

# 2026 ASCO International Clinical Scholars

## Asia Pacific

### *Meet The Scholars*



Chihwan Cha, MD, PhD  
Associate Professor and Surgical Oncologist  
Hanyang University Hospital  
Seoul, South Korea

By participating in this program, I hope to expand my expertise in male breast cancer, through international collaboration and methodological exchange. Given the rarity of male breast cancer, building robust evidence requires global cooperation across institutions and regions. Through this program, I aim to learn advanced approaches to large-scale (international) cohort building, data harmonization, and statistical modeling. Importantly, I hope to broaden my academic network by engaging with experts who share similar interests in rare cancers, prognostic modeling, and personalized treatment strategies. Ultimately, I seek to translate the knowledge and experience from this program into establishing evidence-based treatment guidelines for male breast cancer patients and to contribute to shaping future cooperative research initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region.



Cho-Hao Lee, MD  
Assistant Professor and Hematology  
National Defense Medical University  
Taiwan

Cho-Hao Howard Lee, MD is a Clinical Physician in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Tri-Service General Hospital and an Assistant Professor at the National Defense Medical University in Taiwan. His clinical and research interests focus on lung cancer, breast cancer, and hematologic malignancies, with expertise in clinical research methodology, real-world evidence research, and systematic reviews/meta-analysis. He has authored over 50+ SCI-indexed peer-reviewed publications, including Cochrane systematic reviews and network meta-analyses. Dr. Lee is a graduate of the ASCO International Clinical Research Course (ICRC) and ASH Clinical Trial Training Institute and currently serves as an Academic Editor for PLOS ONE. He is committed to advancing evidence-based oncology practice through rigorous clinical research.

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Through the ASCO International Research Training program, I aim to advance my expertise in comparative effectiveness research while building international collaborations that will enhance cancer care in the Asia Pacific region.

#### Primary Learning Objectives:

1. **Advanced Network Meta-Analysis Methodology:** I seek to master sophisticated statistical techniques for handling complex treatment networks, particularly Bayesian hierarchical modeling approaches that can better account for treatment effect modifiers and population heterogeneity in Asia Pacific versus Western populations.
2. **International Collaboration Skills:** The program's emphasis on global partnerships aligns perfectly with my goal to establish collaborative research networks addressing EGFR-mutated NSCLC treatment optimization across diverse Asian populations.
3. **Research Leadership Development:** As a current Assistant Professor and Academic Editor, I want to enhance my capabilities in leading multi-institutional research initiatives and mentoring junior investigators in evidence synthesis methods.

My immediate objective is to conduct a comprehensive network meta-analysis comparing frontline therapies for EGFR-mutated NSCLC, synthesizing evidence from the rapidly evolving treatment landscape. Recent approvals of Osimertinib plus chemotherapy (FLAURA2) and amivantamab plus Lazertinib (MARIPOSA) have revolutionized treatment paradigms, but optimal treatment selection remains unclear.

This research will address critical evidence gaps including treatment sequencing after Osimertinib progression, optimal approaches for brain metastases management, and comparative effectiveness in uncommon EGFR mutations. The high prevalence of EGFR mutations in Asian populations makes this research particularly relevant for improving care in underserved regions.



Dana Colleene Resuello, MD, MHA  
Assistant Professor and Medical Oncologist  
Southern Isabela Medical Center  
City of Santiago, Philippines

My research interests center on the care of cancer patients, with a particular focus on the unique challenges faced by older adults in the field of geriatric oncology. As cancer incidence rises with age, a significant proportion of oncology patients belong to the geriatric population, a group that often presents with multiple comorbidities, functional limitations, and distinct psychosocial needs. Despite their growing numbers, elderly patients remain underrepresented in clinical trials, creating critical knowledge gaps that complicate treatment decisions.

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Specifically, I am interested in exploring three interconnected areas: (1) identifying which geriatric oncology patients are most likely to benefit from extensive or aggressive treatments, and conversely, which patients may be more appropriately managed through supportive or palliative approaches; (2) evaluating treatment outcomes in this vulnerable population, including both clinical effectiveness and impact on quality of life; and (3) advancing care planning strategies that integrate ethical considerations such as autonomy, informed consent, and equitable access to appropriate therapies.

These areas of inquiry are guided by the recognition that geriatric patients with cancer face complex medical, ethical, and social challenges that extend beyond standard oncologic care.

