

15th Paediatric Strategy Forum
on Antibody Drug Conjugates
in collaboration with EMA

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Cancer Center
NCI-DESIGNATED COMPREHENSIVE
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Biographies

(by order of appearance in the program)



Lia Gore

Lia Gore is a Professor with Tenure in the Departments of Pediatrics, Medical Oncology, and Hematology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine where she also serves Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT-Cellular Therapeutics. At Children's Hospital Colorado, Dr. Gore holds the Ergen Family Chair in Pediatric Oncology and is Co-Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program at the University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is Group Vice Chair for the National Cancer Institute-sponsored Children's Oncology Group. Her primary interests are in drug development for refractory cancers, especially leukemias. Dr. Gore has authored more than 160 peer-reviewed publications, 400 lectures, and advises the US FDA and European Medicines Agency on pediatric oncology drug development.



Franca Ligas

Franca serves as a Scientific Officer at the Paediatric Medicines Office of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), overseeing Paediatric Investigation Plans, particularly in oncology. Since 2021, she has led the Paediatric cluster from the EMA's side. Franca holds a medical degree from the University of Cagliari, Italy, where she also completed her residency in clinical pharmacology. Prior to joining the EMA, she worked as a clinical research physician in the pharmaceutical industry.



Martha Donoghue

Dr. Martha Donoghue serves as the Associate Director for Pediatric Oncology and Rare Cancers in the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence and the Acting Associate Director for Pediatric Oncology in the FDA Office of Oncologic Diseases. In these roles, she oversees implementation of regulations designed to promote timely investigation of drugs and biological products for pediatric patients with cancer, supports work relating to pediatric oncology and rare cancer drug development across FDA, and works with stakeholders to address challenges and foster development of drugs to treat pediatric and other rare cancers. During her 15-year tenure at the FDA, she has reviewed and overseen the regulatory aspects of numerous development programs for drugs and biologics for rare cancers, many of which led to marketing approval. 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.



Gilles Vassal

Gilles Vassal, a trained paediatrician and Professor of Oncology at University Paris Saclay, leads the Paediatric Oncology Research program at Gustave Roussy, France. With a PhD in Pharmacology, he has dedicated 25 years to developing new therapies for children with cancer and advancing regulatory science. A former president of the ITCC network, he now chairs its Industry Strategy Committee and serves on the SIOP Europe Board, overseeing the EU Paediatric OncoPolicy agenda. Co-founder and former chair of ACCELERATE, he now chairs its Scientific Steering Committee, driving innovation in paediatric cancer therapies. He also co-founded ITCC-P4 for preclinical testing and co-leads projects like Conect4children and SIOP's essential medicines working group. Gilles has authored over 300 publications, shaping the future of paediatric oncology worldwide.



Joan Slaughter

Joan is the mother of Morgan Adams. With a background in accounting, Joan was a member of a mergers and acquisitions team for a Fortune 100 company prior to Morgan's diagnosis. After Morgan died in 1998, Joan and her late husband, Steven Adams, started the Foundation that bears their daughter's name. Joan serves as Executive Director and has focused her work on fundraising and raising community support for pediatric cancer research. Joan also serves on the Philanthropy Council of the Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation Board, is the Chair of the Colorado Kids' Cancer Association, and serves as a Patient Advocate on the NIH's Pediatric Central Institutional Review Board. Joan and Steven have two other adult children, Andrew and Sara Grace, and one 5-year old grandson, Leo, who is an exceptionally cool human.



Karsten Nysom

Karsten Nysom, MD, PhD, is a specialist in pediatric hematology-oncology, focusing particularly on pediatric neuro-oncology. He works at Copenhagen University Hospital – Rigshospitalet, where he established and chairs the national Danish phase 1-2 trials unit for children and adolescents with cancer. This unit recruits nearly half of its trial participants from abroad, mainly from the Nordic countries. Additionally, Karsten Nysom chairs the education and training committee of the Innovative Therapies for Children and Adolescents with Cancer consortium (ITCC).



Elizabeth Fox

Dr. Fox leads regulatory and clinical trial operations as well as clinical research prioritization and strategy at St Jude Children's Research Hospital. Nationally, she is the chair of Developmental Therapeutics for the Children's Oncology Group and the UM1 funded Paediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network. Dr. Fox has expertise in quantitative clinical and pre-clinical pharmacology, paediatric clinical oncology, and clinical research trial design including response and toxicity biomarker endpoint development. Her professional mission is to utilize clinical research to develop the most promising therapies for children and mentor clinician-scientists and a diverse clinical research workforce to foster innovation to improve the outcome for children with catastrophic disease.



