from Paraguay. Currently, she serves as the Head of Research at the National Cancer Institute (INCAN) under the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay, where she plays a pivotal role in shaping oncology practice, education, and research. Dr. González Donna graduated from the National University of Rosario, Argentina, in 2001. In 2017, she earned a master's degree in clinical Pharmacological Research, and has over 15 years of experience in clinical practice and oncology research in both Argentina and Paraguay. At INCAN, Dr. González Donna oversees the training of resident doctors and collaborates with national universities. Her work focuses on fostering innovative research and partnering with patient associations to improve cancer care. Dr. González Donna founded Paraguay's first Site Management Organization, recognized by the National Council of Technology and Science (CONACYT), and played a key role in establishing the Clinical Research Ethics Committee at INCAN, which is accredited by the national regulatory agency. Her efforts are dedicated to advancing translational and clinical research to address the needs of cancer patients in Paraguay.



**Rixci Augusto Lenin Ramírez Fallas, MD** | *Instituto Guatemalteco de Seguridad Social, Guatemala*

Dr. Rixci Augusto Lenin Ramírez Fallas is a medical oncologist with a specialization in gastrointestinal oncology at the National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition Salvador Zubirán in Mexico. At the Guatemalan Social Security Institute, he provides oncological medical care to all patients suffering from malignancies. Over the past 10 years, he has developed a strong network dedicated to optimizing cancer care for Guatemalan patients with malignancies and collaborating on multi-institutional research efforts. Dr. Ramírez's clinical research has focused on defining the oncological results of malignancies in Guatemala and on cancer prevention. As head of the department of medical oncology, he is making research efforts to prevent and control cancer. Since 2020, Dr. Ramírez has held the role of Assistant Professor of Oncologist Fellows at his institution and since 2015, has been the Principal Investigator in clinical research.



**André Poisl Fay, MD, PhD** | *Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul / Brazilian Information Oncology / Hospital Nora Teixeira, Brazil*

Dr. André Poisl Fay is a medical oncologist dedicated to genitourinary malignancies. He is a professor at the School of Medicine and Post Graduation Program at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS) in Porto Alegre, Brazil. He completed a research fellowship at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Fay is a member of the steering committee for GU cancers in the Latin American Cooperative Oncology Group (LACOG) leading important clinical and translational research. He is also a co-founder and Scientific Director of BIO education, a platform committed to continuing medical education in Brazil and Latin America. Dr. Fay has received 3 Merit Awards from ASCO. He was the Chief of the Medical Oncology Department at PUCRS Hospital from 2017 to 2021 and he has become the coordinator of the Center for Genitourinary Oncology at the Hospital Nora Teixeira/Santa Casa de Porto Alegre. He is also a volunteer advisor to the Medulloblastoma Initiative (MBI), a consortium to find a cure of this disease.



**Federico Losco, MD** | *Instituto Alexander Fleming, Argentina*

Dr. Federico Losco received his MD from the Faculty of Medicine at the Italian Hospital of Buenos Aires. He completed his training as a specialist in internal medicine and clinical oncology at the University of Buenos Aires. Dr. Losco is a clinical oncology staff member at the Alexander Fleming Institute, where he directed the Chemotherapy Unit from 2017 to 2023. Dr. Losco currently works as a member of the Uro-Oncology Unit, where he focuses on assistance, research, and education regarding genitourinary tumors. Dr. Losco is a board member of the Argentine Association of Clinical Oncology, Executive Director for Latin America of the Latin American GU Oncology Group, and a member of the Urotarget Foundation. His passion for innovation led him to work with different professionals to develop knowledge and find technological tools to help patients and physicians. Dr. Losco's commitment to patients and their families fuels his passion towards all his efforts.



**Claudia Alejandra Martin, MD, PhD** | *Hospital Privado Universitario de Córdoba / Hospital Raúl Ángel Ferreyra / Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Biomédicas / Asociación de Oncólogos Clínicos de Córdoba, Argentina*

Dr. Claudia Alejandra Martin is a clinical oncologist at the Oncogenetics Program at Hospital Privado Universitario de Córdoba. She also serves as a consultant in the Oncology departments at both Hospital Privado Universitario de Córdoba and Hospital Raúl Ángel Ferreyra. In addition, Dr. Martin teaches oncology fellows at the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias Biomédicas. Her research focuses primarily on oncogenetics, but she also participates in various research teams, including those in translational medicine. Additionally, she is the vice-president of the Asociación de Oncólogos Clínicos de Córdoba and a member of the Argentine Network of Hereditary Cancer.



**Marytere Herrera Martínez, MD, MSc** | *Instituto Nacional De Cancerologia, Mexico*

Dr. Marytere Herrera Martínez completed her medical oncology fellowship at the National Cancer Institute (INCan) in Mexico. Currently, she is a member of the Gastrointestinal Tumor service at INCan Mexico, Secretary of the Research Ethics Committee at INCan, Investigator of SWOG (Latinamerican Group) and participant as principal investigator and subinvestigator in gastrointestinal tumors trials. She obtained a Master's Degree in Bioethics with honorable mention from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and currently Dr. Herrera is finishing a Physician Degree in Bioethics at the UNAM with her main area of research being social factors for decision making in oncology. She believes that these problems must be studied in depth to be able to provide real answers in Latin American countries and increase visibility.