Through my research on treatment thresholds, outcomes, and decision-making frameworks, I hope to contribute to the development of more individualized, evidence-based, and ethically sound approaches to cancer management for older adults. Ultimately, my goal is to generate insights that not only inform clinical practice but also shape policies and educational initiatives, thereby empowering younger physicians to provide compassionate, context-sensitive care for this growing patient population.

Beyond advancing clinical knowledge, I am deeply motivated to strengthen my expertise in research methodology. I aspire to learn comprehensively about research design, data analysis, and dissemination, as these skills will allow me to transform clinical observations into meaningful contributions to the scientific community. My commitment is not only to improve the lives of older adults with cancer today, but also to prepare the next generation of physicians. In this regard, I am dedicated to mentoring our internal medicine residents and guiding my medical students, instilling in them a strong sense of service, intellectual curiosity, and ethical responsibility toward vulnerable populations.

My vision is to bridge clinical practice, research, and education, leaving a legacy of evidence-based, compassionate oncology care that will resonate across both current and future generations of physicians.



Gobi Gunasekaran, MD  
Oncology Pharmacist  
Ministry of Health Malaysia  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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My primary research interests focus on solid cancers, particularly breast and colorectal cancer, with an emphasis on treatment adherence, chemotherapy dose intensity, and survival outcomes. I am also interested in studies evaluating the impact of guideline-concordant care, clinical audits to improve oncology pharmacy service delivery, and multidisciplinary interventions in cancer management. Methodologically, my work spans retrospective and prospective clinical studies, quality assurance research, meta-analyses, and observational studies. I am committed to translating research findings into practical strategies to enhance patient outcomes, especially within resource-limited healthcare systems.

Through this program, I aim to strengthen my capacity to design and conduct high-quality oncology research with global relevance, particularly in addressing inequity to cancer care access. I hope to gain insights into innovative methodologies, international best practices, and multidisciplinary collaboration models that can be adapted to resource-limited settings. My goal is to translate these learnings into evidence-based strategies that improve treatment adherence, optimize chemotherapy delivery, and enhance survival outcomes for cancer patients.



Herdee Gloriane Luna, MD  
Medical Oncologist  
National Kidney and Transplant Institute  
Quezon, Philippines

My journey in medicine and oncology has instilled in me a deep commitment to advancing cancer care, particularly through the lens of molecular research. I am keenly aware of the significant challenges that exist for molecular research in the Philippines, including resource limitations and infrastructure constraints. However, rather than being a deterrent, these obstacles have fueled my determination to drive progress. I am convinced that by embracing innovative approaches to genomics and multi-omics, we can unlock a new era of personalized cancer treatment for our patients.

My professional goal is to become a start and lead multi-omics including genomics-based research in the Philippines to create a comprehensive understanding of cancer specific to the Filipino population and to develop tools that can make this knowledge clinically actionable. This project is a crucial step in achieving this goal. I hope to learn to navigate and integrate large, heterogeneous genomic datasets from global sources like TCGA and cBioPortal with local clinical data from the Philippines. This will allow me to identify population-specific genomic signatures, which is a key objective of the study as well as key interactions of co-mutations in prognosis and treatment outcomes

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The knowledge I gain will have a direct and profound impact on my country's research and healthcare. The Philippines currently suffers from a severe shortage of cancer care providers, with significant geographic disparities in access to specialists and a lack of a robust national cancer registry with focus on molecular profiling. This profiling and incidence will help our Department of Health's Evidence Generation Committee in producing priority molecules for Clinical Practice Guidelines and as well as Health Technology Assessment evaluation and review and subsequent Philippine National Insurance Coverage especially on availability of complex, compound mutations.



Jirawat Thanestada, MD  
Medical Oncologist  
Maharat Nakhon Ratchasima Hospital  
Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

Through the ASCO ICRS program, my objective is to develop and validate a prognostic model designed to identify advanced NSCLC patients who, at initial progression, are unlikely to receive subsequent systemic therapy within a resource-constrained setting. My goals are to (1) strengthen skills in prediction-model methodology (TRIPOD-aligned design, handling missing data, penalization, calibration, and decision-curve analysis); (2) learn best practices for competing-risk and landmark approaches relevant to real-world oncology; (3) receive mentorship on translating models into clinical pathways, including thresholds for action, shared decision-making, and timely referral to supportive/palliative care; and (4) build capacity for implementation—data quality pipelines, eCRF workflows, and a simple bedside/web calculator integrated into our EMR. By program end, I plan to deliver an IRB-approved protocol, a curated dataset, an internally validated model with a transparent risk score, and a manuscript suitable for submission. The primary aim is to enhance equity and results by directing supportive interventions towards individuals at the highest risk of not receiving subsequent line therapy.