Daniel Gustafson

Dr. Daniel L. Gustafson completed his PhD in Cell and Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology from the University of Nevada, Reno and postdoctoral training in Radiation Biology and Pharmacology at Colorado State University & the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He is currently a Professor and Shipley University Chair at the Flint Animal Cancer Center at CSU and a co-Leader of the Developmental Therapeutics Program for the CU Cancer Center. The focus of his research is pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic determinants of anti-cancer drug therapy and comparative oncology.



Maureen O'Brien

Dr. O'Brien is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and the Clark Family Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer Therapeutics at Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) where she serves as Leukemia/Lymphoma Program Lead. She received her MD from Harvard Medical School, and completed her pediatrics residency at Boston Children's Hospital, and pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at Stanford. She serves as Vice-Chair for Precision Medicine and Novel Agents for the Children's Oncology Group Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Committee, directing the development of early phase clinical

trials as well as incorporation of novel immunotherapies including inotuzumab ozogamicin into frontline ALL treatment.



Sarah Tasian

Sarah K Tasian, MD is a pediatric oncologist and physician-scientist at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine who is interested in development of molecularly-targeted therapeutics for children with high-risk leukemias. She specialises in the clinical care of children with leukemia and lymphoma, is an internationally-recognized expert in pediatric ALL and AML biology and therapeutics, and serves as Chief of the Hematologic Malignancies Program at CHOP, where she also holds the Joshua Kahan Endowed Chair in Pediatric Leukemia Research. Her federally-funded bench-to bedside and bedside-back-to-bench translational laboratory research program focuses upon preclinical and early-phase clinical testing of small molecule inhibitors and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell immunotherapies in high-risk genetic subsets of childhood ALL, AML, and JMML. Dr Tasian also has several leadership roles in the Children’s Oncology Group ALL and Myeloid Diseases (Vice Chair of Relapse) executive committees and is the Clinical Trials Leader for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society PedAL/EuPAL consortium. During 2024-2025, she is a Visiting Researcher at the Prinses Máxima Centrum in the Netherlands and a PhD student in the Clinical and Translational Oncology programme at Universiteit Utrecht.



Dominik Karres

Dominik Karres has a medical degree, followed by a MD in paediatric drug development. He held a training post in paediatric haematology/ oncology in Germany. From there he developed an interest in paediatric oncology drug development, with posts in the UK in an early clinical trials unit. Since over 10 years he works in drug regulation, including scientific roles at the UKs regulatory agency, MHRA. Now at EMA as Senior Scientific Officer in the Paediatric Medicines Office. He oversees scientific evaluations of anti-cancer drug development plans and supports the agency’s efforts fostering paediatric global drug development in various roles and responsibilities in line with EU policy initiatives. Expanding on this role, he has recently been appointed HTA/ payer engagement specialist supporting this interface in light of the new HTA Regulation.



Andrej Lissat

Dr. Andrej Lissat is a specialist in pediatric hematology and oncology with a focus on early-phase clinical trials and translational research in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). Trained in Freiburg and Zurich, he currently serves as a senior consultant and leads the Hematology Program at Charité – Berlin. He is the coordinating investigator for the international IntReALL trials at Charité - Berlin and co-PI of the HEM-iSMART platform trial affiliated to the Princess Máxima Center, Utrecht. Dr. Lissat's expertise spans drug development, clinical trial leadership, and quality assurance across pediatric oncology centers. His work integrates precision medicine with international trial strategy to advance treatments for children with high-risk malignancies.



Vickie Buenger

Vickie Buenger taught competitive and cooperative business strategy and project management at the Mays Business School with a joint appointment to the Professional Program for Biotechnology at Texas A&M University for 30 years. Her 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). She currently serves as President Emeritus of CAC2 and was recently installed to the ACCELERATE Board.

