



## 10th Annual ACS CAN National Forum on the Future of Health Care *Speaker Biographies*

### Welcome



**Lisa A. Lacasse, MBA**, President, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Lisa Lacasse is the president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN), the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society (ACS). She leads an organization of staff in Washington, DC and across the country in support of laws and policies that help people fight cancer and advance the ACS' mission.

Since joining ACS CAN in 2007, Lisa has been integrally involved in helping to establish a nationwide public health advocacy organization that influences and shapes public policy at all levels of government. Her passion for representing the voices of all cancer patients and their families is exemplified in her

leadership.

In her former capacity as deputy president, Lisa managed a broad portfolio in support of ACS CAN's advocacy priorities. The focus of her work was on strategic integration and organizational alignment across the enterprise. Her responsibilities included organizational development and training, volunteer engagement and grassroots strategy, media advocacy, public policy, finance, governance, human resources, and all ACS CAN operations.

She oversaw ACS CAN's One Degree campaign – a three-year grassroots effort calling on Congress to increase federal funding for medical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$6 billion, including \$1 billion for cancer-specific research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In 2018 – in a pivotal moment in the fight against cancer – the goal of the One Degree campaign was realized. The influx of funding will lead to more ways to prevent and detect cancer at its earliest, most treatable stages, better treatments and new cures.

Lisa and her team were also instrumental in making sure that critical patient protections were included in the Affordable Care Act so that comprehensive health insurance was available, without discrimination, for people with pre-existing conditions such as cancer. Since the law's passage in 2010, Lisa has led ACSCAN's dedicated efforts to safeguard these hard-won, lifesaving patient protections.

Lisa received a Master's of Business Administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Vermont. Before joining ACS CAN, she was the chief financial officer at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Research Center, a 242-bed, clinical research hospital where she was responsible for the planning, formulation, and execution of a \$345 million annual budget. Prior to NIH, Lisa spent several years in senior management at the University of Maryland Medical System and began her career in the office of the Governor of the State of Maine.

Lisa lives Bethesda, Maryland. She loves nothing more than spending time with her husband and four children in her beloved home state of Maine.

Lisa shares her thoughts on patient advocacy, public policy and ACSCAN's role in the fight against cancer on her [Cancer CANDor Blog](#) and on Twitter at [@LLacasseACSCAN](#).



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**Gary Reedy**, CEO, American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network

Gary M. Reedy has dedicated his life to improving the health of people around the globe. He brought that vision to the American Cancer Society when he became chief executive officer in April 2015. But his work with the organization began more than 15 years ago, when he first joined the Society as a volunteer leader.

As the most senior leader of the only global nonprofit organization attacking cancer from every angle, Reedy ignites the movement to *save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer*. His leadership emphasizes a disciplined focus on maximizing the Society's support of progress against cancer, eradication, optimizing volunteer and customer experiences, expanding stewardship and engagement, leading innovation, and improving access to care. And under his leadership, the organization is growing what is already the largest, and arguably most successful, nonprofit research program in the nation.

As a volunteer leader and a cancer survivor, Reedy has leveraged his firsthand experiences to transform the organization and most effectively deliver on its lifesaving mission. He is a past chair of both the Society's volunteer Board of Directors and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network<sup>SM</sup> (ACSCAN) Board. He led the American Cancer Society's Board's advisory committee on transformation, spearheading a program that pivoted the organization into a new era. He first joined the Society in 2000 as a member of the Board of Trustees of the former American Cancer Society Foundation. In recognition of his service, in 2014 Reedy was elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

Prior to taking the helm of the American Cancer Society, Reedy had a distinguished 37-year career as a health care business and advocacy leader. He was most recently worldwide vice president, government affairs and policy at Johnson & Johnson, where he led initiatives to influence global health policy. He previously devoted more than 25 years of his career to the business side of the industry, holding senior leadership positions with SmithKline Beecham, Centocor, and Johnson & Johnson. During his tenure at Johnson & Johnson, Reedy served as president of Ortho Biotech, a Johnson & Johnson company with annual revenues of more than \$3 billion.

In addition to his role at American Cancer Society, Reedy's nonprofit engagement presently includes appointments to the boards of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund, the National Health Council, Research America, The Carter Center's Board of Councilors, Global Health ATL, and the Metro Atlanta Chamber. He is an active member of the Georgia Tech Advisory Board and the Atlanta Rotary Club, and previously served on the board of directors for Emory & Henry College and C-Change, and is a charter member of the CEO Roundtable on Cancer.

Reedy is a graduate of Emory & Henry College and was recognized by Arcadia University with an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Atlanta, Georgia, and are the parents of two adult daughters, Katie and Stephanie.



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**Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD**, Incoming CEO, American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, Ph.D., will be the next chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society (ACS) and its advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), starting June 1, 2021. She will take the reins from the retiring Gary Reedy, who has served as both organizations' CEO since 2015.