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Lucksika Wanichtanom, MD  
Medical Oncologist  
Thammasat Hospital University  
Pathum Thani, Thailand

My primary research interest lies in exploring the quality of life of cancer patients, with a focus on strategies that enhance well-being during and after treatment. At present, I am particularly interested in preventive medicine for breast cancer patients receiving doxorubicin, especially investigating the use of SGLT2 inhibitors as cardioprotective agents, in comparison with the current standard therapies such as ACE inhibitors and beta-blockers.

Beyond preventive strategies, I am deeply interested in the field of neuro-oncology, especially the development of novel therapeutic approaches for patients with brain tumors. Should the opportunity arise, I aim to pursue more advanced research into the design and evaluation of medications that may improve treatment outcomes in this challenging area.

In the initial phase of my research career, I plan to concentrate on preventive and quality-of-life studies, which I see as the foundation for impactful clinical applications. Once I have successfully established my work in this area, I intend to extend my research toward the development of future therapeutic strategies in oncology, with the ultimate goal of improving both survival and quality of life for patients.

As I begin my independent research career, this program represents an important opportunity to build a strong foundation for my future work. Previously, during my fellowship, I was able to rely on faculty guidance and staff support whenever challenges arose in my projects. Now, as an early-career researcher, I recognize the need to develop the skills and structure necessary to design, manage, and successfully complete research projects.

Through participation in this program, I hope to learn the best practices for initiating research with a clear structure, strong rationale, and feasible design, while also gaining the tools to overcome challenges that arise along the way. I aim to strengthen my ability to conduct rigorous, well-organized studies and to build confidence in my work.

In the longer term, I aspire not only to advance my own research but also to become a mentor for students and trainees. Working in a university hospital with many residents in training, I see the importance of guiding the next generation of physician-scientists. I hope that by first achieving

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success in my own projects, I will be able to contribute meaningfully to the mentorship and development of future researchers.



Mary Antonette Ong, MD  
Medical Oncologist  
Antique, Philippines

I am a medical oncologist practicing in Antique, a province of over 600,000 people where I currently serve as the only oncologist. This unique role has allowed me to witness first-hand the challenges of delivering equitable cancer care in indigenous and resource-limited settings. Many patients face delays in diagnosis and treatment, not only because of limited financial resources but also due to systemic inefficiencies in workflow, referral pathways, and access to essential diagnostics and therapies.

My motivation to pursue this scholarship stems from my commitment to quality improvement and health systems research, particularly in oncology. I believe that even within resource constraints, innovative and efficient care pathways can be developed to shorten treatment delays and improve adherence.

I strongly believe that models of care and health policies can only be truly effective when they are grounded in evidence and backed by research. Without data, system changes remain abstract and difficult to sustain. Through this scholarship, I hope to gain the skills, tools, and perspective needed to conduct rigorous research that can inform programs and policies tailored to the needs of Antique and similar underserved regions. By building capacity not only for myself but also for my local health system, I aspire to establish models of care that can be scaled, sustained, and eventually replicated across other provinces.

I may be at the beginning of my research journey, but I am driven by the urgency of the needs around me and by the belief that well-designed health system improvements can change lives. With the guidance, training, and network this program provides, I am committed to transforming my passion into tangible outcomes for patients who need it most.

By combining my frontline experience with the training and networks offered by this scholarship, I am confident that I can make a lasting contribution to reducing disparities and strengthening oncology systems in the Philippines.

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Minh Truong, MD  
Medical Oncologist  
National Cancer Hospital of Viet Nam  
Hanoi, Vietnam

My primary research interests include lung cancer (NSCLC and SCLC) and genitourinary malignancies. I focus on clinical trials and real-world data analyses evaluating targeted therapies, immunotherapy, and combination regimens. I am also engaged in research on prognostic biomarkers, uncommon driver mutations, and treatment sequencing, with additional interest in patient-reported outcomes and health-related quality of life.

My primary objective in participating in this program is to deepen my expertise in advanced oncology research, with a particular focus on targeted therapy, immunotherapy, and quality-of-life studies. I seek to develop practical competencies in study design, biostatistics, and scientific writing, enabling me to conduct rigorous and impactful research. Through active engagement with leading experts in the field, I hope to exchange diverse perspectives on cancer management and contribute to the advancement of evidence-based practices.