She combines her academic background with her interest in the science and policy of childhood cancer. Buenger holds patient advocacy positions in variety of settings, including

- Agent Prioritization Committee of the PEP-CTN
- Clinical Trial Steering Committee of GLO-BNHL
- NCTN Core Correlative Science Committee
- DoD Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program



Amos Burke

Dr Amos Burke is Professor of Paediatric Oncology at the University of Birmingham, Honorary Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Birmingham, Women and Children's Hospital and Head of Department and Director of the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU). He leads research strategy for one of the UK's largest clinical trials units that delivers a trial portfolio over a wide range of cancers occurring in children, young people and adults. His research is focussed on childhood non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He is Chief Investigator for the innovative platform trial [Glo-BNHL](#) for children with relapsed and refractory mature B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma



Sabine Mueller

Sabine Mueller, MD, PhD, MAS, is a Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Pediatrics at UCSF and the University of Zurich and an Affiliated Group Leader at the Princess Máxima Center, Netherlands. She leads UCSF's Brain Tumor Center and co-leads the Pediatric Malignancy Program. Dr. Mueller co-founded the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium (PNOC), an international clinical trial network spanning 22 U.S. sites and others worldwide. She also founded the Diffuse Midline Glioma Center in Zurich. In 2023, she became Executive Co-Chair of the Childhood Brain Tumor Network, and in 2024, Co-Chair of the ITCC Brain Tumor Committee. Dr. Mueller is the inaugural Editor-in-Chief of *Neuro-Oncology Pediatrics*. Her groundbreaking work advances pediatric neuro-oncology research and care globally.



Lynley Marshall

Dr Lynley Marshall is a Paediatric and Teenage/Young Adult Oncologist, and Paediatric Oncology Clinical Research Lead at The Royal Marsden Hospital & The Institute of Cancer Research, London, United Kingdom. She heads the Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology Drug Development Team, focusing on early phase clinical trials of novel experimental therapeutics for high-risk, poor prognosis cancers, especially in solid tumours, neuro-oncology and lymphoma. She chaired the UK's NCRI Children's Group Novel Agents Subgroup for 6 years. She is Deputy Lead for the UK's Paediatric Experimental Cancer Medicines Centre (ECMC) Network and Clinical Trials Theme Lead. She serves on the Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer (ITCC) European Early Phase Clinical Trials Consortium Solid Tumour Steering Committee and is also a member of SIOPEX's New Drug Development Group. She serves on the Scientific Steering Committee of the ACCELERATE international multi-stakeholder platform, and a founding member of the 'Fostering Age-Inclusive Research ('FAIR') Trials Working Group. She has participated in all 14 previous ACCELERATE Paediatric Strategy Forums. Dr Marshall is UK co-ordinating investigator on a number of academic and commercial early phase clinical trials, with expertise in tumour agnostic precision medicine trials, including the E-SMART European platform trial. She is paediatric/TYA lead on the CRUK-sponsored DETERMINE age-agnostic platform trial. She is passionate about helping to drive progress to improve outcomes for patients by working collaboratively with all stakeholders, including patients and families.



Doug Hawkins

Doug Hawkins is the Group Chair of the Children's Oncology Group (COG). COG is the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer research. COG unites over 12,000 experts in childhood cancer at more than 200 leading children's hospitals, universities, and cancer centers across North America, Australia, and New Zealand in the fight

against childhood cancer. Dr. Hawkins is a clinician at Seattle Children's Hospital and Professor of Paediatrics 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.



Emily Slotkin

Dr. Slotkin is a member of the pediatric sarcoma service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where she has a clinical and translational research focus on desmoplastic small round cell tumor (DSRCT), Ewing sarcoma (ES) and other sarcomas affecting adolescents and young adults. Dr. Slotkin cares for one of the largest cohorts of DSRCT patients in the world and has led some of the only clinical trials specifically dedicated to these patients in both the upfront and relapsed/refractory settings.



Gary Middleton

Professor Gary Middleton is a Medical Oncologist specialising in lung and colorectal cancer, with extensive experience in patient care and novel clinical trial development. Appointed Chair of Medical Oncology at Birmingham in 2013, he leads a strong translational research programme. He chairs the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) Network, directs the Birmingham ECMC, and leads the CRUK Clinical Academic Training Programme. Gary is Chief Investigator of the National Lung Matrix Trial and Translational Lead for the DETERMINE trial, focusing on stratified medicine and the biological context of targeted therapy response. He also leads the ANICCA trial, translating research on class II expression in colorectal cancer into clinical applications. His lab investigates tumour-associated myeloid cells in liver metastases and their role in immune suppression. A key research area is predicting immunotherapy toxicity, with recent work identifying B cell biomarkers linked to severe immune-related adverse events in lung cancer patients.



John Chung

John is a pediatric oncologist who received his training at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He worked as a pediatric oncologist at Duke Children's before moving to industry at Bayer Pharmaceuticals. He spent 16 years at Bayer conducting Ph I-III clinical trials in several adult indications before returning to his roots of pediatric oncology during the end of his tenure there. Since late 2023, he now works at Daiichi Sankyo overseeing the pediatric clinical development of the oncology portfolio from which he hopes to see an approved indication someday.