The hiring of a female CEO signals a new era for the 107-year-old American Cancer Society, where all of its past top leaders were men, even though its Women's Field Army was credited for building what became the modern American Cancer Society. Knudsen will also be

the first scientific and oncology researcher to serve in the top staff position in the modern era.

Knudsen currently serves as executive vice president of Oncology Services and enterprise director for Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, one of only 71 National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Centers recognized for its research and impact on cancer outcomes. She also holds leadership roles with some of the most important cancer entities in the nation. She is the president of the Association of American Cancer Institutes, where her platform has focused on diversity, equity and inclusion, and serves on the board of directors for the American Association of Cancer Research and the board of advisors for the National Cancer Institute. She is active in committees for the American Society for Clinical Oncology, in addition to serving on other academic and for-profit advisory boards. Knudsen holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the George Washington University; a Ph.D. in biological sciences from the University of California San Diego; and an MBA from Temple University Fox School of Business.

"Dr. Knudsen is exactly what the American Cancer Society needs right now," said John Alfonso, CPA, chair of the American Cancer Society Board of Directors. "She is an accomplished researcher, innovative healthcare executive, dynamic leader of a prestigious cancer center, and true thought leader in the fight against cancer nationwide."

Knudsen expects to spend a great deal of time initially listening to and learning from the American Cancer Society's various stakeholders, but she's also eager to work with volunteers and staff to shape the vision and deliver tangible results.

"As director of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health, I've experienced firsthand how the American Cancer Society improves the lives of cancer patients and their families through discovery, advocacy, and direct patient support," Knudsen said. "I share the Board of Directors' vision to ensure that ACS's impact benefits all people throughout the nation. With creativity, innovation, and novel partnerships, we will accelerate the mission and save lives."

Knudsen will also serve as CEO of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, which advocates for evidence-based public policy change to make cancer a top nationwide priority. As an NCI-funded researcher and the head of a major cancer research institution, she knows firsthand the critical role government plays in saving more lives from cancer. The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI), for which Knudsen currently serves as president, is also an important voice in advocating for funding for cancer research and access to care, including patient access to research



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innovations. AACI is a member of the One Voice Against Cancer Coalition, which was founded by ACS CAN in 2000 to bring public health organizations together to advocate for greater federal investments in cancer research.



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### Keynote Speaker

**Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS, Chair, U.S. COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force**



Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith is Associate Dean for Health Equity Research; Associate Professor of Medicine, Public Health, and Management; and Founding Director of the Equity Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) in the Office for Health Equity Research at Yale School of Medicine. ERIC's research focuses on promoting health and healthcare equity for structurally marginalized populations with an emphasis on centering community engagement, supporting healthcare workforce diversity and development, developing patient reported measurements of healthcare quality, and identifying

regional strategies to reduce the global burden of non-communicable diseases. Dr. Nunez-Smith currently serves as Senior Advisor to the White House COVID-19 Response Team and Chair of the DHHS COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force. Previously, she served as co-chair of the Biden-Harris Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board and community committee chair for the ReOpen Connecticut Advisory Group on behalf of Connecticut Governor Lamont. She is the principal investigator on several NIH and foundation-funded grants. Dr. Nunez-Smith is also Director of the Center for Research Engagement (CRE); Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement at the Yale Cancer Center; Chief Health Equity Officer at Smilow Cancer Hospital; Deputy Director of the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation; Core Faculty in the National Clinician Scholars Program; Director of the Pozen-Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Health Equity Leadership; and Co-Director of the Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship. Dr. Nunez-Smith is board certified in internal medicine, having completed residency training at Harvard University's Brigham and Women's Hospital and fellowship at the Yale Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program, where she also received a Masters in Health Sciences. Originally from the US Virgin Islands, she attended Jefferson Medical College, where she was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society; she earned a BA in Biological Anthropology and Psychology at Swarthmore College.



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**Panel 1: Improving Access to Clinical Trials**



**Edison T. Liu, MD**, American Cancer Society Board Member, President & CEO, The Jackson Laboratory

Edison Liu, M.D., is the president and CEO of The Jackson Laboratory, an independent research institute focused on complex genetics and functional genomics with campuses in Maine, Connecticut, and California. He is also the Director of the NCI designated JAX Cancer Center. Previously, he was the founding executive director of the Genome Institute of Singapore and the president of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO). He was also the scientific director of the National Cancer Institute's Division of Clinical Sciences in Bethesda, Md., where he was in charge of the intramural clinical translational science programs. In his earlier career, Dr. Liu was a faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was the director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center's Specialized Program of Research Excellence in Breast Cancer; the director of the Laboratory of Molecular Epidemiology at UNC's School of Public Health; and the Chief of Medical Genetics. Dr. Liu is an international expert in cancer biology, systems genomics, human genetics, molecular epidemiology and translational medicine. Dr. Liu's own scientific research has focused on the functional genomics of human cancers, particularly breast cancer, uncovering new oncogenes, and deciphering on a genomic scale the dynamics of gene regulation that modulate cancer biology. He has authored over 320 scientific papers and reviews and co-authored two books. He obtained his B.S. in chemistry and psychology, as well as his M.D., at Stanford University. He then received his residency and fellowship training at Washington University, St. Louis, and Stanford, and post-doctoral training in molecular oncology at the University of California at San Francisco.



