ACCELERATE 2023 Annual Conference

9-10 February 2023

Brussels Radisson Collection Hotel
& Virtual

BIOGRAPHIES

Speakers, Chairs & Panelists

Gilles Vassal

Trained as a Paediatric Oncologist, he got his PhD in Pharmacology. He is Professor of Oncology in University Paris Saclay and Gustave Roussy, a large Comprehensive Cancer Center in France. For the last 20 years, he has dedicated his research, clinical and training activities to the development of new drugs for children and adolescents with cancer. He is currently President of the EU Academic Consortium for Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer and past President of SIOPE, the European Society of Paediatric Oncology. He is chairing the ACCELERATE International multi-stakeholder platform to speed up innovation for children and adolescents with cancer. In 2020, he received the Leonard M. Rosen Memorial Research Award for his outstanding contribution to childhood cancer policy and advocacy. As a SIOPE representative, he is co-leading WP4 of the IMI2 Conect4Children network (www.conect4children.org) and coordinates the development of Multi-stakeholder meetings to best address unmet pediatric needs. Author of more than 250 publications in peer-reviewed journals, he is member of several Scientific Councils.

Pamela Kearns

Professor Pam Kearns is Chair of Clinical Paediatric Oncology at the University of Birmingham and an Honorary Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Birmingham Women and Children's Hospital. She is Director of the University of Birmingham's Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences and Director of the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU). As Director of CRCTU, she leads the research strategy for one of UK's largest cancer trials unit, delivering a trials portfolio of over 100 multi-centre & international cancer trials for a wide-range of cancers, occurring in all children, young people and adults, notably leading the National Children's Cancer Trials Team responsible the vast majority of UK's clinical trial portfolio for children and young people with cancer. She served as President of the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOP Europe) from 2019 to 2021, having been a Board member since 2013 and now continues to sits on the Board of SIOP Europe as Past President. She has several European roles including Executive Board Member of the academic consortium 'Innovative Therapeutics in Childhood Cancer' (ITCC), Chair of ITCC's European Sponsor Institutions Committee and Steering Committee member of the International multi-stakeholder platform 'ACCELERATE'.

Gregory Reaman

Gregory Reaman is the Scientific Director of the National Cancer Institute's Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI), a collaborative, community endeavor which aims to build expandable, sustainable data resources and workflows from every child and young adult with a pediatric cancer across their entire cancer trajectory from diagnosis through survivorship, to advance research to provide benefit to patients through improvements in prevention, diagnosis and treatment and care made possible by data-focused research. He previously served as Associate Director for Pediatric Oncology in the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence, Office of the Commissioner and Associate Director for Pediatrics in the Office of Oncologic Diseases, CDER. He is an Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. His research interests are in the immunobiology and therapy of acute leukemia and the development of new cancer therapeutics for children. He has authored more than 350 peer-reviewed publications.

Stefan M. Pfister

Stefan Pfister serves as Director of the Preclinical Research Program of the new Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg, a joint venture between the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and Heidelberg University Hospital. He is heading the Division Pediatric Neurooncology at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) since 2012. Being a pediatrician by training, Pfister received his MD from Tübingen University, and his clinical education at Mannheim and Heidelberg University Hospitals. Pfister's research focuses on the genetic and epigenetic characterization of childhood brain tumors by applying next-generation profiling methods, the development of faithful models and functional validation of findings, and the preclinical testing of new treatment options using these models. In all his activities, translating novel findings into a clinical context is of highest priority. For his translational neurooncology projects, Pfister received amongst others the German Cancer Award in 2012. In 2020 he became member of the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

Pablo Berlanga

Pablo Berlanga MD, PhD, is a pediatric oncologist at Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus. He trained in paediatric oncology at the Hospital La Fe Hospital in Valencia, Spain and then worked as a paediatric oncology consultant until 2017 when he moved to France. He is actively involved in paediatric phase I/II trials and precision medicine program, soft and bone tissue sarcomas and neuroblastoma. He is an active member of the new drug development committees of SIOPEN, EpSSG and EuroEwing Consortium and member of the ITCC Solid Tumour Steering Committee. He is the Principal Investigator of the SACHA study (Secured Access to innovative medicines for CHildren with cAncer).