Jennifer Krajewski

Jennifer (Jenni) Krajewski is a pediatric bone marrow transplant physician and is currently the Pediatric Clinical Development Lead for Hematology/Oncology/Cell Therapy within the Pediatric Center of Excellence at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS). She joined BMS in January 2023 as a Clinical Trial Physician within the Nivolumab hematology program after 12+ years in academia with a primary focus in curative therapies for sickle cell disease. Jenni attended Chicago Medical School and completed her pediatric residency at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC and her pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at Columbia University in NYC.



Michela Casanova

Paediatric Oncology Unit, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori Milano, Italy - Dr. Michela Casanova is a paediatric oncologist who has been involved in the field of paediatric solid tumours for several years, with a special interest in soft tissue sarcomas and new drug development. She is an active member of the executive committee of the Innovative Therapies for Children and Adolescents with Cancer (ITCC). She has been co-chair of the Solid Tumour Committee since 2020 and was previously a member of the Clinical Trial Committee from 2010 to 2020. She is a founding member of the European paediatric Soft Tissue Sarcoma Study Group (EpSSG), member of the Non-Rhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcoma (NRSTS) Scientific Committee and Phase I-II Trial Committee, and previous chairperson of the Phase I-II Trial Committee (2016-2021). She is also author and co-author of more than 300 scientific papers.



Pablo Berlanga

Pablo Berlanga MD, PhD, is a pediatric oncologist at Gustave Roussy. 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 phase I/II trials, precision medicine program and bone sarcomas and neuroblastoma. He is the Chair of New Drug Development of SIOPEN, Deputy Chair of the EURO EWING Consortium New EWing Therapeutics Strategy Group and member of the ITCC Solid Tumour Steering Committee. He is the Coordinating Investigator of the SACHA study and the phase Ib REGO-INTER-EWING-1



Quentin Campbell Hewson

Consultant Paediatric Oncologist in Newcastle with primary clinical practice in solid tumours and interest in sarcoma, especially osteosarcoma. Member of Work-packages 2,3 and 4 of the European Osteosarcoma FOSTER group. Developed an Early Phase trials Service in Newcastle and a network for trials for the North of Britain including Scotland and Northern Ireland. Director of the NIHR Paediatric Clinical research Facility in Newcastle. Steering committee member UK Experimental Cancer Medicines Centres Paediatric Network and ITCC solid tumour committee. Chair of the United Kingdom Collaborative for Cancer Research Children and Young Peoples New Agent Group.



Meg Macy

Dr. Meg Macy is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. She is a pediatric oncologist at the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at the Children's Hospital Colorado. She serves as the Program Leader for the Experimental Therapeutics Program and Director of Clinical Research for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at the Children's Hospital Colorado where she also holds the Hoover Family Endowed Chair for Cancer Research and Innovation. Her clinical and research interests are focused on the development of novel therapies for relapsed/refractory pediatric cancers and has a particular focus in relapsed refractory solid tumors and high-risk neuroblastoma. Dr. Macy is a site principal investigator in both the Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network (PEP-CTN) and the New Agents in Neuroblastoma Therapy (NANT) consortium and a member of the COG neuroblastoma steering committee.



Mark Kieran

After 20 years as Director of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Hospital focused on the development and clinical translation of novel targeted and gene therapies for children with brain cancer, Dr. Kieran transitioned to industry and is currently the VP of Clinical Development at Day One Biopharmaceuticals, a company focused on the development of targeted drugs for children with cancer. With a PhD in Immunology from the University of Alberta, Canada and two post-doctoral fellowships in molecular biology (Paris, France) and cellular signal transduction (Harvard, Boston) as well as his sub-specialization in pediatric neuro-oncology, his career has focused on advancing our understanding of pediatric diseases, improving their treatment, educating the next generation of pediatric oncologists and ensuring greater access to treatments in developing countries. He continues to support a number of foundation scientific advisory boards reviewing grants and other funding proposals in addition to a number of educational initiatives. He helped develop and remains on the faculty of the Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt, the largest pediatric cancer hospital in the world

and he has a number of other initiatives to support the access of medicines to underserved populations including his role as CEO of Break Even Therapeutics, a 501c3 working to supply essential medicines to at need populations around the world.