**Javier Retamales, MD** | *Hospital Sótero del Río / Instituto Nacional del Cancer / Grupo Oncologico Cooperativo Chileno de Investigacion, Chile*

Dr. Javier Retamales is an oncologist committed to enhancing clinical care for advanced cancer patients, particularly in underserved communities in Latin America. His work focuses on integrating patient-reported outcomes (PROs) and pragmatic clinical research to improve the quality of end-of-life care. He developed the ALVA ePRO Platform, an innovative tool designed to capture PROs in real-time, offering an alternative to traditional electronic or paper-based forms. This platform is currently being utilized during end-of-life care, facilitating informal caregiver engagement.

Dr. Retamales has played a pivotal role in national and international clinical trials, contributing to the advancement of cancer research and treatment protocols. As the National Principal Investigator for multiple studies with BIG, SWOG, and BCT, he has facilitated the implementation of standard procedures across Latin America. His recent ASCO Conquer Cancer/Pfizer Competitive Grant for Quality Improvement involves leading over 30 clinical sites in Latin America to improve metastatic breast cancer care.

Coming from an underserved community, Dr. Retamales is deeply committed to addressing health disparities in cancer care. He serves as a bridge between clinical research, translational science, and health policy. His work includes exploring biomarkers in gallbladder cancer—a disease with high prevalence in underserved Latin American populations—and contributing to national guidelines for cervical cancer treatment and rational use of imaging in cancer care.



**Felipe Santa Rosa Roitberg, MD** | *Empresa Brasileira de Serviços Hospitalares, Brazil*

Dr. Felipe Santa Rosa Roitberg is a medical oncologist and public health specialist. He currently holds the position of Coordinator of Research and Innovation Management at the Brazilian Network of Hospital Services (Rede Ebserh).

Previously he served at the World Health Organization, Geneva, and more recently in WHO Ukraine, as a Technical Officer, in order to assist in planning cancer policies, cancer medicines selection/procurement and purchase and optimizing the healthcare system structure during the conflict. His expertise includes cancer medicines clinical benefit analysis, design and implementation of national cancer control plans and economic analysis, having led the design of the cancer investment case for Mozambique.

Dr. Roitberg has a degree in Healthcare Management, Quality for Healthcare Services and Economics for Healthcare Organizations from the Harvard School of Public Health and previously served as associate physician and researcher at the Cancer Institute of the State of São Paulo, USP, for more than 10 years, where he dedicated himself to teaching, research (>30 Clinical Trials as PI and Sub-investigator) and patient's clinical management.

He is a collaborator of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the National Cancer Institute/USA (NCI), Univ of Berlin, member of UICC Young Leadership and of the Global Oncology Boards of the European Oncology Society.

He has published articles in prominent journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine and The Lancet Oncology. Dr. Roitberg contributes to the Lancet Commission on Cancer and Health Systems and Lancet Omnis and editorial board of the Journal of Cancer Policy.



**Erika Saavedra, MD, MSc** | *Instituto Nacional del Cáncer, Chile*

Dr. Erika Saavedra is a medical oncologist at the Chilean National Cancer Institute where she focuses on head and neck, colorectal, and breast malignancies. She earned her medical degree from the University of Valley in Bolivia, followed by a residency in internal medicine and a medical oncology fellowship at the University of Chile. Dr. Saavedra's background includes a clinical research fellowship at the Institute Gustave Roussy and a master's degree in sciences from Paris XI University. To broaden her expertise, she completed a clinical research program at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, obtained an ESO Certificate of Competence in Breast Cancer from Ulm University, and was awarded an ESCO Mentorship. These experiences have equipped her with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the field of oncology and contribute to the mission of caring for cancer patients.



**Jule F. Vasquez, MD** | *Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Neoplásicas / Clínica Delgado Auna / Oncosalud, Peru*

Dr. Jule F. Vasquez received his MD from National University of Peruvian Amazon in Iquitos, then completed his residency in Medical Oncology through Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia at National Institute of Neoplastic Diseases (INEN) where he became an Attending Physician of the Hematological Malignancies (HM) Section of the Department of Medical Oncology in 2013. In 2015, he was one of the recipients of the International Development and Education Award from Conquer Cancer Foundation (ASCO). From 2014 to 2018 he was the President of the Institutional Review Board and from 2019 to 2020 he was the coordinator of the Hematological Malignancies Group. Dr. Vasquez currently is the leader of the HM Clinical Practice Guidelines team. He also has international experience as a member of the International Education Steering Group and the Hematological Malignancies Guideline Advisory Group, both from ASCO, and the national coordinator of the Latin American School of Oncology for Peru, and member of the scientific committee of the GELAM (Latin American study group of multiple myeloma).

Dr. Vasquez has authored or co-authored more than 9 peer-reviewed publications in journals such as JCO Global Oncology, Leukemia Lymphoma and Infectious and Cancer Agents. Dr. Vasquez's research is mainly focused on NK/T-cell lymphoma, Hodgkin lymphoma, multiple myeloma and stem cell transplantation. In 2021, Dr. Vasquez completed the Global Clinical Scholar Research Training Program, a 1-year certificated program from Harvard Medical School Postgraduate Medical Education.