Biographies

(in order of appearance)

**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.

**Kimberly Stegmaier.** Kimberly Stegmaier, M.D., is a Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, a Principal Investigator in Pediatric Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), and an Attending Physician at the Boston Children’s Hospital Boston (BCH) and DFCI. She is the Co-director of the Pediatric Hematologic Malignancies Program at DFCI and BCH and is also an Associate Member of the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. She received her B.S. from Duke University and her M.D. from Harvard Medical School. She completed her residency at BCH and a post-doctoral pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship at DFCI/BCH. In 2006, she launched her own laboratory effort at DFCI.

**Delphine Heenen.** 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.
Greg Reaman. Gregory Reaman is the 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 the Executive Director emeritus of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and senior attending physician at Children’s National, Washington, D.C.. He has held numerous leadership positions. He was the Inaugural Chair of the Children’s Oncology Group and previously served as the Associate Chair for New Agent Studies and Vice Chair for Scientific Affairs of the Children’s Cancer Group. He served on the national Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society and chaired its Task Force on Cancer in Children and on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology. He was the first pediatrician member of the FDA’s Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee and the first chair of its Pediatric Subcommittee. He is a professor of pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

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.

Franca Ligas. Franca Ligas is a scientific officer at the Paediatric Medicines Office of the European Medicines Agency. She is responsible for Paediatric Investigation Plans applications particularly for the therapeutic area of oncology. She holds a medical degree from the University of Cagliari (Italy), where she completed her residency in the field of clinical pharmacology. She also worked as clinical research physician in a pharmaceutical company for about 2 years.

Alysha Croker. Dr. Alysha Croker joined Health Canada in 2019. In her current role as Director of the Centre for Policy, Pediatrics and International Collaboration, her and her team are looking to develop ways to increase access to safe and effective drugs and medical devices for pediatric populations in Canada, among other files. Previously, Dr. Croker managed the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) and the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) programs for Canada’s federal research funders. She also led the development of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s (CIHR) training and equity strategies where was awarded the CIHR Innovation Award. Dr. Croker has a PhD from Western University where she studied the molecular mechanisms of breast cancer metastasis and therapy resistance.
Antonia Palmer. Antonia Palmer is the Executive Director of Kindred Foundation, a charity focused on funding childhood cancer research, youth mental and physical health, and community programs. She is the co-founder of Advocacy for Canadian Childhood Oncology Research Network (Ac2orn), Chair of the CHEER Patient and Family Advisory Committee, research advocate for the St. Baldrick’s-Stand Up to Cancer Phase 2 Pediatric Cancer Dream Team, BioCanRx board member, and volunteers for other cancer focused organizations and projects in Canada and internationally. Antonia holds a master’s degree in Systems Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo and lives in Ontario with her husband Aaron and three beautiful boys, Nate, Alex and Jonathan.

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.

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 save lives and 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 Chair of the SIOPEN Advocate Committee, and a member of the SIOPEN Executive Committee, ITCC Advocate Committee, AACR Pediatric Cancer Working Group Steering Committee, and ACCELERATE Steering Committee.

Teresa de Rojas. Dr. Teresa de Rojas is a pediatric oncologist, MD-PhD, with a special interest for drug development and oncogenomics. She works as Scientific Coordinator of ACCELERATE, an international, academic platform promoting drug development in childhood cancer. 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, leading the Educational Program, as well as Member of the Steering Committee of the recently created SIOPE’s Education Group. She is also Clinical Expert for the Adolescent Medicine Expert Group of the Conect4Children (c4c) Consortium. She is associate professor at the Pediatric Oncology Training Program at the Uganda Cancer Institute, Kampala, Uganda, combining her interest in educational and non-for-profit, international cooperation projects.
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’

Anjali Sharma. Anjali is a board-certified Pediatric Hematologist Oncologist who is leading several Immuno-Oncology programs as an Executive director at CRISPR therapeutics. Prior to working at CRISPR she worked Amgen as a Clinical Research Medical Director for 6 years where she assumed the role of Pediatric Oncology development lead for all Oncology programs in view of the impact of the Race Act for Pediatric Oncology (2019) and acted as a consultant on all early and late-stage molecules. Within the same year, was also elected to be the PhRMA rep for Accelerate. She has also served on the Industry advisory council for Cure Search.

Bram De Wilde. Bram De Wilde is a pediatric oncologist at Ghent University Hospital and a research professor in the field of pediatric oncology at Ghent University. His clinical focus is on the conduct of early phase clinical trials as he is the coordinating principal investigator for the ITCC accredited trial unit at Ghent University hospital. His research interests are in solid pediatric tumors with a special interest in neuroblastoma. He co-leads several translational research lines covering improved diagnostics, oncogenomics, precision medicine and novel drug development.

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 Vice President 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 Chair of the Pfizer’s Pediatric Oncology Leadership Team. Elly is a member of the ACCELERATE Platform Steering Committee, also serves on the Industry Advisory Council for CureSearch, and has been Co-Chair the BIO Pediatrics Specialty Committee since 2020.