In addition, I aim to establish enduring professional collaborations that will foster multi-national research initiatives, particularly within Southeast Asia. By strengthening the network of young oncologists in the region, I aspire to advance collaborative efforts that address the unique challenges of cancer care in resource-limited settings. Ultimately, I am committed to translating research outcomes into improved patient care and equitable access to innovative oncology treatments.



Nur Syahida Mohd Sapli, MSc, MPharm  
Clinical Oncology Pharmacist  
Sultan Ismail Hospital  
Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

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My research interests focus on lung and colorectal cancer, two diseases where pharmacogenomics is reshaping treatment strategies, but where access, equity, and safety challenges remain profound. Advances in targeted and immunotherapies bring hope, yet in practice I often see this hope dimmed — whether due to financial barriers, limited evidence in Asian populations, or treatment-related toxicities.

Through my oncology pharmacy practice, I have gained deep clinical insight into these realities. While I am experienced clinically, I remain early in formal research and seek structured mentorship to grow into a researcher. This perspective has drawn me toward clinical oncology pharmacy and pharmacoepidemiology, with the aim of generating real-world evidence (RWE) that improves the quality use of medicines in cancer care.

I intend to build this work and my research skills through big data analysis, observational studies, and registry-based approaches, aligned with the program's emphasis on feasible, real-world projects. Beyond evaluating outcomes, I am particularly motivated to study treatment effectiveness and toxicity, not only for anticancer therapies (chemotherapy, targeted agents, immunotherapies) but also for supportive care medicines. I am also increasingly drawn to cardio-oncology, where cancer therapy-related cardiovascular toxicity is an emerging but unevenly developed field in Asia; generating RWE to guide monitoring and management could have high regional impact. Asian patients remain under-represented in oncology trials, and this lack of evidence not only limits the generalizability of findings but also constrains the approval and adoption of new therapies in countries such as Malaysia, where local data are critical for decision-making. My overarching interest is to advance evidence-based strategies that guide monitoring, balance benefit with harm, and ensure treatments remain both accessible and sustainable.

My goal is to become a clinical pharmacist-researcher who bridges bedside oncology pharmacy practice with outcomes research. Through years of caring for cancer patients, I have developed deep insight into how medicines are prescribed, monitored, and adjusted. I have contributed to international trials and hospital committees, but much of my research exposure has been self-taught and practice-driven. I now seek structured mentorship to transform these insights into rigorous, impactful research.

In the near term, I aim to design and lead studies that:

- Evaluate real-world treatment effectiveness and toxicity of lung and colorectal cancer therapies,
- Identify disparities in access and outcomes across diverse Asian populations, and
- Optimise supportive care and monitoring strategies to minimise both clinical and financial toxicity.

I have the full support of my institution supervisor and a senior mentor to guide me locally, while ICERS will provide the structured mentorship and regional collaboration I need. My experience in clinical trials and multidisciplinary cancer care has taught me to collaborate across disciplines, a skill I now wish to extend into research leadership.

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Longer term, I aim to not only develop research but also grow into a healthcare professional capable of leading research teams, writing manuscripts, and applying for grants, which aligns with the programme's goals. By integrating clinical oncology pharmacy with pharmacoepidemiology, I hope to generate RWE that informs guidelines, reimbursement, and formulary decisions — strengthening the role of pharmacists as both frontline clinicians and researchers who shape cancer care at the system level.



**Omali Pitiyarachchi, MBBS, BSc**  
Medical Oncologist  
Sydney, Australia

My research interests are in gastrointestinal (upper and lower) and gynecological cancers, and this has been the focus of my PhD as well as collaborative projects with the mentorship of my supervisors Prof David Goldstein (medical oncologist), Prof Michael Friedlander (medical oncologist), and scientist Prof Phoebe Phillips (UNSW Sydney).

I am also interested in utilizing health related quality life data and the correlation with survival especially in poor outcome cancers. I was able to utilize the data from an Australian wide program, MOST-P (Pitiyarachchi et al., Poster, ESMO Congress 2024 ), to understand the relationship between baseline HRQOL data and survival in patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma using machine learning using basic statistical analysis, and more recently in a collaboration with the School of Computer Science and Engineering at UNSW Sydney, I was able to select which HRQOL variables from a selection of almost 70, that most correlated with survival (Manuscript under preparation). We would like to take this to a prospective study using a more homogenous patient population, as the patients enrolled in MOST-P could have received any number of lines of systemic therapy, and the time from diagnosis to baseline HRQOL collection varied widely. Given recent data in using HRQOL analyses even in earlier phase studies, I would like to understand firstly whether HRQOL data in combination with conventional clinical parameters can be used to predict and prognosticate, and to understand if real time intervention can actually improve survival as well as symptom burden.