Andy Pearson

Prof. Andy Pearson is formerly a Cancer Research UK Professor of Paediatric Oncology, at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust. Prof Pearson led the first paediatric Phase I study in the UK. He was Chair of National Cancer Research Institute Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Clinical Studies Group Novel Agents Subgroup. He was the founding chair of International Society for Paediatric Oncology Europe Neuroblastoma Committee (SIOPEN). Prof Pearson is a member of the Executive Committee of the Innovative Therapy for Children with Cancer Consortium (ITCC), Chair of the Paediatric Strategy Forum Oversight Committee, Senior Advisor to the Steering Committee of ACCELERATE. He has published over 350 manuscripts ion neuroblastoma and early drug development. He retired from clinical practice in May 2014 due to ill health.

Dr Daniel Morales is a senior clinical epidemiologist in the Data Analytics Team at the European Medicines Agency (EMA). He was previously an EU Commission appointed independent scientific expert to the EMA Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) and member of the EMA Pandemic Emergency Task force and the ENCePP steering group. Dr Morales is a qualified general practitioner and has a background in academia leading research studies at the University of Dundee.

Daniel Morales

Lynley Marshall

Dr Lynley Marshall completed her undergraduate training in Johannesburg, South Africa and postgraduate training in paediatrics and then paediatric oncology in Bristol, Oxford and The Royal Marsden Hospital in London where she leads the Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology Drug Development Team, focusing on oncology drug development and experimental therapeutics for high risk, poor prognosis malignancies, specifically solid tumours and neuro-oncology. She is current chair of the NCRI Children's Novel Agents Subgroup and a member of the Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer (ITCC) European Early Phase Trials Consortium Solid Tumour Group Steering Committee. She has a PhD from the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in the area of novel therapeutics for paediatric high grade glioma and holds an Honorary Faculty (Senior Lecturer) position at The ICR. She is a member of the ACCELERATE Executive Committee and active in the FAIR Trials Working Group and the Paediatric Strategy Forum initiatives.

Hubert Caron

Hubert Caron, MD, PhD, is Global Development Leader for Pediatric Oncology at Roche, Basel. Prof. Caron is trained as a pediatric oncologist and worked in clinical practice and academic research until recently. He joined Roche in 2014 and became the Global Development Team Lead within the iPODD pediatric oncology team, which is responsible for the pediatric clinical and regulatory development of the Roche Genentech oncology portfolio in the iMATRIX trial structure to bring new and life-saving therapies to children with cancer. He has implemented a preclinical pediatric screening platform in Roche to support rational Mechanism-of-Action based development of the Roche Genentech anticancer drugs in the “best matching” pediatric cancers. He is co-leading an IMI2 EU research consortium to develop a large PDX preclinical testing platform for 10 high risk pediatric cancer types.

Nicole Scobie

Nicole Scobie is the president and a founding member of Zoé4life, a non-profit organization based in Switzerland which supports children with cancer and their families, as well as pediatric oncology research. As a parent of a childhood cancer survivor, she is an advocate for improving access to treatment as well as accelerating the development of new, better therapies for childhood cancer. Nicole is a member of the ACCELERATE Steering Committee and is also a Committee Member of Childhood Cancer International (CCI) Europe. Nicole is one of the founders and a member of both the ITCC Advocate Committee and the SIOPEN Advocate Committee.

Susan L. Weiner

Susan L. Weiner is the founder of the Children’s Cancer Cause, a pioneer and national leader in education and advocacy to improve treatments and care for childhood cancer patients and survivors. On receiving a PhD in cognitive developmental psychology from Columbia University and an NIMH postdoc, Dr. Weiner worked as an academic research psychologist. After her infant son’s brain tumor diagnosis and during his 13 years of life, Dr. Weiner founded the Mary McDowell Friends School, an independent school for children with learning disabilities. After her son’s death, Dr. Weiner led the Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation, served on NCI’s Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, founded the PBTC Foundation and served on multiple advisory committees for NCI, FDA, HHS, NAS, ASCO and AACR. Author of many publications on advocacy and policy, Dr. Weiner was the first pediatric cancer advocate to receive ASCO’s Partners in Progress Award. She currently serves on the Steering Committee of ACCELERATE.

Leona Knox

Leona is Head of Research at Solving Kids' Cancer UK, a non-profit organisation driving international collaboration to speed up pioneering clinical research that could improve outcomes for children. Leona's son Oscar died of neuroblastoma following extensive therapy in the UK and US. She is a passionate advocate dedicated to multi-stakeholder working for the benefit of children with cancer. Leona is founding Chair of the SIOPEN Advocate Committee, a member of both the ITCC Advocate Committee and the ITCC Sponsor Committee, AACR Affiliate Member, and ACCELERATE Steering Committee member.

