



## Leadership Development Program: Education Scholars

### Participant and Mentor Bios

#### 2024-25 ASCO LDP: Education Scholars Participants



**Inas Abuali, MD, FACP** | *Massachusetts General Hospital*

Dr. Inas Abuali is a hematologist and Oncologist at Massachusetts General Cancer Center, and an instructor at Harvard Medical School. She specializes in the care of hospitalized patients and management of toxicities related to cancer therapeutics. At her current role, she serves as the inpatient oncology education lead, with a focus on curriculum development and mentorship. She also leads medical education efforts at the Mass General Global Cancer Care program, focusing on bidirectional partnerships to address needs and bridge the gap in resource-limited settings. On a national level, she co-chairs ASCO's Global Oncology Community of Practice. Dr. Abuali has served on multiple ASCO committees and task forces, including the MedEd CoP scholarship committee, the SEP item writing task force, the trainee and early career advisory group and the scientific program committee.



**Victoria Elizabeth Forbes, MD, MS** | *University of Connecticut Health Center*

Dr. Victoria Forbes is a Hematologist/Oncologist at the University of Connecticut Health Center's Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has a passion for trainee education and proudly serves as the Associate Program Director of the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship. She directs UConn's first Global Oncology Program aiming to build bidirectional connections and improve Global Oncology education. She cares for patients with a range of hematologic disorders and this year was celebrated as a 'Rising Star' on the 2024 'Top Doctors' list powered by Castle Connolly. Dr. Forbes and colleagues were recently selected to participate in the American Society of Hematology's Absolute Neutrophil Count by Duffy Status Project, addressing a critical health equity concern in the US. She enjoys dancing and jogging and will bike in the Prouty, Dartmouth Cancer Center's fundraiser, this July in New Hampshire. Her goal is to raise money to educate the next generation of Oncologists.



**Christine Garcia, MD, MPH** | *Weill Cornell Medicine / NewYork Presbyterian Hospital*

Dr. Christine Garcia is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Assistant Attending Physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, specializing in thoracic oncology and hematologic conditions. She also serves as the Director of the Hematology and Oncology Fellowship Training Program and the Director of Quality and Patient Safety for the Division of Hematology. Dr. Garcia leads quality improvement projects to enhance cancer care delivery efficiency and safety, earning her two ASCO Merit Awards. Her clinical practice focuses on thoracic malignancies and hematological disorders, with particular interest in cancer disparities, treatment toxicity, and survivorship. As a mentor and curriculum developer, she plays a significant role in the education of future leaders in her field. She also actively participates in the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine and several ASCO committees, demonstrating her commitment to clinical excellence, quality improvement, and medical education.



**Meredith Halpin, MD** | *Boston Medical Center*

Meredith Halpin is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the section of Hematology and Oncology at Boston Medical Center Boston University School of Medicine. She is also the Associate Program Director for the Hematology Oncology fellowship program. She completed a combined Geriatric Hematology Oncology fellowship at Boston Medical Center and served as chief fellow. She is board certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology, Medical Oncology, and Geriatrics. Dr. Halpin's clinical practice focuses on genitourinary malignancies as well as geriatric oncology consultation and is committed to patient centered care. She has a passion for medical education and curriculum development and is excited to have the opportunity to participate in the Education Scholars Program.



**Jed A. Katzel, MD** | *Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco*

My professional career has focused on head and neck and thoracic oncology. I serve as the Associate Program Director for the Hematology and Oncology Fellowship at Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco. I am the medical oncology lead for head and neck oncology for Kaiser Permanente Northern California and co-lead for the National Kaiser Permanente Head and Neck Cancer program. In Northern California alone, our head and neck cancer tumor board guides care for approximately 1100 patients each year.

My research interests include the study health disparities, routine use of ePROs, and care coordination using tools such as 4R. I am the oncology co-lead for NRG HN009 international clinical trial. I serve on the NRG Head and Neck Cancer Core Committee and the NCI Head and Neck Metastatic and Recurrent Task Force. I serve as the ASCO-SEP Item Writing Task Force Head, Neck & Thyroid Co-Chair.