I have also collaborated with the ALLG (Australian Leukemia and Lymphoma Group) to report on the HRQOL of adolescences and young adults with B-ALL treated with blinatumomab (Pitiyarachchi et al., ASH Poster (Blood), 2024). Ultimately, I think HRQOL actually holds key information which we are not yet utilizing to the fullest, and I hope to expand this to predictive and prognostic models.

I hope to develop a research question into an advanced concept which I can then develop into a study protocol and actually undertake as an investigator-initiated trial. I have some experience in writing a protocol having undertaken the ACORD Protocol Development Workshop, however that was during

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my fellowship. Now that I am almost 5 years post attaining my Fellowship, and more clinically experienced, I would particularly like more experience in how to lead a research team and to be a good PI as these are inherent to being a clinician-scientist.

Equally important, I view this program as an opportunity to learn from internationally recognised mentors and peers across the Asia-Pacific. I hope to expand my professional network, and to establish collaborations that may extend beyond the program itself. By the conclusion of the program, I aim to be equipped with the skills and confidence to lead a multidisciplinary research team, to initiate impactful studies within my institution and beyond, and to contribute meaningfully to improving outcomes for patients with cancer in the Asia Pacific region.



Po-Jung Su, MD  
Medical Oncologist  
Chang Gung Memorial Hospital  
Taoyuan City, Taiwan

During my clinical practice in Taiwan, I have often faced the reality that advances in cancer therapeutics alone are not enough. Patients with urothelial carcinoma, even when given access to novel treatments, sometimes experience poor outcomes because essential elements—such as timely cancer registration, complete staging, or adherence to guideline-based care—are missing. These experiences have inspired my professional goal: to integrate clinical data science with oncology practice, creating systems that transform information into real improvements in patient outcomes.

Through the ASCO International Clinical Research Scholars (ICRS) Program, I hope to gain the skills and perspectives necessary to achieve this vision. My specific objectives are to strengthen my ability to design and conduct international-standard clinical research, to learn practical approaches for navigating regulatory and ethical frameworks, and to build collaborations with investigators across different healthcare systems. Exposure to global mentors and peers will provide me with strategies to overcome barriers that are unique to Taiwan, including fragmented data infrastructure and limited participation in multinational trials.

The skills I acquire through this program will allow me to have a direct impact on cancer research and care in Taiwan. By leveraging automated data capture and real-time analytics, I aim to modernize our cancer registry, ensuring that high-quality, comprehensive data are available for both research and clinical decision-making. Retrospective analyses of this data will help identify prognostic factors that are particularly relevant to Asian patients, while real-time clinical insights can highlight treatment gaps and enable earlier interventions. Participation in global research networks will also create

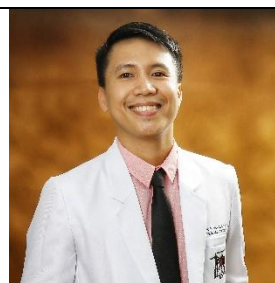
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opportunities for Taiwanese patients to join pivotal trials, accelerating access to innovative therapies.

Ultimately, I aspire not only to improve patient outcomes but also to cultivate the next generation of physician-scientists in Taiwan, building a sustainable research culture that bridges data science and oncology. The ICRS Program will be instrumental in equipping me with the expertise, mentorship, and international collaboration necessary to realize these goals.



Rogelio Nona Velasco, Jr., MD  
Medical Oncologist  
Lung Center of the Philippines  
Quezon City, Philippines

I am Dr. Rogelio Velasco Jr. from the Philippines, a medical oncologist. I finished my oncology fellowship at the Philippine General Hospital. After graduating from fellowship, I started working at the Lung Center of the Philippines, a government hospital, where I was appointed as a faculty of the Thoracic Oncology Department on Feb. 19, 2025.