Steven DuBois. Steven DuBois is a pediatric oncologist and Director, Experimental Therapeutics at the Dana-Farber / Boston Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. He is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He leads a clinical and translational research program focused on developing novel targeted therapies and biomarkers relevant to children with advanced solid tumors, particularly Ewing sarcoma and neuroblastoma. He has led multiple phase 1, 2, and 3 clinical trials. He serves on several US national committees, including
ASCO Scientific Program Committee, COG Bone Tumor and Neuroblastoma executive committees, and FDA Pediatric ODAC.

**Martha Donoghue.** Martha Donoghue, MD is a pediatric oncologist and Deputy Director of the Division of Oncology 2 in the Office of Oncologic Diseases at the FDA, where she provides regulatory oversight and advice regarding the development of drugs to treat pediatric solid tumors and other rare cancers. She also serves as the Acting Associate Director of Pediatric and Rare Cancer Drug Development in the Oncology Center for Excellence (OCE). In this role, she participates in FDA working groups and committees and engages with external stakeholders to facilitate development of drugs to treat rare diseases, including rare cancers. Areas of special interest include the use of innovative clinical trial designs and real world evidence to optimize drug development. 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.

**Nicole Scobie.** Nicole Scobie is the president of Zoé4life, a non-profit organization based in Switzerland which supports kids 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. She is a board member of Childhood Cancer International (CCI) as well as being on the committee of the European Branch of CCI. Nicole is also a member of the Accelerate Steering Committee.

**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.

**Donna Ludwinski.** Donna is a parent of Erik diagnosed at age 6 with neuroblastoma in 1991. Erik relapsed after 14 years of remission and died at age 24 in 2010. Highly engaged in the global parent/patient community for 15 years, Donna has worked for Solving Kids’ Cancer in New York and London overseeing research funding and advocating for families everywhere. She is passionate about medical literacy, informed decision making, and mentoring advocates to make meaningful contributions to the research landscape. She serves on several committees and advisories including the International Collaboration and Fit-For-Filing WGs, NCI Pediatric Central Review Board, New Approaches to Neuroblastoma Parent Advisory, FDA Pediatric Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committees, and was a founding board member of Coalition Against Childhood Cancer. Donna received her degree in chemical engineering.
Raphaël Rousseau. Raphaël Rousseau, M.D., Ph.D. joined Neogene Therapeutics, a biotech company based in California, in December 2021 as chief medical officer where he currently leads the development of personalized neoantigen-targeting engineered T cells for the treatment of solid tumors. Prior to Neogene, Raphaël held a similar role at Gritstone bio, a biotech focusing on neoantigen cancer vaccines and more recently infectious diseases (including against SARS-CoV-2). From 2009 to 2017, he worked at Roche (Basel, Switzerland) and Genentech (South San Francisco, USA) where he created and led the Innovative Pediatric Oncology Drug Development (iPODD) team solely dedicated to children with cancer. Before joining Roche, Raphaël was a tenured professor of medical and pediatric oncology at the Université Claude Bernard in Lyon, France, and an attending pediatrician at the Institut d’Onco-Hématologie Pédiatrique at Léon Bérard Comprehensive Cancer Center in Lyon. There, he led the pediatric translational research program with a focus on CD19 CAR T cells for the treatment of high-risk pediatric leukemia (CHILDHOPE EU FP7 programme). From 1998 to 2005, Raphaël was a clinical fellow at Texas Children’s Cancer Center and a research fellow at the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He received a Ph.D. in therapeutic biotechnologies at the Université Denis Diderot and an M.D. from Université René Descartes, both in Paris. He is board certified in pediatrics and has a sub-specialty certification in pediatric hematology-oncology.

Eric Bleickardt. Eric Bleickardt is a Global Program Clinical Head for the CAR-T Program and member of the Oncology Hematology Clinical Development Leadership Team at Novartis. He managed the clinical development of Kymriah in pediatric leukemia and is currently responsible for clinical development of novel CAR-T therapies, including YTB323 and PHE885 for human malignancies. A board-certified physician with 20 years combined experience in the pharmaceutical industry and clinical medicine, Eric previously served as the medical lead at Bristol-Myers Squibb for the development of Sprycel in chronic myelogenous leukemia and Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Empliciti in multiple myeloma, and Opdivo in Hodgkin lymphoma. Eric received his M.D. degree from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He completed his residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School and his medical oncology/hematology fellowship at Yale-New Haven Hospital/Yale University School of Medicine.