Patricia Blanc

Patricia Blanc is founder and president of Imagine for Margo-Children without cancer, French charity, created en 2011 after her daughter, Margo, died from a brain tumor. Imagine for Margo is the leading national parents organization raising funds to support the development of innovative therapies for children with cancer. Patricia Blanc is also very active in advocacy efforts towards French and European politicians, regulators and pharmaceutical industry to make laws and research more adapted to better treatments for children with cancer. Patricia had an international career in investment and retail banking, working in Paris, Johannesburg and New York. She received the Vanity Fair award of the 50 most influential French people in the world as well as the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite recognition. Patricia is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee, Member of Childhood Cancer International-Europe, Member of the Scientific committee of the SFCE (Société Française de lutte contre les Cancers et leucémies de l'Enfant et de l'adolescent), Past Member of the Cancer Mission Assembly and Steering Committee Member of ACCELERATE.

Joe McDonough

Joe McDonough's son, Andrew, died from AML in 2007 at the age of 14. His blood type, and the way he lived, was B+ --- Be Positive. For 35+ years, Joe has held marketing positions in the consumer products, non-profit, and financial services industry. Prior to starting The Andrew McDonough B+ (Be Positive) Foundation, he was a Senior Vice-President in the credit card division of JPMorgan Chase. Joe is the President of The B+ Foundation, a national charity in the United States with offices in Delaware, New York City, Boston, Alabama, and San Diego. The B+ Foundation is one of the largest providers of financial assistance to families of kids with cancer in the U.S. and also funds cutting-edge childhood cancer research globally. The B+ Foundation is a financial sponsor of ACCELERATE and a Member of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer. Joe is also a Co-Founder of CAC2, a North American collaboration of over 200 advocacy organizations.

Teresa de Rojas

Dr. Teresa de Rojas is a pediatric oncologist, MD-PhD, with a special interest for drug development and oncogenomics. She joined ACCELERATE as Scientific Coordinator in 2020 and is currently coordinating the educational platform ALADDIN. Dr. de Rojas started her research career as medical fellow at the FIB-HNJ Clinical Research Unit, in Madrid (2015-2016). She worked at the EORTC (European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer) in Brussels, as medical research fellow (2017-2020), and as post-doc researcher at Hospital Niño Jesús in Madrid, co-leading the Pediatric OncoGenomics Unit (2020). Dr. de Rojas is Member of the Steering Committee of Young SIOPE, of SIOPE's Education Committee, and Clinical Expert for the Adolescent Medicine Expert Group of the Conect4Children (c4c) Consortium. She is faculty member of the Pediatric Oncology Training Program at the Uganda Cancer Institute, Kampala, Uganda, combining her interest in educational and non-for-profit, international cooperation projects.

Nathalie Gaspar, MD, PhD, is a pediatrics oncologist at Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, head of the adolescent unit and chair of the adolescent and young adult (AYA) programme of the institute (SPIAJA program). She has a mixed clinical and scientific training in paediatric oncology (Paris, France) and in preclinical drug development (Institute of cancer research, UK). She is much involved at national and European level, in AYA care (member of the French GO-AJA association and of the ESMO-SIOPE AYA educational working group); typical AYA cancers (bone sarcomas, from biology to clinic) and in early drug development (ITCC). She is the chair of the FOSTER consortium (Fight OsteoSarcoma Through European Research) and member of EEC (Euro-Ewing consortium) executive committee. She is co-chairing the ACCELERATE Fostering Age Inclusive Research (FAIR) trial group.

Nathalie Gaspar

Lia Gore

Dr. Lia Gore is a Professor with Tenure at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapeutics at Children's Hospital Colorado in the US. Her research is focused on the development of novel cancer therapeutics with an emphasis on high-risk diseases and improving access to clinical trials for children. She has been a Principal Investigator or co-Investigator on more than 200 national and international clinical trials. She is a founding co-director of the University of Colorado's NCI designated Comprehensive Cancer Center's Hematological Malignancies Program, and currently serves as a co-director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program. Dr. Gore is the group-wide Vice Chair of the Children's Oncology Group.