My research interests include optimizing lung cancer care delivery which includes an endeavor we completed this year investigating factors causing delay in radiotherapy among patients with SVC syndrome in our hospital. We also conducted a study focusing on metastatic NSCLC among non-smokers with EGFRm and the factors affecting their in-hospital outcomes. I am also active in mentoring our fellow-in-training in conducting their research related to thoracic oncology and a member of the Technical Review Board. I also pursued a degree in Clinical Epidemiology to further hone my skills in conducting research. For my thesis dissertation, I plan to conduct a study, "Barriers to timely help-seeking, diagnosis and treatment among patients with lung cancer at the Lung Center of the Philippines: A sequential explanatory mixed-methods analysis."

I am also actively involved in building the Lung Cancer Registry in our institution. As a member of the Early Lung Cancer Screening and Treatment Program in our institution, I would like to upscale our program to reach other at-risk patients outside Metro Manila and planning to investigate the long-term outcomes of our patients screened. I plan to conduct a qualitative study identifying the barriers and facilitators to lung cancer screening. Other research projects include conducting a prospective study on the clinical outcomes of our patients with NSCLC since survival data is lacking.

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Sarameth Thou, MD  
Nuclear Medicine and Medical Oncologist  
Calmette Hospital  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

My research focuses on the most common cancers in Cambodia: liver, lung, breast, and colorectal cancer. These cancers are often diagnosed late and have a high mortality rate, especially in younger patients.

Retrospective Observational Studies by using the existing hospital data during tumor board meetings to analyze trends in incidence, staging, treatment patterns, and outcomes.

By participating in the ASCO International Research Program, I hope to strengthen my skills in study design, data analysis, and manuscript development within the context of resource-limited settings. I aim to learn how to design impactful studies that can address the unique challenges faced by cancer patients in Cambodia, such as late-stage diagnosis and limited access to care. I also hope to gain a better understanding of standards in oncological research and how to adapt them effectively in low- and middle-income countries. Ultimately, I want to use this knowledge to improve cancer care delivery and contribute to the growing body of evidence from Southeast Asia.



Sophia Ahmad, MBChB  
Clinical Oncologist  
Ministry of Health Malaysia  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

I have served over twelve years in the public healthcare system and am currently undergoing specialist training in clinical oncology. Through this work, I have witnessed first-hand the challenges faced by patients and healthcare providers in delivering effective cancer care within resource constraints. These experiences have shaped my professional goal: to contribute not only as a clinician, but also as a researcher who can generate evidence to guide equitable and cost-effective cancer care in Malaysia.

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Alongside clinical oncology, I have developed a strong interest in epidemiology and health economics, recognizing that sustainable cancer control requires more than therapeutic advances — it demands robust population data, cost-effectiveness evaluations, and informed policy decisions. Acquiring formal training and new skills in these areas will equip me to design and lead studies that bridge the gap between clinical outcomes and economic sustainability.

This will allow me to contribute to local health technology assessments, inform national cancer policies, and ultimately help optimize the allocation of limited healthcare resources. By integrating clinical expertise with epidemiological and economic insights, I hope to play a role in strengthening evidence-based oncology practice and improving cancer outcomes in my country.



Sri Kisha Subramaniam, MD  
Clinical Oncologist  
University of Malaya Medical Hospital  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

I am deeply committed to pursuing a career as a clinician–researcher with a focus on improving outcomes for patients with head and neck, gynecological, breast, and lung cancers. My clinical experiences have shown me both the remarkable progress achieved in oncology and the ongoing gaps in access, early detection, and personalized care. These observations have fueled my drive to develop the research skills and collaborative networks needed to address these challenges.

Through the ASCO Clinical Research Scholars Program, I hope to gain structured training in clinical trial design, biostatistics, and translational research methodologies. I am especially interested in developing expertise in novel therapeutics, biomarker-driven studies, and survivorship research, with the goal of bridging scientific discovery and clinical application. I also aim to strengthen my ability to design patient-centered research protocols that address both oncologic outcomes and quality of life.

This program offers a unique opportunity to work with leading mentors, access a global oncology community, and refine my ability to lead multidisciplinary and international collaborations. I am particularly excited about learning strategies to ensure equitable access to clinical trials and to translate advances into diverse clinical settings.

Ultimately, I aspire to emerge from this program as an independent investigator capable of designing and conducting impactful clinical studies that improve cancer care in both resource-rich and resource-limited environments. By building strong foundations in research methodology, mentorship, and leadership, I hope to contribute meaningfully to the global effort to reduce the burden of cancer.