**Keith Dawson, DNP, MS, RN**, Principal Science Leader, Global Health Equity & Population Science, Genentech Roche

Keith Dawson is a Principal Science Leader in Global Health Equity and Population Science in Product Development Medical Affairs (PDMA). Keith leads Clinical Development & Medical Evidence Generation strategy to broaden population specific insights and evidence generation across the drug development lifecycle for Roche. Two key projects that Keith is leading to help advance inclusive research is partnering with low and middle income countries to create a framework for scalable solutions for women with Breast Cancer and partnering with clinical teams to embed inclusive research tools/resources across the organization.

Keith joined Genentech in 2004 and has held positions of increasing responsibility in PD Clinical Operations, gRED Oncology Clinical Science and United States Medical Affairs (USMA). As a Principal Medical Science Director and US medical lead for the FL Disease Area Team, Keith led the medical team through the successful US launches of Rituxan Hycela in FL, CLL and DLBCL and Gazyva in 1L FL. In



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addition, Keith shaped the publication strategy for the National LymphoCare Study, making it one of Genentech's most prolific data generating oncology registries.

Keith holds a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from the University of San Francisco, an MS in Nursing from Georgetown University and a BS in Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh.



**Christopher S. Lathan, MD, MS, MPH**, Director for Cancer Care Equity, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Associate Medical Director, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Network; Medical Director, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brighton; Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Lathan is the Director for Cancer Care Equity at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, the Associate Medical Director of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute Network, the Medical Director of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brighton, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Lathan attended medical school at Tufts

University School of Medicine and completed his postdoctoral training in internal medicine, medical oncology and cancer outcomes research at Boston Medical Center and the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. Dr. Lathan also holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health, and a Master's of Science degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Lathan's primary research interests are centered on the effects of race, class, and access to care on cancer outcomes, including racial disparities in lung cancer treatment, differences in somatic mutations across racial groups, perceptions of genetic testing by race and social class, population differences in targetable mutations in non-small cell lung cancer, and factors influencing willingness to participate in bio-banking among black men with and at-risk for prostate cancer. He is a board member of the National African American Cancer Coalition and the Medical and Scientific Advisory Board for the Lung Cancer Alliance. He is a past board member of the Conquer Cancer Coalition, and Boston Healthcare for the Homeless. Dr. Lathan also serves on the Health Disparities, Cancer Education and Scientific Review committees for the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Minorities in Cancer Research Council for the American Association for Cancer Research.

Dr. Lathan aims to bridge the gap between research efforts in disparities and the realities of patient care by developing interventions to increase access to high level quality care, developed in part through a high level of community engagement. He is the founding Director of the Cancer Care Equity Program at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Director of Dana-Farber Community Cancer Care at Whittier Street Health Center in Roxbury, MA, a clinical outreach program that aids in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer for patients at a Federally Qualified Health Center, and integrates all three arms of clinical cancer care: prevention, diagnosis/treatment, and survivorship. This effort also provides an opportunity to improve clinical trial accrual among vulnerable populations.



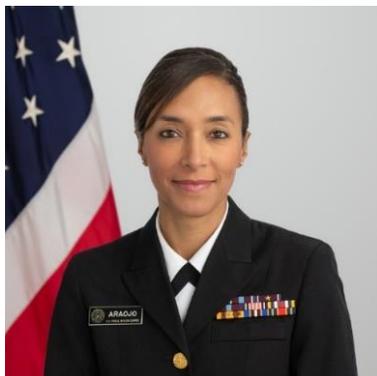
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**Mark Fleury, PhD**, Principal, Policy Development – Emerging Science,  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Mark Fleury, PhD is a policy principal for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). He specializes in research, drug development, and regulatory policies along with other science and technology related projects. He has worked extensively on reform of diagnostic testing oversight, helped lead a coalition in 2016 that authored a landscape report on drug development challenges in pediatric cancer, and led another coalition in 2017 that created a report and recommendations focused on overcoming cancer clinical trial enrollment barriers. He continues to lead a group of stakeholders in activities directed at implementing the recommendations arising from that report, and has collaborated on multiple peer-reviewed papers on clinical trial enrollment barriers. He currently sits on the steering committee of the Targeted Agent and Profiling Utilization Registry (TAPUR) Study, which examines the use of targeted anticancer agents used off-label in clinical settings, and has been invited to participate in clinical trial advisory groups for the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Throughout his work Mark has striven to incorporate patient perspectives into inherently science-based issues, advocating for the inclusion of patients as partners throughout the bench to bedside translation of science.