Shubhra Rastogi

Sr. Translational Research Scientist, Day One Biopharmaceuticals. I completed my Ph.D. at the University of Dundee, UK, followed by postdoctoral training at UCSD. My research focused on hematological cancers, particularly DNA damage, cell cycle and immune signaling. I transitioned into industry joining Triphase Accelerator where I led preclinical development of TRPH-395, an epigenetic small-molecule inhibitor and served as the biomarker scientist for Ph1 clinical studies of the TRPH-222 ADC program. I joined DOB at the end of 2022 and have since contributed to preclinical and reverse translational studies for the Tovorafenib program particularly NF1-LOF studies. I am currently leading the translational efforts for the DAY301 ADC program.



Christiane Amendt

Christiane Amendt, PhD is leading the In Vivo Pharmacology Department in the Research Unit Oncology at the healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. She has a background in genetics and cancer biology and over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. She has been a project leader and contributed to several oncology NCE and NBE drug discovery programs. In the last 10 years she has been involved in the development of novel Antibody Drug Conjugates. Her main areas of interests and expertise are drug discovery, translational research, novel drug modalities and in vivo pharmacology.



Vanesa Pons Sanz

Vanesa Pons is Medical Director within the Antibody Drug Conjugates Team at the healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and Global Clinical Lead for the M3554 program. She is oncologist by training with more than 10 years experience in the clinic, mainly focused on managing breast and lung cancer patients. In the pharmaceutical industry, she has been involved in the development of drugs with many different mechanisms of actions and management of Phase 1 to Phase 3 trials within different environments including the CRO space and different pharmaceutical industries. In the last 3 years she has been focused on early development of Antibody Drug Conjugates. Her main areas of interest are drug development and strategic thinking.



Emin Avsar

Dr. Emin Avsar, Head of Clinical, Early Clinical Development at Eli-Lilly and Company, has been the medical lead for several early development oncology clinical programs, including folate receptor alpha (FRa) ADC. Prior to Eli-Lilly and Company, he held clinical development positions at Novartis Oncology and Bristol Myers and Squibb where he worked on several early and late development programs including encorafenib (BRAFTOVI), alpelisib (VIJOICE), Nivolumab (OPDIVO), and ipilimumab (YERVOY). He is a graduate of University of Lund, Sweden and University of London UK, and resides in New York City, US.



Scott Diede

Scott Diede, MD, PhD, leads pediatric oncology clinical development at Merck. He received his MD and PhD degrees from The University of Chicago and completed his general pediatrics residency and pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at the University of Washington/Seattle Children's/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Before joining Merck in 2014, his academic focus was on examining the role of epigenetic changes in cancer.



Graham Walker

Graham has worked for a number of companies over the past 17 years, previously in Medical Affairs, but most recently works in Clinical Development as one of AbbVie's Senior Medical Directors. Graham is the clinical lead on AbbVie's Temab-A (ABBV-400) ADC asset indications in Gastric Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer, as well as the tissue agnostic plans. Of particular relevance, he is also the clinical lead for the global pediatric plan for the Temab-A development program.



Ronald Bernardi

Ronald Bernardi is a pediatric oncologist by training, having completed his residency and fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital. He was also a faculty member and part of the Developmental Therapeutics Team at Texas Children's Cancer Center prior to moving to industry in 2019. After six years at Genentech where he worked on first-in-child clinical trials for cobimetinib, idasanutlin, and tiragolumab, he recently joined Exelixis as a Senior Medical Director.



Malcom Smith

Dr. Smith is Associate Branch Chief, Pediatrics, in the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP), NCI. Dr. Smith has been a member of CTEP since 1990 and during his years at CTEP has focused on developing NCI's preclinical and clinical research programs for children with cancer. Dr. Smith serves as an NCI scientific liaison to childhood cancer researchers in the Children's Oncology Group (COG), focusing primarily on hematologic malignancies and brain cancers. He also serves as the Program Director for the Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trials Network (PEP-CTN) and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium (PBTC). He serves as a project scientist for the Pediatric Preclinical in Vivo Testing (PIVOT) Program. Dr. Smith is the author or co-author of more than 240 publications and 25 book chapters related to childhood cancer research.



Stefan Pfister

Stefan serves as Director Preclinical Program, Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg and is heading the Division Pediatric Neurooncology at DKFZ. His 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.