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Syadwa Abdul Shukor, MD  
Radiation Oncologist  
National Cancer Institute Singapore  
Singapore

I am passionate about advancing radiation-based therapies in gastrointestinal cancers, with a focus on rectal cancer particularly in elderly or frail patients. My research centers on organ-preserving strategies such as brachytherapy and SBRT, aiming to optimize local control, minimize toxicity, and preserve quality of life, with a strong emphasis on patient-reported outcomes.

I am interested in studies evaluating functional outcomes, treatment tolerance, and geriatric assessment-guided therapy, using prospective cohorts, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and multi-institutional collaborations.

Through the ASCO ICRS program, I aim to enhance my skills in clinical trial design, advanced analytics, and collaborative research, enabling me to contribute to high-impact studies in radiation oncology and geriatric cancer care in the Asia-Pacific region.

Through participation in the ASCO ICRS program, I aim to enhance my skills in clinical trial design, advanced statistical analysis, and research methodology, particularly for studies involving elderly and frail cancer patients. I hope to gain hands-on experience in conducting high-quality, multi-institutional clinical research focused on organ-preserving strategies, such as brachytherapy and SBRT, with integrated assessments of quality of life and patient-reported outcomes.

I also aim to develop expertise in translating evidence into practice, optimizing individualized treatment plans that balance efficacy and tolerability in vulnerable populations. Ultimately, I hope to leverage the program's mentorship and collaborative network to initiate impactful studies in radiation oncology in the Asia-Pacific region and contribute to improving patient-centered care and outcomes.

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Thang Xuan Bui, MD  
Medical Oncologist  
K National Cancer Hospital  
Hanoi, Vietnam

My research interests focus on lung cancer (non-small cell and small cell) and genitourinary cancers. In particular, I am interested in clinical trials combining therapies to enhance treatment efficacy in patients with advanced-stage non-small cell lung cancer harboring EGFR mutations, aiming to prolong progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS), as well as therapeutic approaches after resistance to targeted therapies. I am also interested in predictive and prognostic factors associated with treatment response in patients with EGFR mutations

Through participation in the ASCO International Clinical Research Scholars Program, I hope to strengthen my skills in clinical trial design, protocol development, and statistical analysis, as well as to refine my ability to generate clinically meaningful research questions. I aim to gain practical experience in leading a research team, managing data collection and interpretation, and preparing manuscripts for publication.

By working closely with international mentors and colleagues, I also hope to broaden my perspectives on cancer research, particularly in applying innovative approaches to resource-limited settings. Ultimately, my goal is to translate these skills into high-quality, practice-changing research in lung cancer—especially in EGFR-mutated NSCLC—so as to improve patient outcomes and contribute to advancing oncology care in Vietnam.



Wei Jiang, MD  
Radiation Oncologist  
Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center  
Guangzhou, China

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My research focuses on the precision clinical diagnosis and treatment of nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC), a disease endemic to East and Southeast Asia. I have conducted staging studies on clinically important anatomical structures to enhance precision diagnosis, providing evidence for the updated 9th edition of the AJCC staging system (Cell Rep Med, 2025, first author) and identifying critical anatomical structures that allow refined risk stratification and guide treatment adjustment (Radiology, 2025, co-first author).

On the therapeutic side, I have comprehensively reviewed major advances in chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and immunotherapy in NPC over the past decade (Cell Rep Med, 2024, first author), which has shaped my perspective on precision treatment. To better achieve individualized therapy, I am currently participating in a phase III clinical trial evaluating Antibody-Drug Conjugates in high-risk locoregionally advanced NPC under my supervisor's guidance. In addition, I serve as a panel member of the China-adapted NCCN guidelines for NPC.

Moving forward, I aim to investigate precision treatment of NPC guided by circulating tumor DNA. Through the ASCO International Clinical Research Scholars (ICRS) Asia-Pacific program, I hope to gain further mentorship and skills to conduct this research at high quality.

I hope to gain more insights and guidance in the precision treatment of nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) from leading experts not only in China but also across other Asia-Pacific countries, given the endemic nature of NPC in this region. Collaborating with mentors and peers from the APAC region may deepen my understanding of regional practices and also provide opportunities to broaden the scope of my research and, where feasible, incorporate more diverse patient perspectives, thereby making my studies more compelling and impactful.