In addition to his ACS CAN experience, Mark's policy work includes time as a Capitol Hill legislative advisor focusing on healthcare reform, and work at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). He holds a PhD in bioengineering from the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Switzerland, and conducted post-doctoral research at MIT. His former research includes investigating the mechanisms of tumor metastasis and the signaling pathways responsible for the activation of immune cells.



**RADM Richardae Araojo, PharmD**, Associate Commissioner for  
Minority Health and Director of the Office of Minority Health and  
Health Equity, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Rear Admiral Richardae Araojo serves as the Associate Commissioner for Minority Health and Director of the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In this role, RADM Araojo provides leadership, oversight, and direction on minority health and health disparity matters for the Agency. RADM Araojo previously served as the Director of the Office of Medical Policy Initiatives in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), where she led a variety of broad-based medical and clinical policy initiatives to improve the science and efficiency of clinical trials and enhance professional and patient labeling. RADM Araojo joined FDA in 2003, where she held several positions in CDER. RADM Araojo received her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at University of Maryland, and earned a Master's degree in Pharmacy Regulation and Policy from the University of Florida.



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**Gregory J. Dennis, M.D.,** (Army Ret, COL, MC) Global Head, Therapeutic Science and Strategy Research and Development Solutions, IQVIA

Greg is the Global Head of the Therapeutic Science and Strategy Unit for IQVIA's Research and Development Solutions. Greg has responsibility for the Clinical Centers of Excellence and the Therapeutic Strategy Lead team. He has worked across multiple subspecialty areas including rheumatology, dermatology, gastroenterology, and immunology across all phases of clinical development.

He began his professional career on active duty in the United States Army where he was trained in internal medicine and subsequently completed a rheumatology and clinical immunology fellowship as well as postdoctoral training in cellular and molecular immunology. While in the military Greg became the Chief of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and served as the consultant to the Army Surgeon advising on immunological issues relevant to the Armed Forces including immune responses to vaccine trials as well as acting as the Director of Emergency Preparedness for the National Capital Region.

After retiring from active duty, he joined the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease of the National Institutes of Health as the Director of Clinical Care and Training and the Head of the NIAMS intramural consult team evaluating patients with immunological and rheumatological problems while participating in Clinical Center clinical trials. Greg subsequently joined the biopharmaceutical industry working across all phases of clinical development before moving to the CRO side of the industry and joined IQVIA in Aug 2018.



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## Panel 2: Enhancing Access to Prevention and Screening



**Maria Moore**, ACS CAN Volunteer

Maria Vilmerding Moore resides outside Nashville, TN, and has served as an ACS CAN volunteer for several years. She is a Hospice Nurse and subject matter expert in Hospice and Palliative care. She brings personal experience as a breast cancer survivor to the discussion of access to care for communities of color.



**Carmen E. Guerra, MD, MSCE, FACP**, Vice Chair of Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Medicine, Associate Director of Diversity and Outreach, Abramson Cancer Center, University of Pennsylvania, American Cancer Society Board Scientific Officer

Dr. Carmen Guerra is the Ruth C. and Raymond G. Perelman Associate Professor of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Guerra is a general internist and health equity researcher. She is also the Vice Chair of Diversity and Inclusion for the Department of Medicine and the Associate Director of Diversity and Outreach for the Abramson Cancer Center (ACC) where she also co-leads Community Outreach and Engagement.

Dr. Guerra and her team have led dissemination and implementation research of breast and colorectal cancer screening interventions, including patient navigation, and colorectal cancer “Screen to Save” and “Flu-FIT” programs which have engaged more than 5000 underserved, minority Philadelphia residents in cancer screening. These efforts contributed to the increase in colorectal cancer screening and screening mammography rates in Philadelphia.

Dr. Guerra has authored numerous articles including the current American Cancer Society’s colorectal cancer screening guidelines which reduced the starting age for screening to 45 and the cervical cancer screening guidelines which allow for screening with HPV testing alone (without a Pap smear). Dr. Guerra serves as the American Cancer Society (ACS) Board Scientific Officer for the National Board of Directors, and on several ACS committees including the Mission Outcomes, Health Equity and Clinical Guideline Development Group. For her dedication and volunteer service to the ACS, in 2017 she received the society’s prestigious St. George National Award.