Nick Bird. Nick’s son, Adam, was diagnosed with high-risk neuroblastoma in 2009 at the age of 5. Adam’s disease did not respond to chemotherapy and despite treatment in the UK, Germany, and America, he died at home 4 years later. Today Nick continues to be involved in paediatric cancer as a research advocate and holds a number of voluntary positions. He is a former member of the UK National Cancer Research Institute’s Children’s Group and current neuroblastoma sub-group member, Chair of the Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer (ITCC) Advocate Committee, Chair of Trustees for the non-profit organisation Solving Kids’ Cancer UK, and Patient and Public Voice Partner for NHS England Clinical Reference Group for Children and Young People’s Cancer.
Dominik Karres. Dominik joined the EMAs Paediatric Medicines Office in 2018 after more than 4 years as accredited medical assessor in the Licensing Division of the UKs Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). He received his medical degree from the University Erlangen/Nuremberg, Germany and has an MD in paediatric drug development. He trained in Germany (University Hospital Muenster; Department of Paediatric Haematology/Oncology) and worked for almost 3 years in the UK, last as a clinical research fellow in paediatric oncology drug development at the Royal Marsden Hospital/ Institute of Cancer Research. Dominik is the EMAs nominee to the ACCELERATE Steering committee.

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 on neuroblastoma and early drug development. He retired from clinical practice in May 2014 due to ill health.

Elizabeth Fox. Elizabeth Fox. Beth 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.

Alberto Pappo. Alberto Pappo is a pediatric oncologist and Head of the Division of Solid Tumors at St Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Dr. Pappo is the Chair of the Pediatric Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee of the FDA. His areas of expertise include rare pediatric cancers and sarcomas. Dr. Pappo has conducted several trials for pediatric sarcomas and served as the Chair of the Rare Tumor Committee of COG and the Phase III Data Safety Monitoring Committee of COG.

Heather Wasserstrom. Heather Wasserstrom, MD, MCR, is a trained pediatric hematologist/oncologist and joined Bristol Myers Squibb in 2021 as Executive Director and Clinical Development Team Lead for Pediatrics, Hematology and Cellular Therapy, where she oversees the pediatric development strategy for the hematology and cellular therapy portfolios. She is also serving as the Interim Head of BMS’s Pediatric Center of Excellence, and is a member of the ACCELERATE Steering Committee. Prior to BMS, Heather served as a Senior Medical Director at Lilly, where she was the Pediatric Development Program Lead for a late-phase asset, co-chaired the Pediatric Oncology Advisory Committee and developed Pharma’s first Pediatric Master Protocol with registration intent, now operating in 4 continents.
**Douglas S. Hawkins.** Dr. Hawkins is Group Chair of the Children’s Oncology Group (COG), 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.

**Nathalie Gaspar.** Nathalie Gaspar, MD, PhD, is a pediatric 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 the chair of the recently created FOSTER multidisciplinary consortium (Fight Osteosarcoma Through European Research) including both pediatric and medical oncologists to align clinical development in osteosarcoma with the FAIR principles. She co-chairs with Chris Copland, a parent representative, the ACCELERATE Fostering Age Inclusive Research (FAIR) trial group.

**Chris Copland.** Chris Copland acts as an advocate for young people and families affected by cancer in memory of his daughter, Bethan. He has been a representative at the National Cancer Research Institute and the ACCELERATE platform, for whom he currently co-chairs the FAIR Trials working group on age inclusive research. He is active in the Euro-Ewing’s Consortium, as a Cancer Research UK Campaigns Ambassador. In a long career in English Language Teaching, Chris has lived and worked in a number of countries but has now settled in York, where he worked at the University as programme leader. He still likes to take the opportunity to travel whenever he can.

**Andrea Demadonna.** Andrea Demadonna is ACCELERATE Coordinator and Operations Manager and holds a MS degree in Political Science and International Relations. Andrea is also responsible for the implementation of paediatric multi-stakeholder meetings on behalf of SIOP Europe in the conect4children IMI project. Before joining ACCELERATE and SIOP Europe in 2018, Andrea has been working for over six years as Technical Affairs Manager at the European Rail Supply Industry association (UNIFE) where he was in charge of coordination of large EU-funded R&D projects.

**Reineke Schoot.** Reineke Schoot, MD, PhD, is a clinical fellow in paediatric oncology and Postdoctoral researcher working at the Princess Máxima Centre for paediatric oncology with specific interest in paediatric soft tissue sarcoma, imaging techniques and drug development. She is involved in several imaging studies on the prognostic value of DWI (diffusion weighted imaging) and coordinates the INSTRuCT imaging working group. Dr. Schoot is Co-PI on two early phase trials. She was co-founder and chair of the junior group within SIOPE, named Young SIOPE. Under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Gilles Vassal, the Young SIOPE members coordinated the SIOPE Access
to medicines initiative, consisting of two scientific projects. Firstly, members of Young SIOPE and the European Clinical Trial Groups conducted a systematic assessment of essential anti-cancer medicines and developed the SIOPE essential medicines list. Secondly, a systematic evaluation was performed of Health Technology Assessment dossiers for three case medicines in nine European countries. Dr. Schoot will be presenting the results of this project at the ACCELERATE conference.

**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.

**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.

**Susan 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 son’s brain tumor diagnosis in infancy, and during his 13 years of life, Dr. Weiner started several nonprofit organizations, including 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, helped to launch the Brain Tumor Funders’ Collaborative, served on NCI’s Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium and founded the PBTC Foundation to support its research. 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, an international organization, dedicated to advancing innovation in drug development for children and adolescents with cancer.