Willemijn Plieger

Willemijn is educated as a lawyer and estate planner, mediator and psycho-dynamic therapist. Due to the illness of her son Hidde, she decided to get involved in the Dutch Childhood Cancer Organisation 4 years ago. The focus of her work is on the input of the child, parent, survivor perspective in studies on quality of life and supportive care. She is part of the scientific research working group of the Princess Máxima Centre and of the Dutch Association of Cancer Patient Organisations.

Elizabeth Fox

Dr. Elizabeth Fox is a pediatric oncologist with expertise in clinical pharmacology. She is the Senior Vice President of Clinical Trials Research Administration and Associate Director of Clinical Research in the St Jude Children's Research hospital Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition, she is the Vice Chair of the NCI COG Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network and Developmental Therapeutics Committee. For more than 25 years, Dr. Fox has designed and led early phase clinical trials including innovative trials including investigator initiated, cooperative group and trials in collaboration with pharmaceutical industry partners. Dr. Fox serves on the ACCELERATE Strategy Forum Oversight Committee.

Chinyere Okpara

Chinyere Okpara, PhD, is Executive Director, Clinical Development at Eisai. Dr Okpara has been a key contributor to Eisai`s success and has played a vital role in helping the company to achieve its goals and fulfill its commitment to cancer patients. Chinyere joined Eisai in 2017 after having worked in the pharmaceutical industry with Takeda, Ono Pharma, Roche and Pfizer. She has over 14 years' clinical development experience. Chinyere's expertise, high work ethics and impressive dedication were evident from her early days at Eisai, which led to being assigned roles of increasing responsibilities. In her current role, she is adult and pediatric clinical development lead for the Lenvima international project team. In addition, Chinyere is a co-founder of ePOG (Eisai Pediatric Oncology Group), an initiative instituted to provide guidance to clinical development teams on how to initiate their respective pediatric plans, overseeing the pediatric work being conducted by the project teams to guide them in delivering their pediatric strategy.

Elly Barry

Elly Barry is a board-certified pediatrician and pediatric hematologist/oncologist with over 15 years of experience in drug development, currently serving as the Senior Vice President and Head of Clinical Development at Day One Biopharmaceuticals. Prior to Day One, Elly worked for 7-years at Pfizer as the Global Clinical Lead for Pediatric Oncology and head of the Pfizer's Pediatric Oncology Leadership Team. Elly received her MD degree from Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, before completing residency training in pediatrics at Tufts-New England Medical Center/Floating Hospital for Children in Boston, and fellowship training in pediatric hematology/oncology at Boston Children's Hospital/Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. She remained on staff at DFCI as an Instructor in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Bone obtaining a Masters in Medical Science degree from Harvard Medical School. Her previous industry roles at Genzyme and Millennium have focused on the early and late development of drugs for hematologic malignancies, breast, and renal cancers. Elly also serves on the Industry Advisory Council for CureSearch, is a member of the ACCELERATE Platform Steering Committee, and served as the Co-Chair the Pediatrics Specialty Committee of BIO from 2020-2022.

E. Anders Kolb, MD, is a board-certified pediatric hematologist/oncologist at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware and Director of the Nemours Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. He is also Vice Chairman for Research in the Department of Pediatrics at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. For the past 10 years, Dr. Kolb has served as the Chair of the Children's Oncology Group Myeloid Disease Committee.

E. Anders Kolb

Peter Adamson

Peter C. Adamson, MD is Global Oncology Development Head and Global Head, Pediatric Innovation at Sanofi. Dr. Adamson leads global cancer drug development for Sanofi and is also working across therapeutic areas to further pediatric drug development efforts. Prior to this, Dr. Adamson served as Chair of the Children's Oncology Group (COG), a National Cancer Institute supported international consortium of more than 220 childhood centers. Dr. Adamson, currently Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology at the Perelman School of Medicine, is Board Certified in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Clinical Pharmacology. He was appointed by President Obama to, and continues to serve on, the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB), and also served on the Blue-Ribbon Panel for the Beau Biden National Cancer Moonshot Initiative.

Brenda Weigel

Brenda Weigel, MD, is the Director of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and is a Professor cross-appointed at the University of Minnesota's Masonic Cancer Center and the Department of Pediatrics. She is the recipient of the Lehman/Children's Cancer Research Fund Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer. Dr. Weigel's major research interests have been advancing new therapies for children with cancer. She is Chair of the Children's Oncology Group Developmental Therapeutics Committee and the Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network. Dr. Weigel serves on the ACCELERATE Strategy Forum Oversight Committee.