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**Joseph E. Ravenell, MD**, Associate Dean for Diversity Affairs and Inclusion, NYU Langone Health; Director, Cancer Prevention Navigation Program, Perlmutter Cancer Center

Dr. Ravenell is a general internist and clinical educator and a clinician investigator with a health equity research focus. At the physician level, Dr. Ravenell has focused on optimizing how community physicians prescribe medications for patients at high risk of cardiovascular disease. He is co-director of the Beatrice W. Welters Breast Health Outreach & Navigation Program, which helps women in medically underserved communities access breast cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and support services. In 2010, he established the Men's Health Initiative, a community-based research and outreach program to address health inequities in New York City. The initiative has partnered with more than 200 community-based organizations, provided cancer prevention education to more than 20,000 New Yorkers, and enrolled more than 1,000 Black men into research studies that address colorectal cancer screening. Dr. Ravenell's community-based research was the subject of an invited TED talk he delivered in Vancouver, BC, in February 2016, which has received over 1 million views. Dr. Ravenell continually cultivates a holistic approach to promoting health equity through research, scholarship and mentorship.

The overall goal of Dr. Ravenell's research is to define and evaluate non-traditional approaches to reducing risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer in African Americans. To date, his work has focused specifically on the development and implementation of tailored interventions delivered in community-based settings (e.g., barbershops) to increase cancer screening among older African Americans. Dr. Ravenell has been principal investigator of multiple clinical trials funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to test community-based strategies to improve colon cancer screening and novel strategies to improve decision-making for cancer screening among Black men throughout New York City. This work has led to a community-based research network of over 200 community-based sites including churches, barbershops, mosques, and social service agencies.



**Durado Brooks, MD, MPH**, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Screening Business Unit, Exact Sciences

Dr. Durado Brooks is the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Screening Business Unit of Exact Sciences Corporation, a position he assumed in October 2020.

Prior to joining Exact Sciences Dr. Brooks spent 20 years with the American Cancer Society's national headquarters. During his tenure at ACS Dr. Brooks served in a variety of positions with steadily increasing areas of responsibility, culminating in the role of Vice President of Prevention and Early Detection. Throughout his ACS career Dr. Brooks worked to increase access to high quality prevention and screening and to decrease cancer-related disparities



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through the design, implementation and evaluation of cancer prevention and early detection programs at the national, state and local levels.

A graduate of the Ohio State University and the Wright State University School of Medicine, Dr. Brooks completed his internal medicine residency and chief residency at Wright State's Affiliated Hospitals in Dayton, Ohio, and a fellowship in General Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He provided primary care and served as medical director for community health centers in Dayton and in the Community Oriented Primary Care Program at Parkland Memorial Hospital in his current hometown of Dallas, Texas. His experience in these settings led to expertise in areas including disease prevention and health promotion, disparities in healthcare and outcomes, cultural competency of health care providers and systems, and the impact of managed care on vulnerable populations.

Dr. Brooks completed the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy and earned an MPH degree from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1999, and joined ACS after a one-year Senior Health Policy Internship in the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

He was a 2015 recipient of the Prevent Cancer Foundation's Laurel Award for National Leadership in Cancer Prevention and Early Detection.



**Eric Fung, MD, PhD**, Vice President of Clinical Affairs, GRAIL

Dr. Eric Fung is Vice President, Clinical Development at GRAIL, where he leads several clinical development programs supporting the development of a blood-based multi-cancer detection test. Dr. Fung has previously held clinical development and R&D leadership roles at Affymetrix, Vermillion, CIPHERgen, and Roche Molecular Diagnostics. Dr. Fung has led clinical trials leading to FDA clearance of multiple IVD products. Dr. Fung received his MD, PhD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.



**Karriem S. Watson, DHS, MS, MPH**, Associate Executive Director-UI Health Mile Square Health Center; Associate Director Community Outreach and Engagement UI Cancer Center; Research Assistant Professor UIC School of Public Health Community Health Sciences

Dr. Karriem S. Watson, DHSc, MS, MPH is a Community Health Scientist who serves as the Associate Executive Director of the Mile Square Health Center, a group of Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs) affiliated with the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System. He also serves as the Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement for the University of Illinois Cancer Center at UIC (UI Cancer Center) and has a faculty appointment in the UIC School of Public Health as Research Assistant Professor.



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His research is focused on cancer prevention and control and mitigating the impact of social determinants of health on chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. His research and publications are deeply rooted in community engagement and health equity and expanding diversity in clinical trials. He has NIH funding to address breast cancer disparities among African American women and cancer screening among racial/ethnic minorities. He also has funding from the Chicago Department of Public Health to support tobacco cessation and lung cancer screening and funding from Bristol Meyer Squibb Foundation to support colorectal and cervical cancer screening among underserved populations.

He serves as Board Chair of Community Campus Partnerships for Health and serves on the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for the UI Health Department of Medicine. In addition to his passion for health equity, Dr. Watson has a passion for mentoring and engaging youth underrepresented in science and biomedical research. His contributions earned him recognition by the Chicago Urban League as an “Innovator in STEM.”