**Anthony Lott, MD, MHSc, FRCPC** | *Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre*

Dr. Anthony Lott is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto and a medical oncologist at the Odette Cancer Centre at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre. He earned his medical degree from the University of Alberta, followed by internal medicine residency and fellowship training in medical oncology at the University of Toronto. Dr. Lott also completed the University of Toronto's Master Teacher Program and a Master of Health Science in Health Administration at the Institute for Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation.

Dr. Lott's clinical focus is in breast and gastrointestinal malignancies. He is appointed as a clinician teacher with an academic focus in medical education. He is the rotation coordinator for medical oncology, education lead for urgent care, and fellowship director of the breast medical oncology program. He is the recipient of numerous teaching excellence awards and takes pride in his dedication to patient care and trainee education.



**Sujith Kumar Mullapally, MBBS, MD, DNB, DM** | *Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, Chennai, India*

Dr Sujith is associate professor (AHERF), academic coordinator and consultant in medical oncology at Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, Chennai, India. He completed MBBS (Kerala University, best outgoing student) and MD in Radiation Oncology (Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi). He further completed DM (Medical Oncology) from Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai. Numerous awards including national topper, Diplomate National Board (Radiation Oncology) and best paper awards at annual conferences of AROI and ISMPO. His clinical interests are in Neuro, Thoracic, Gastrointestinal and Musculoskeletal oncology. He is national coordinator of ISMPO Young Medical Oncology (YMO) program and is passionate on using online technology to create access to students across the globe to high quality virtual classes from eminent teachers. He is passionate about role of Yoga to decrease stress and burnout levels in medical professionals at global scale and works as medical volunteer with Isha foundation, India.



**Sitna Ali Mwanzi, FRCP, MSc, Onc** | *Kenyatta National Hospital*

Dr Sitna Ali Mwanzi is a medical oncologist and Head of Department, Cancer Treatment Centre at the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi Kenya. She is a research fellow and principal investigator attached to the University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID) Oncology Trials Unit which is one of three clinical trial sites in Kenya. Her research interests focus on breast ,cervical, lung and prostate cancer as well as chronic myeloid leukemia. She previously served as Program Director for Internal Medicine residency program between 2014 and 2017 at the Aga Khan University and is passionate about medical education for physicians and oncologists.

She is a member of the Sub-Saharan Regional Council of ASCO and Vice President – East Africa for African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) and is a Past President of the Kenya Society of Hematology and Oncology (KESHO). She is also a board member of Women4Cancer whose mission is to eradicate cervical cancer in Kenya. She works closely with the National Cancer Control Program in implementation of the National Cancer Control Strategy.



**Amishi Y. Shah, MD** | *University of TX, MD Anderson Cancer Center*

Amishi Y. Shah, MD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Genitourinary Medical Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She has specific expertise in renal cell carcinomas, urothelial cancers, and germ cell tumors and is involved in clinical trials in these arenas. She has been involved in medical education at MD Anderson for the last 10 years and currently serves as an Associate Program Director for MD Anderson's Hematology-Medical Oncology fellowship program. She is a native Houstonian, and completed her medical school training at the Baylor College of Medicine, her residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and her fellowship at MD Anderson.



**Thejal Srikumar, MD, MPH** | *Yale*

Thejal Srikumar, MD, MPH is an Assistant Professor in Medical Oncology at Yale University School of Medicine specializing in Gastrointestinal Oncology and Clinical Cancer Genetics. She serves as Assistant Program Director of the Hematology/Oncology fellowship program at Yale. She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard College, her medical degree from University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, and her Master of Public Health degree at Yale University. She completed her Internal Medicine residency and Hematology/Oncology fellowship at Yale, including Chief Residency and Chief Fellowship. Her clinical and research focus is in providing care for patients with early -onset gastrointestinal cancers. Within medical education, her passion is for developing mentorship programs and curricula to support medical trainees with their wellness and mental health.