Delphine Heenen is the managing director and one of the founders of the Belgian public interest foundation KickCancer, whose mission is to foster fundamental and clinical research in the field of paediatric oncology. Delphine is the (step)mother to four boys, one of whom was diagnosed with cancer. It is the lack of innovative treatments offered to her son which drove her and her family to found KickCancer. Before KickCancer, Delphine had a career as international corporate lawyer, strategy consultant and legal advisor to a private investment funds dedicated to renewable energies.

Delphine Heenen

Martha Donoghue

Martha Donoghue, MD is the Associate Director for Pediatric Oncology and Rare Cancers in the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence, Office of the Commissioner and the Acting Associate Director for Pediatric Oncology in the Office of Oncologic Diseases, Center of Drug Evaluation and Research. In these roles, she oversees the implementation of the pediatric regulations designed to facilitate the timely investigation of drugs and biological products for pediatric patients with cancer and promotes consistent and efficient interactions with stakeholders involved in developing drugs to treat pediatric cancers across the FDA oncology review divisions. She serves on several FDA and stakeholder working groups and committees to facilitate development of drugs to treat rare cancers, including pediatric cancers. Prior to joining FDA in 2009, Dr. Donoghue completed a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at the Children's National Medical Center after working for several years as a general pediatrician in private practice. She received her medical degree from Emory University and completed a residency in general pediatrics at the Georgetown University Medical Center.

Dominik Karres

Dominik received his medical degree from the University Erlangen, Germany, followed by a MD in paediatric drug development. He held a training post in paediatric haematology/ oncology (University Hospital Muenster) and worked as a clinical fellow in paediatric oncology and paediatric oncology drug development in the UK (Royal Marsden Hospital & Institute of Cancer Research UK). In 2014 he joined the UKs medicines regulatory agency (MHRA) with positions in the Licensing and Post-marketing Division. Since 2018 he works as Senior Scientific Specialist at the EMAs Paediatric Medicines Office. Dominik is supporting the agency's efforts further fostering paediatric oncology drug development. In this capacity he is also the EMAs nominee to the ACCELERATE Steering Committee.

Fabio D'Atri

Fabio D'Atri is a policy officer in the unit "Medicines: policy, authorisation and monitoring" in the Health and food Safety Directorate General of the European Commission (DG SANTE). He holds a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Geneva and a master in management of biotech companies from the Grenoble School of Business. After working for several years as university researchers and as a consultant both in the public and in the private sector, he joined the European Commission in 2004. In Health and Food Safety DG he has been responsible of several areas of the of the food legislation, from nutrition to food contact materials. Since 2011 he works in the units dealing with pharmaceutical, in particular on the quality of medicines, falsified medicines and clinical trials. During 2016 and 2017 Fabio was seconded to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and worked on vaccination and antimicrobial resistance related issues. Since November 2017 he is in charge of the management of the Paediatric Regulation.

Ayumu Arakawa

Ayumu Arakawa is a pediatric oncologist who trained at several Japanese hospitals and spent two years at the Department of Pediatric Oncology, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin to learn how to manage international collaborative clinical trials. Currently, as Head of Physician in the Department of Pediatric Oncology at the National Cancer Center Hospital, he is involved in the planning and management of clinical trials in Japan, especially for soft-tissue sarcoma and osteosarcoma in children and AYA patients. He has conducted several early-phase clinical trials for pediatric oncology in Japan as a principal investigator.

Kathy Brodeur-Robb

Kathy Brodeur-Robb is the Executive Director of C17 Council, the Canadian pediatric hematology/ oncology network. Initiated in 2004 by the Directors of the 16 Canadian programs, the network focuses on research grant funding, regulatory compliance and oversight, access to academic international and national clinical trials, education and advocacy. She has participated in several national initiatives, including: Initiative to Streamline Clinical Trials; Best Practices for Research Involving Children and Adolescents; Canadian Collaboration for Child Health: Efficiency and Excellence in the Ethics Review of Research (CHEER); and, developing the 3CTN Canadian Remote Access Framework for Clinical Trials (CRAFT).

