Imagine if everyone had access to the treatment they need, when they need it.

Advancing Equity in Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care

May 11, 2023
The Westin Boston Seaport District
Executive Council of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers

The Executive Council is a group of diverse women leaders committed to defying women’s cancers. Established in 2002, the Council dared to believe that through education, advocacy and fundraising they could change the trajectory of women’s cancers. To date the Council has raised over $19 million which is dedicated to cutting-edge, lifesaving research and clinical care that improves outcomes and extends lives.

Honorary Chair
Susan F. Smith

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∞In Memoriam  (t) Dana-Farber Trustee  * Event Planning Committee

To learn more about the Executive Council, please email us at sscec@dfci.harvard.edu
Program

Welcome
Alicia Grasfeder, Executive Council

President’s Remarks
Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, CEO and President,
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Guest Speaker
Secretary Kate Walsh, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Patient Story
Cheryl McCloud, Patient Advocate

Center Update
Sara Tolaney, MD, MPH, Chief of the Division of Breast Oncology

Panel Discussion: Advancing Equity in Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care

Moderator
Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH,
Chief Clinical Access and Equity Officer

Panelists
Magnolia Contreras, MSW, MBA — Community Health
Rachel A. Freedman, MD, MPH — Breast Oncology
Joyce F. Liu, MD, MPH — Gynecologic Oncology
Erica L. Mayer, MD, MPH — Breast Oncology
Alexi A. Wright, MD, MPH — Gynecologic Oncology

Making an Impact
Terrie Perella, Executive Council

Advocacy at Dana-Farber and the Breast Cancer Equity and Early Detection Bill
Kate Warren Barnes, MSW, MBA,
Director of Government Affairs, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
MA State Senator Michael F. Rush (D-Boston)
MA State Representative James M. Murphy (D-Weymouth)

Closing Remarks
Alicia Grasfeder and Terrie Perella, Executive Council
Speaker Bios

Special Guests

Secretary, Kate Walsh, Executive Office of Health and Human Services leads the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), which provides access to medical and behavioral health care, long-term services and supports, and key nutritional and financial benefits. Prior to her appointment to Governor Healey’s cabinet, Secretary Walsh served as CEO of the Boston Medical Center (BMC) health system, as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and as Chief Operating Officer for Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. She also held positions at Massachusetts General Hospital, including Senior Vice President of Medical Services and the MGH Cancer Center. Secretary Walsh received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Health degrees from Yale University.

Cheryl McCloud is Communications and Community Engagement Manager for the New England Consortium of the All of Us Research Program, a historic effort to gather data from one million or more people living in the United States to accelerate research and improve health. She is also the Chief Engagement Officer of Coils to Locs, a women and family-owned business providing hospitals and medical hair loss salons with previously unavailable “natural hair” styles — coily, curly, high-quality synthetic wigs for Black and Brown woman with medical or non-medical hair loss. As a cancer survivor, Cheryl has participated in the Jimmy Fund’s I am Jimmy campaign. She also serves as a community advocate on Dana Farber’s Clinical Trials Access Committee (CTAC) for diversity in clinical trials.
Representative James M. Murphy (D-Weymouth) is serving his 12th term as State Representative representing the town of Weymouth, Mass. James is the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Financial Services and previously served as the Chair of Steering, Policy and Scheduling, Public Service, and Election Laws. Prior to his election, Rep. Murphy served as an Assistant District Attorney in Suffolk County and as an attorney and judicial clerk at the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Rep. Murphy graduated from Boston College High School, Merrimack College, and earned his Juris Doctor from Suffolk University.

State Senator Michael F. Rush (D-Boston) is the Majority Whip of the Massachusetts State Senate. He serves five neighborhoods in the city of Boston and the towns of Dedham, Norwood, Walpole, and Westwood. Mike is a former high school history teacher, an Iraq War Veteran, and a Commander in the United States Navy Reserves. He holds a JD from Southern New England School of Law and holds both a MA with distinction and a BA from Providence College.
Speaker Bios

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Staff

Laurie H. Glimcher, MD is the President and CEO of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Director of the Dana-Farber/ Harvard Cancer Center, and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine at HMS. She is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She currently serves as a consultant for the JPM Healthcare Advisory Committee and is on the Board of Directors of Analog Devices, Inc. Dr. Glimcher’s research identified key transcriptional regulators of protective immunity and the origin of pathophysiologic immune responses underlying autoimmune, infectious, and malignant diseases. Additionally, Dr. Glimcher has been a staunch proponent of improved access to care, health policy, and medical education, while simultaneously serving as a pioneering mentor and role model for cancer research trainees and for all women in science.

Sara Tolaney, MD, MPH is the Chief of the Division of Breast Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and is internationally recognized for her research in breast cancer. She also serves as Associate Director of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Her research focuses on the development of novel therapies in the treatment of breast cancer. Dr. Tolaney’s notable work developing a low risk regimen in early stage node-negative HER2-positive cancers has been incorporated into national and international guidelines.
Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH is the Chief Clinical Access and Equity Officer at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Associate Chief Medical Officer, Director of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Network. Dr. Lathan’s primary research interests are centered on the effects of race, class, and access to care in cancer outcomes, including racial disparities in lung cancer treatment, differences in access to precision medicine by race and social class, and equitable distribution of new treatment across historically marginalized populations. Dr. Lathan aims to bridge the gap between research efforts in disparities and the realities of patient care by developing interventions to increase access to high quality care, developed in part through community engagement. He also continues his work as a clinical oncologist focusing on lung cancer patients and is the Founding Director of the Cancer Care Equity Program at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a clinical outreach program that aids in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer for patients at Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Magnolia Contreras, MSW, MBA is the Vice President of Community Health at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She joined Dana-Farber in 2007 and currently oversees the Community Health and Community Benefits programs. She is charged with advancing the Community Benefits mission through the delivery of evidence-based cancer prevention, screening, and early detection programs, and working across the cancer continuum to help improve cancer care outcomes for medically underserved populations. Magnolia is a graduate of Boston College, Simmons College Graduate School of Social Work, and Suffolk University Sawyer Business School.
Speaker Bios