Filemon Dela Cruz

Dr Filemon Dela Cruz is a pediatric oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center specializing in the treatment of pediatric bone and soft tissue sarcoma. His work utilizes patient-derived xenograft (PDX) mouse tumor models to study cancer biology and has explored the therapeutic potential of various ADCs across the spectrum of pediatric cancers. He is involved in national efforts to help prioritize drugs for pediatric cancer as a member of the NCI PIVOT (Pediatric In Vivo Testing) program and has led the development of PROXC (Pediatric Research in Oncology Xenografting Consortium).



Jan Molenaar

Jan J. Molenaar, MD PhD, is Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Utrecht University and Principal Investigator at the Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology. Trained as a pediatrician with a PhD in neuroblastoma biology, he leads a 20+ member research group focused on developing novel therapies for pediatric cancers, especially neuroblastoma. His work spans from target discovery to early-phase clinical trials, and he initiated the Dutch pediatric precision medicine program. Prof. Molenaar chairs the ITCC-Solid executive committee, co-leads major European initiatives like ITCC-P4, and serves

on multiple advisory boards. He has authored over 100 publications, including high-impact papers in *Nature*, *Cancer Cell*, and *Cancer Discovery*, and received numerous prestigious grants and awards, including an ERC Starter Grant and NWO Vidi. He frequently speaks at international conferences and is a key figure in translational pediatric oncology research.



Steven DuBois

Dr. DuBois is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He is the Director of Experimental Therapeutics at Dana-Farber / Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. He conducts clinical trials of novel targeted agents relevant to Ewing sarcoma and neuroblastoma, including national phase 1, 2, and 3 clinical trials. He also studies new biomarkers that improve our understanding of the biology of pediatric solid tumors and of the pharmacodynamic effects of targeted therapies.

Dr. DuBois has served on a number of national and international committees, including the Children's Oncology Group (COG) Neuroblastoma Steering Committee, COG Bone Tumor Committee, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Scientific Program Committee, the US FDA Pediatric Oncology Drugs Advisory Committee (ODAC), and the ACCELERATE Steering Committee.



Ying Fu

Ying Fu is an expert in antibody engineering, oncology, and next-gen therapeutics. At Lindonlight, a glioma-focused philanthropic foundation, he drives innovative work on ADCs and macroglia engagers. Previously at AstraZeneca, Ying played a key role in leading teams behind AZD5492, AZD0486, and trispecific platforms, with his contributions earning the 2024 AstraZeneca CEO Award. His work also spans early ADC programs, including GPC3 ADC for hepatocellular carcinoma.



Donna Ludwinski

Donna is a pediatric cancer research advocate. Her son Erik battled neuroblastoma and suffered a late relapse, diagnosed in 1991 at age 6 and died in 2010 at age 24. She has been involved in the neuroblastoma parent community for decades. She serves on several councils including the NCI Pediatric Central Review Board, NCI Pediatric and Adolescent Solid Tumor Steering Committee, FDA Patient Representative, NANT Parent Advisory Council, prior founding Board of Directors of Coalition Against Childhood Cancer, DOD CMCRP Rare Cancers Research Programmatic Panel, SIOPEX Advocates Committee, and ACCELERATE Steering Committee. Donna has worked for Solving Kids' Cancer since 2010 managing research programs and for Solving Kids' Cancer UK supporting neuroblastoma families and on the research team since 2015, and has coauthored many peer-reviewed journal articles and book

chapters on pediatric oncology. She has a BS in Chemical Engineering, and lives in Virginia.



Jennie Foster

I am a Pediatric Oncologist at Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Centers, Baylor College of Medicine, with dual board certifications in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and Clinical Pharmacology. I direct the Developmental Therapeutics and Neuroblastoma Programs and serve as site Principal Investigator for the Pediatric Early Phase Clinical Trial Network (PEP-CTN). Nationally, I am Vice-Chair of the Children’s Oncology Group Developmental Therapeutics Committee and PEP-CTN. My clinical and research focus is ushering novel therapies into early-phase clinical trials for patients with neuroblastoma and other pediatric solid tumors, while working to mitigate therapy-associated toxicities and improve outcomes through innovative and targeted approaches.



Nicole Drezner

Dr. Nicole Drezner is a pediatric oncologist and the Deputy Director of the Division of Oncology 2 (DO2) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), overseeing the development of drugs and biologics for pediatric solid tumors, central nervous system tumors, and rare tumors. She joined the thoracic and head and neck oncology team in DO2 in 2016, served as team lead of the thoracic and head and neck team from 2020-22, and began her role as Deputy Division Director in 2022. Dr. Drezner completed pediatric hematology/oncology and pediatric neuro-oncology fellowships at Children’s National Hospital prior to joining the FDA.

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