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### Panel 3: Accessing Treatments and New Technologies



**Carol Noe**, ACS CAN Volunteer

Carol Noe resides in Springfield, Illinois. She retired from the State of Illinois after working thirty years in the administration of a variety of Federal Job Training Programs. In addition to being the mother of ACS CAN's very own Maggie Osborne, Senior Regional Grassroots Organizing Manager, Carol spent many years as the Team Leader of a Relay Team in Sangamon County. In addition, she served on the Relay Committee as the Public Relations Chair. She has personal experience as both a breast cancer survivor and a Caregiver.



**Michelle McMurry-Heath, MD, PhD**, President & CEO, Biotechnology Innovation Organization

Michelle McMurry-Heath assumed the leadership of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) as President and CEO on June 1, 2020. A medical doctor and molecular immunologist by training, Dr. McMurry-Heath becomes just the third chief executive to steward the world's largest biotechnology advocacy group since BIO's founding in 1993.

BIO represents 1,000 life sciences companies and organizations from 30 countries. The organization's mission is to support companies that discover and deploy scientific breakthroughs that improve human health, environmental stewardship, and sustainable agriculture.

The common thread in McMurry-Heath's work across academia, government and industry has been her focus on broadening access to scientific progress so more patients from diverse backgrounds can benefit from cutting-edge innovation. Driven by her own past family experiences navigating clinical trials and funding uncertainties within the rare disease community, McMurry-Heath calls "the distribution of scientific progress the social justice issue of our age."

She comes to BIO from Johnson & Johnson where she served as Global Head of Evidence Generation for Medical Device Companies and then Vice President of Global External Innovation and Global Leader for Regulatory Sciences. She was also instrumental in bringing J&J's incubator, J Labs, to Washington, DC. She led a global team of 900 with responsibilities in 150 countries around the globe.

Prior to her time at J&J, Dr. McMurry-Heath was also a key science policy leader in government. The Obama-Biden transition team tapped her to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the National Science Foundation's policies, programs and personnel. President Obama then named her associate science director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health under Commissioner Peggy Hamburg. In that role, she championed clinical trial evolution, the use of real-world evidence in product evaluation, and an embrace of the patient's voice in health research so new medical products deliver outcomes that matter to them.



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McMurry-Heath was the founding director of the Aspen Institute's Health, Biomedical Science, and Society Policy Program, where she promoted personalized medicine and bolstered international preparation for pandemic disease threats. She received her early training in science policy from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and later served as Senator Joe Lieberman's top legislative aide for science and health. In that role, she drafted legislation to protect the country from biological attacks.

McMurry-Heath received her MD/PhD from Duke's Medical Scientist Training Program, becoming the first African-American to graduate from the prestigious program. She spent 12 years working at the research bench before taking policy and leadership roles in government and industry.

McMurry-Heath lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband Sebastian Heath, a veterinarian, and their daughter, Isabella. To relax, she enjoys yoga, snorkeling and her daughter's sporting events.



### **John Park, PharmD**, Director of US Oncology Marketing, Amgen

John Park is a US Commercial Director at Amgen, one of the world's leading biotechnology companies. He leads the biomarker & companion diagnostics commercialization strategy for a novel KRAS G12C inhibitor in lung cancer. His team is focused on raising awareness of the importance of comprehensive biomarker testing in patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. His group is also preparing to launch two FDA-approved companion diagnostics to provide additional options in the testing of lung cancer patients for the biomarker KRAS G12C.

Prior to joining Amgen, he was with NeoGenomics as Chief Marketing Officer. NeoGenomics (NASDAQ: NEO) is a leading cancer diagnostics company helping oncologists & pathologists identify important biomarkers for their patients. His team helped to launch over 25 new cancer biomarker tests including the company's first sponsored testing program for Novartis' PIQRAY in advanced stage breast cancer.

Prior to joining NeoGenomics he was Vice President & General Manager of the Healthcare Consumables business at PDC Healthcare, responsible for leading sales and marketing. Over his six years there, his teams more than doubled sales from new product development. They achieved the company's first 510(k) Class II device approvals and developed the company's first smart asset tracking product for hospital equipment.

Prior to this role, John worked at Baxter Healthcare (currently part of Takeda) for over 10 years in a variety of commercial positions. His last position at the company was as Vice President, Global Marketing where he directed the \$3B Hemophilia Franchise. John's teams launched Baxter's first and only blockbuster biotech product (>\$1B), ADVATE, a recombinant FVIII therapy.

Prior to Baxter, John spent six years as a management consultant with CSC Healthcare Group (APM Management Consultants) working with payers, providers and life science clients on strategic as well as operational improvement projects.

John graduated from the University of Southern California with a dual-degree Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration. His undergraduate degree is in Biological Sciences from UC Santa



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Barbara. John is on the Governing Board of Adventist Healthcare Simi Valley Hospital. John is adjunct faculty/lecturer at USC, UCLA and Brown University.



