
PRESENTER PROFILES



Barrett J. Rollins, MD, PhD, Faculty Chair

Chief Scientific Officer

Linde Family Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Barrett J. Rollins, MD, PhD, is Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Linde Family Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In his role as CSO, Dr. Rollins is charged with fostering collaboration among investigators and helping them obtain the resources they need to keep Dana-Farber at the forefront of cancer research.

Dr. Rollins' own research investigates the effects of inflammation on the development and progression of cancer. His laboratory helped identify the molecular signals that direct the movement and activation of white blood cells during inflammatory responses. Dr. Rollins' group discovered that some of these same signals stimulate cancer growth, suggesting that they could be targets for novel cancer treatments. Most recently, his laboratory described the first genetic abnormality in a rare childhood disease called Langerhans cell histiocytosis, and his group is using this discovery to develop new treatments for this disease.

A graduate of Amherst College, Dr. Rollins earned his Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy at Case Western Reserve University. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Beth Israel Hospital, Boston. Dr. Rollins came to Dana-Farber in 1983 as a clinical fellow in medical oncology, and was named Dana-Farber's first CSO in 2004. He is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians, and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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PRESENTER PROFILES



Ethan Cerami, PhD

Director, Knowledge Systems Group, Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology

Ethan Cerami, PhD is the Director of the Knowledge Systems Group and Principal Scientist in the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Prior to joining Dana-Farber, he was the Director of Computational Biology at Blueprint Medicines, and Director of Cancer Informatics Development at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He has specific expertise in cancer genomics, scientific computing, software engineering, data science, and data visualization.

Dr. Cerami's group focuses on building open-source bioinformatics platforms to enable cancer genomics discovery and precision cancer medicine.

While at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he co-founded the cBioPortal for Cancer Genomics, one of the most widely used platforms for cancer genomics analysis and visualization. His group remains active in its continued development. He is also currently the Co-PI of the National Cancer Institute Cancer Immunologic Data Commons, and the Co-PI of the Dana-Farber's MatchMiner platform for algorithmically matching patients to precision cancer medicine trials.

Dr. Cerami received a bachelor's degree from Columbia University, a Master of Science in Computer Science from New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Computational Biology from Cornell University.

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PRESENTER PROFILES



Rafael Irizarry, PhD

*Chair, Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology,
Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard T.H. Chan School
of Public Health*

Rafael Irizarry, PhD, received his bachelor's degree in Mathematics in 1993 from the University of Puerto Rico and received his Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics in 1998 from the University of California, Berkeley. His thesis work was on Statistical Models for Music Sound Signals. He joined the faculty of the Department of Biostatistics in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 1998 and was promoted to Professor in 2007. He is now the Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and a Professor of Biostatistics at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Since 1999, Dr. Irizarry's work has focused on genomics and computational biology, in particular, working on the analysis and signal processing of microarray, next-generation sequencing, and genomic data. He is currently interested in leveraging his knowledge in translational work, for example, developing diagnostic tools and discovering biomarkers.

Dr. Irizarry also develops open source software implementing his statistical methodology. His software tools are widely used and he is one of the leaders and founders of the Bioconductor Project, an open source and open development software project that provides one of the most widely used software tools for the analysis of genomic data.

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PRESENTER PROFILES



Franziska Michor, PhD

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Franziska Michor, PhD, is a Professor of Computational Biology in the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, in the Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology at Harvard University and in the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Michor obtained her undergraduate training in mathematics and molecular biology from the University of Vienna, Austria, and her Doctor of Philosophy from the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. Afterwards, she was awarded a fellowship from the Harvard Society of Fellows. From 2007 until 2010, she was an Assistant Professor in the Computational Biology Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Michor is the Director of the Physical Sciences-Oncology Center and the Center for Cancer Evolution at Dana-Farber. She has been the recipient of the Theodosius Dobzhansky Prize of the Society for the Study of Evolution, Alice Hamilton Award from Harvard University, Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science, NYSCF Robertson Stem Cell Prize, AACR Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cancer Research, and others. Dr. Michor's laboratory investigates the evolutionary dynamics of cancer initiation, progression, response to therapy, and emergence of resistance.