Rachel A. Freedman, MD, MPH is a medical oncologist specializing in breast cancer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Her research primarily focuses on the care of patient populations who are at risk for disparities in care and outcomes and who are traditionally under-represented in clinical trials. In addition to taking care of patients with breast cancer, she is the Principal Investigator on clinical trials and is a founding member and immediate past co-Chair of the Boston Breast Cancer Equity Coalition, a Boston-wide collaboration aimed to eliminate racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes in Boston. She is also the co-Chair of the Clinical Trials Access Committee at Dana-Farber.

Joyce F. Liu, MD, MPH is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, where she is a medical oncologist and clinical investigator in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. She is the Associate Chief and Director of Clinical Research for Gynecologic Oncology and the Associate Clinical Research Officer for Dana-Farber. Dr. Liu received her MD from Harvard Medical School and her MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and her medical oncology fellowship at Dana-Farber. Dr. Liu's research focuses on identifying and validating novel therapies in gynecologic cancers.
Speaker Bios

**Erica L. Mayer, MD, MPH** joined the staff of Dana-Farber and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in 2006, where she is a medical oncologist and clinical investigator in the Breast Oncology Center. Her research focuses on novel therapies in the treatment of breast cancer. Dr. Mayer received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 2000. She subsequently completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and her fellowship in Medical Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She obtained a Master’s in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2005.

**Alexi A. Wright, MD, MPH** is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She received her Medical Degree from University of Pennsylvania and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and a Medical Oncology fellowship at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She also obtained a Masters in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. In 2009 she joined the faculty of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where she is a practicing medical oncologist who specializes in gynecologic oncology and health outcomes research.

**Kate Warren Barnes, MSW, MBA (she/her)** is Director of Government Affairs at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where she collaborates with patients, families, caregivers, and providers to develop the Institute’s mission-driven policy and advocacy agenda. In this role, Kate leads the Dana-Farber Legislative Action Network (LAN) a grassroots community of advocates committed to advancing equity-focused policies regarding cancer care, social determinants of health, cancer prevention, early detection, and legislation designed to fuel innovation. Kate is currently a doctoral student in social work at Sacred Heart University where her research interests include community-based participatory research to evaluate the health equity impact of state-based public policy.
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About the Susan F. Smith Center

As leaders in the world’s effort to end women’s cancers, the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers at Dana-Farber is committed to equitable access, compassionate care, and world-class research.

Our Breast Oncology Program, led by Sara Tolaney, MD, MPH, is tailored to the unique needs of people with breast cancer. Our clinicians are committed to providing the best and most individualized treatment options available, including the latest medical, surgical, and radiation therapy.

Our Gynecologic Oncology Program, led by Ursula Matulonis, MD, offers multidisciplinary expertise and develops personalized approaches based on a woman’s specific type of cancer, whether it is early-stage or advanced.

Our research program exemplifies Dana-Farber’s 50-50 balance, unique among cancer centers — an equal dedication to scientific discovery and patient care.

Our team of experts in the Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention, led by Judy Garber, MD, MPH, helps patients understand and manage their risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. We offer testing to determine risk for inherited cancer syndromes such as breast and ovarian cancer syndromes (BRCA1 and BRCA2).

We also offer a variety of support services to help patients and their families cope with the many physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges of a cancer diagnosis and its treatment.

Your support matters. Please consider making a gift to the Susan F. Smith Center. Scan QR code to donate online.
Why a Breast Cancer Equity and Early Detection Bill?

While insurance coverage for annual mammograms is an essential benefit under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), coverage of diagnostic follow-up exams (after an abnormal finding) is not mandated. This lack of coverage presents an economic hardship that may cause delays in seeking treatment, especially among people of color and other historically underserved populations.

Similar to legislation in other states, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Equity and Early Detection Bill will mandate insurance coverage for follow-up imaging and exams with no out-of-pocket costs. This will save lives and reduce overall costs for treatment.

Dana-Farber’s Legislative Action Network (LAN) brings together people to advocate for legislation and public policies that improve the lives of cancer patients, cancer survivors, and their families.

Get Involved: dana-farber.org/advocacy or scan the QR code.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At Dana-Farber, we envision a future where cancer prevention, care, and outcomes are grounded in equity and social justice. We have affirmed our inclusion, diversity, and equity commitment with a five-year, $50 million investment to significantly improve these four critical areas: cancer disparities in research, access to care and equitable outcomes, community investments, and access to careers and advancement.
At Dana-Farber, we believe that zip code, skin color, and income should not determine who is able to access lifesaving treatment. The Dana-Farber Campaign, our multi-year effort to raise $2 billion to prevent, treat, and defy cancer, exists to make equitable treatment a reality, by advancing extraordinary care, revolutionary science, and exceptional expertise to benefit all patients.

learn more: defycancer.org