Dr. Bryce Reeve is a Professor of Population Health Sciences and Professor of Pediatrics at Duke University School of Medicine in the United States. Trained in psychometric methods, Dr. Reeve's work focuses on assessing the impact of disease and treatments on the lives of patients and their caregivers. This includes the development of clinical outcome assessments (including patient-reported outcomes) using both qualitative and quantitative methods, and the integration of patient-centered data in research and healthcare delivery settings to inform decision-making. Dr. Reeve served (2011-2013) as President of the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL), and received in 2015 the John Ware and Alvin Tarlov Career Achievement Prize in Patient-Reported Outcomes Measures

Bryce B. Reeve

David Riedl

David Riedl works as a clinical psychologist and senior researcher at the Medical University of Innsbruck and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Rehabilitation Research. He holds a PhD in psychology from the University of Innsbruck and is a state certified clinical psychologist. He specialized in psychosomatic and psycho-oncological research, with a focus on health-related quality of life and patient-reported outcomes in pediatric oncology.

Douglas S. Hawkins

Dr. Hawkins is Group Chair of the Children's Oncology Group, a clinician at Seattle Children's Hospital, and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Prior to becoming COG Group Chair in 2020, he was the Chair of the COG Soft Tissue Sarcoma Committee, overseeing the conduct of biology studies and clinical trials for rhabdomyosarcoma and other soft tissue sarcomas across North America. Dr. Hawkins was a member of the COG Bone Tumor Steering Committee. His academic career has focused on clinical research, particularly in the treatment of pediatric sarcomas. He was the chair of two COG clinical trials, one for Ewing sarcoma and another for rhabdomyosarcoma. He chairs the international EURO EWING Consortium External Advisory Board, and also chairs the international Frontline and Relapse in RhabdoMyoSarcoma Study (FaR-RMS) Data Monitoring Committee.

Louis Stancato

Louis Stancato is an Associate Vice President of Pediatric Clinical Development at Eli Lilly and Company, and a recognized expert in adult and pediatric cancer translational research. At the intersection of the bench and the bedside, translational research is essential to enabling the conversion of fundamental biological understanding of molecules and disease into testable clinical hypotheses. Proudly representing Lilly's pediatric cancer research interests around the globe, Lou is a prominent figure in the pediatric cancer community and is a coleader of an Innovative Medicines Initiative project in the EU (http://www.imi.europa.eu/) to develop a preclinical pediatric proof of concept network to identify potential new medicines for children with cancer (ITCC-P4; http://www.itccp4.eu/). This 30-member consortium brings together many of the EU's top pediatric cancer centers with scientists from several large companies to develop a world class research platform to deliver innovative and life-saving medicines to our youngest cancer patients.

Malcolm A. Smith.

Dr. Smith is Associate Branch Chief, Pediatrics, in the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP), NCI. Dr. Smith serves as the primary NCI liaison for hematologic malignancies and brain cancers to childhood cancer researchers in the Children's Oncology Group (COG). He also serves as the Program Director for the Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network (PEP-CTN), the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, and the Pediatric Preclinical in Vivo Testing (PIVOT) Program.

Angelika Joos

Angelika is pharmacist by training and currently Executive Director, Global Regulatory Policy at MSD with more than 25 years' international work experience. She is a member of MSD's global Pediatric Development Committee that advises on the company's paediatric development programs and has led the regulatory strategy for one of the first successful paediatric programs under the EU Paediatric Regulation. Angelika has been actively involved in Pediatric issues since 2001. Working with European trade associations, she supported and followed the EU Pediatric Regulation through its legal decision-making process within the European Institutions and was involved in education and training during the implementation of the law. Since 2004, she is a member of several pediatric expert working groups and currently co-chair of the efpia paediatric expert group. Since 2008, she is also a member of the European Good Clinical Practice Forum (EFGCP) Medicines for Children Working Group (CMWG) and has participated in the Harvard MRCT Project "Promoting Global Clinical Research in Children".

Vickie Buenger serves as Clinical Professor at the Mays Business School with a joint appointment to the Professional Program for Biotechnology at Texas A&M University. She teaches competitive and cooperative business strategy and project management. Vickie's daughter, Erin, fought neuroblastoma for seven years. After Erin's death in 2009, Vickie devoted time and energy to launching the Coalition Against Childhood Cancer (CAC2) on behalf of the many dedicated organizations and individuals striving to make a difference for children with cancer. She currently serves as President of CAC2. She combines her academic background with her interest in the science and policy of childhood cancer and has spoken before gatherings of scientists, clinicians, regulators, industry representatives, and advocates in the UE and Europe.

Vickie Buenger