**Mei Wa Kwong, JD**, Executive Director, Center for Connected Health Policy

Mei Wa Kwong joined CCHP in March 2010 as a Policy Associate and was named Executive Director in January 2018. Ms. Kwong leads the organization's work on, public policy issues as they impact telehealth on the state and federal level. She is also the project director for the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center.

Ms. Kwong is a nationally recognized expert on telehealth policy. In her current role at CCHP she works with the organization's multitude of national and regional partners on telehealth issues and oversees CCHP's projects, provides policy technical assistance to state and federal lawmakers, industry members, providers, consumers and others. She manages CCHP's staff and works closely with CCHP's consultants. She has been published in peer review journals and is a sought after speaker at national conferences.

Prior to joining CCHP, Ms. Kwong was a public policy analyst for Children's Home Society of California, working on child care and early education issues on the state and federal levels. She also worked extensively with the Child Development Policy Institute, a statewide public policy organization, and was recognized by them in 2004 for her work in the early care and education field. She was at the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts in Washington, DC working on federal tax issues, and administered the association's political action committee. Ms. Kwong holds a BA in International Affairs from George Washington University, and a JD from George Washington University Law School.



**Beverly Moy, MD, MPH**, Clinical Director, Gillette Center for Women's Cancers - Center for Breast Cancer, Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Beverly Moy is the Clinical Director of the Breast Oncology Program, Director of Cancer Equity, and a medical oncologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She received her undergraduate education at the Johns Hopkins University and her medical degree at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She received a Master's degree in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Moy's specific research interests include breast cancer clinical trials and racial and ethnic disparities in cancer care. She has co-authored more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals. She is an investigator on multiple research grants examining cancer care equity, including those funded by the Kraft and Trefler Foundations, Merck Foundation, and the National Cancer Institute. She served as the Chair of the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Ethics Committee and the Health Disparities Committee. She has served as a chair and panelist for multiple breast cancers.



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She is the Community Outreach Section Editor for the *Oncologist* and past editorial board member of the National Cancer Institute's Adult Treatment Patient Data Query.



**Jerrell Martin, RN, BSN**, Clinical Specialist, Clinical Research and Development, Bristol Myers Squibb

Jerrell Martin is a Cell Therapy Clinical Specialist, Clinical Research and Development, at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), a leading global company. At BMS, Jerrell Martin is responsible for managing cellular therapy product handling and administration training and infusions for multiple compounds that are in BMS CAR T clinical studies.

Jerrell Martin is a Registered Nurse with over 10 years of experience in the blood services, biotechnological, and pharmaceutical industry. Jerrell Martin worked as a Clinical Services Nurse Specialist of Apheresis, managing mononuclear cell collections for immunotherapy developed to target prostate cancer. After that great opportunity, Jerrell Martin began a career in the commercial and clinical organizations of the biotechnological and pharmaceutical industry as a Clinical Nurse Educator and Cell Therapy Clinical Specialist, totally six (6) years in Cell Therapy. Four (4) years of working in the biotechnological and pharmaceutical industry were focused on Clinical Education in the Endocrine and Addiction Medicine space.

Jerrell resides in Southern California, covering the entire West Coast as a Cell Therapy Clinical Specialist for BMS. He is a lover of culture, inclusion, diversity and travel.



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### Legislative Solutions – State and Federal Perspectives



**Sandra Cassese, MSN, RN, CNS**, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Chair of the Board, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer - Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties

Sandra "Sandi" Cassese has been volunteering with the American Cancer Society for more than 25 years. She is Chair of the ACSCAN Board of Directors and serves as a National Ambassador and Online Ambassador for ACS CAN. Ms. Cassese was a member of the Society's former Eastern Division Board, including service as chair in 2015-2016.

Ms. Cassese has been a speaker at Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events and breakfasts and is an active supporter, having achieved the designation of Making Strides Pacesetter five times. She has served as a trainer for the Triple Touch and Reach to Recovery programs. She previously served as the State Lead Ambassador for New York and participated in the Celebration on The Hill events. Ms. Cassese received the St. George National Award in 2009, The Capitol Dome Award in 2011, and the Volunteer Award for Excellence in Advocacy from ACSCAN in 2017. In addition to her service to ACS and ACS CAN, Ms. Cassese was recognized by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2008 when she was named an Athena Award Honoree in recognition of excellence in her profession, commitment to her community, and support of other women's leadership goals. In 2012, she was honored by the American Cancer Society's Hudson Valley Region in appreciation for her leadership and dedication to helping create a world with more birthdays through volunteerism. She was also honored by Hospice, Inc. for her dedication to Hospice and to the Mid-Hudson Valley Community. In 2014, Ms. Cassese was recognized for her work to improve mammography screening rates for minority women in Dutchess County. She also serves on the Board of Directors for The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State.