Under the joint guidance of program mentors and my local mentor, I plan to conduct a retrospective study on longitudinal monitoring of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) during treatment in the context of immunotherapy for NPC. This project aims to map the dynamic changes of plasma Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) DNA throughout treatment and their corresponding survival trends, identify critical therapeutic windows where immunotherapy achieves optimal benefit, and define key treatment timepoints that could mediate risk-adaptive strategies. Using clustering analyses, I aim to explore response subtypes among NPC patients receiving immunotherapy and their optimal treatment patterns, thereby investigating individualized immunotherapy approaches for different risk groups. This work will provide important evidence to guide risk-adaptive, precise, and personalized treatment of NPC in the immunotherapy era.

Through the program, I also aim to strengthen my knowledge in research methodologies and data analysis, which are essential for carrying out high-quality clinical research. I am committed to developing myself into an independent principal investigator and believe the ICRS program will provide the mentorship and training necessary for this role. I also seek to improve my ability to communicate science effectively through grant writing and manuscript preparation, which are crucial skills for sustaining an academic research career.

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Zhen Wang, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor and Surgical Oncologist  
Zhejiang University School of Medicine  
Hangzhou, China

My research interests are centered on tumor immune microenvironment and pre-metastatic niche biology, with a primary focus on breast cancer—a disease where I have accumulated extensive clinical and translational expertise, including breast cancer screening, surgical management, and participation as a sub-principal investigator in multiple clinical trials. Building on nearly a decade of dedicated research, my work specifically investigates the regulatory roles of myeloid cell subsets (neutrophils, macrophages, and myeloid-derived suppressor cells [MDSCs]) in driving tumor progression, aiming to decipher the molecular mechanisms by which these immune cells modulate tumor metastasis, as well as their contributions to tumor recurrence and therapeutic resistance. This focus integrates translational studies (e.g., mechanistic dissection of immune cell-tumor crosstalk in preclinical models) with clinical research (e.g., correlative studies in ongoing trials to validate preclinical findings), bridging basic immunology with translational impact to identify novel immunotherapeutic targets. The ultimate goal is to develop immunology-based strategies—particularly by targeting myeloid cell dysfunction to disrupt metastatic niches and enhance responses to current therapies—to improve outcomes for breast cancer patients, aligning with ASCO’s mission to advance clinical cancer research and patient care.

By participating in the ASCO International Clinical Research Scholars Program, I aim to systematically enhance my expertise in clinical research leadership and methodology to accelerate the translation of my immunology-focused discoveries into tangible patient benefits in breast cancer. Specifically, I seek to achieve three interconnected objectives aligned with the program’s core training themes: First, I intend to strengthen my research leadership and team management skills through the program’s modules on "leading research teams" and "identifying compelling research questions." As a mid-career investigator transitioning from individual research to leading collaborative projects, I aim to refine my ability to design interdisciplinary studies that integrate myeloid cell biology (e.g., neutrophils, macrophages, MDSCs) with clinical outcomes—particularly in exploring how these immune cells shape lymphatic/pulmonary metastatic niches in breast cancer. This training will enable me to effectively coordinate cross-functional teams (basic scientists, clinicians, statisticians) to validate preclinical findings in real-world settings, such as correlative studies within ongoing trials.

Second, I seek to master advanced clinical trial design and statistical principles to address critical gaps in my translational research. While my work has uncovered mechanistic insights into immune-driven metastasis, I aim to apply the program’s training on "statistical methods for investigators" and "clinical trial methodologies" to design rigorous, hypothesis-driven studies—for example, optimizing

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patient stratification strategies to test myeloid cell-targeted therapies in breast cancer. Additionally, training in "observational studies and real-world data" will equip me to leverage clinical datasets to investigate immune cell dynamics in diverse patient populations, enhancing the external validity of my findings.

Third, I aim to sharpen my manuscript and grant writing skills to amplify the impact of my research. Building on my publication record in journals like *Cell Metabolism and Immunity*, I seek to refine my scientific communication through the program's modules on "writing for publication" and "grant writing." This will enable me to effectively articulate the clinical relevance of myeloid cell research (e.g., novel biomarkers for metastasis risk or immunotherapeutic targets) in high-impact manuscripts and competitive grant proposals, ultimately securing funding to launch a multi-center clinical trial evaluating myeloid cell-modulating agents in breast cancer patients.

By integrating these skills with my decade-long focus on tumor immune microenvironments, I aspire to develop a patient-centered research program that bridges immunology and clinical oncology, contributing to ASCO's mission of advancing cancer care in the Asia-Pacific region.