**Karine Tawagi, MD | *UIC***

Dr. Karine Tawagi is triple board certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, and is Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of Hematology Oncology at the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC), where she practices as a genitourinary medical oncologist and is the Program Director for the Hematology/Oncology fellowship. She co-hosts the Two Onc Docs podcast which is focused on board review medical education for hematology/oncology board certification. Dr. Tawagi's clinical focus is the treatment of genitourinary cancers including but not limited to bladder, kidney, testicular and prostate cancer. Her research interests include medical education, clinical trials in genitourinary cancers, improving current gaps in healthcare, real-world data, and immuno-oncology.



**Ida Wong-Sefidan, MD | *UC San Diego***

Dr. Ida Wong-Sefidan is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego). She completed her medical school at Weill Cornell Medical College, and her internal medicine, chief residency and fellowship training at UC San Diego. Dr. Wong-Sefidan is the co-director of the hematology medical school course, core faculty member of the internal medicine residency, and associate program director of the hematology/oncology fellowship. Her passion is medical education and shaping the way hematology and oncology can be and is taught, as well as, provided to trainees. She has received several teaching awards by trainees. She is involved in medical education at a national level and would like to continue her trajectory forward through the ASCO Educational Scholars Program (ESP). She stays active by being a “boy mom,” playing (or trying to play) sports with her two young sons.

## 2024-25 ASCO LDP: Education Scholars Mentors



**Julia Close, MD, MBA, FASCO | ASCO**

Dr. Close leads ASCO's flagship Education and Professional Development programs. Previously, she was at the University of Florida College of Medicine, where she served as Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education from 2019 to 2024. She has held various leadership and educational roles, including Professor of Medicine and Program Director of the Hematology & Oncology Fellowship program, for more than 15 years. Additionally, she served at Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida, from 2011 to 2019, first as Section Chief, Hematology and Oncology Service, then as Assistant Chief of Medical Service.

She was an active member of ASCO for several years before she was appointed to her current role. She participated in the inaugural cohort of ASCO's Education Scholars Program, a leadership training program for oncology educators, and later served as a coach in the program. She played a crucial role in developing the ASCO/ESMO international curriculum in oncology, which is used for training throughout Europe, and later served as the Chair of the Professional Development Committee and on the Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee. Dr. Close holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University, her medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine, and an executive masters in business administration degree from the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business.



**Annie Im, MD, FASCO | University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Hillman CancerCenter**

Annie Im, MD, FASCO is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Hillman CancerCenter. Dr. Im completed her undergraduate degree at Williams College and earned her medical degree at Stony Brook School of Medicine. She then came to the University of Pittsburgh for her Internal Medicine residency training, where she also served as Chief Medical Resident. She stayed in Pittsburgh to pursue Hematology/Oncology Fellowship and Blood and Marrow Transplant training at UPMC, where she served as Chief Fellow. She has been on faculty at UPMC since 2013, focusing on hematologic malignancies and stem cell transplantation.

She currently serves as Director of Education for the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Program Director for the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, and Subspecialty Education Coordinator for the Internal Medicine Residency. She has been involved in education nationally, through ASCO, ASH, and ASTCT; previous roles have included serving as Chair of the ASCO Oncology Training Programs Committee, Chair of the ASCO Faculty Development Task Force, and as a member of the ASCO Education Council. Her research and clinical interests focus on chronic graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), survivorship and late effects after stem cell transplant, and acute myeloid leukemia in older patients.



**Deepa Rangachari, MD | *Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)***

Dr. Deepa Rangachari is the Director of Hematology/Oncology Graduate Medical Education and the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Programs at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in Boston, Massachusetts, where she is also a thoracic medical oncologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

She additionally serves as co-leader of the Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH) Thoracic Oncology Clinical Practice Group and member of the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center (DFHCC) Lung Cancer Program. Her clinical and scholarly work emphasizes comprehensive care of patients with advanced lung cancers through novel applications of targeted and immune therapies. She is additionally deeply committed to leadership and evidence-based innovation within graduate and post-graduate medical education and Hematology/Oncology, with a passion for mindful mentorship and curriculum development.