Ms. Cassese earned her Nursing Diploma from The Charles E. Gregory School of Nursing, a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from The State University of New York at New Paltz, and a Master's degree in Community Health from Sage Graduate School. She is the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties in New York's Hudson Valley.



**Keysha Brooks-Coley**, Vice President, Federal Advocacy and Strategic Alliances, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Keysha Brooks-Coley is Vice President, Federal Advocacy and Strategic Alliances with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN), and has worked for ACSCAN since 2008. In her current role she serves as the head federal lobbyist for ACSCAN, and leads the Federal Relations team. Keysha coordinates and leads federal legislative priority issues, and campaigns, and also leads advocacy strategic alliances efforts to implement strategies and build relationships with patient and provider advocacy organizations. Keysha also serves as Chair of the Patient Quality of Life Coalition. The coalition was established by ACS CAN in 2013



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to advance the interests of patients and families facing serious illness and has a membership of over 40 patient, provider, and health system organizations.

Keysha previously served as Professional Staff Member on the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Retirement Security and Aging, Majority staff for Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD) from 2003-2008. Her policy responsibilities included a wide range of aging and health policy issues including women's health, public health, biomedical research, health disparities and Health and Human Services Appropriations. Before joining the Subcommittee staff, Keysha served on the staff of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH) in the United States House of Representatives from 2000-2003 as a Legislative Assistant for health care, aging, and education issues.

Keysha has a BA degree in Sociology and Political Science from Towson University and a Master's degree in Political Management from the George Washington University.



#### **Camille Y. Lilly, State Representative, 78<sup>th</sup> District of Illinois**

Camille Y. Lilly was born and raised in the 78th Illinois House District and has spent her professional career advocating for and working diligently toward economic opportunity, community development, health and wellness, and educational advancement for district residents. Camille is known for her inclusive and transparent leadership style and her ability to build coalitions and develop creative, sustainable solutions to improve people's lives and communities. As Director of the West Garfield Park Families with a Future Program (1986-1990) for Bethel New Life Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to sustainable development in challenged communities, Camille managed the State of Illinois' Infant Mortality initiative. The program led to a reduction in the infant mortality rate from 21 deaths per 1,000 live births to 17.

As Vice President of Beth-Anne Life Centre, Camille developed a plan to revitalize a 9.2-acre closed hospital campus. She raised more than \$4 million for capital development and campus maintenance, conducted contract and labor negotiations, and oversaw an operating budget of \$2.7 million. In 2002, Camille became one of the founders and a board member of the Austin Chamber of Commerce. Until recently, she served as the Chamber's volunteer Executive Director, helping to map out a vision for economic growth and development intended to strengthen community partnerships and improve bottom lines for local businesses. Some of Camille's accomplishments at the Chamber include:

- A summer jobs program benefiting more than 500 young people at more than 60 businesses and agencies;
- In partnership with local police, an executive leadership grant for individuals working or living in the community that provided more than 30 scholarships to college-bound youth.
- Teamed with local aldermen to advocate successfully for a big box retailer, leading to the creation of more than 400 jobs on the West side. In her current position as Vice President of External Affairs and Development for Loretto Hospital, located at Central Avenue and the Eisenhower Expressway, Camille organized a mayoral task force to address economic



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development in the Austin community and expanded the Board of Trustees to include representation by local residents and business owners. By maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, Camille has raised more than \$800,000 to help pay for services in the areas of addiction, breast cancer, prostate cancer, asthma and senior wellness.



**Lanette Garcia**, Representative for Congressman Jesús G. “Chuy” García, 4th District of Illinois

Lanette García is a Legislative Assistant with Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García, where she handles health, immigration, education, among other issues. Prior to this, she was a Policy Analyst for the Health Policy Project at UnidosUS (formerly the National Council of La Raza), a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Graduate Fellow in Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky’s office, and a caseworker with the Illinois Department of Human Services. Lanette is the proud daughter of immigrants and was born

and raised in Chicago’s Little Village and Pilsen neighborhoods. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Michigan.



**Chris Cox, MPH**, Representative for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, 9th District of New York

Christopher is the Acting Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke of New York’s 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He currently oversees the Energy and Commerce Committee portfolio that includes technology, telecommunications and health. In his role, he also coordinates the Congressional Caucus on Smart Cities and the Multicultural Media Caucus. He is a graduate of Jackson State University, where he obtained a B.A. in Political Science and a masters in Public Health Policy and Management.



**Anisah Assim**, Policy Associate, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

Anisah Assim is currently a Policy Associate with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and handles various issues for the caucus including health disparities. Prior to joining the CAPAC team Anisah worked for the House Democratic Caucus. She was born in Queens, New York, grew up in Western Massachusetts and is a graduate of Fordham University.