

AACR ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

AACR CANCER DISPARITIES PROGRESS REPORT 2024

MODERATOR



Robert Winn, MD, FAACR. Dr. Winn is the Director and Lipman Chair in Oncology at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is also the Senior Associate Dean for Cancer Innovation, and Professor of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine at the VCU School of Medicine. He served as Chair of the *2024 AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report* Steering Committee. A renowned researcher and educator, Dr. Winn is a national leader in establishing new models and implementing programs to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the oncology workforce, create interdisciplinary approaches to cancer disparities research, and optimize cancer care outcomes for all patients regardless of their backgrounds.

An expert in the molecular biology of lung cancer, Dr. Winn's laboratory studies novel therapeutic approaches to lung cancer and the interaction of social and biological factors that lead to cancer disparities. He is the principal investigator on several large, multi-institutional projects, including the Southeastern Consortium for Lung Cancer Health Equity (supported by Stand-Up to Cancer) and two National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded center awards, the Translational Research Center in Lung Cancer Disparities (TRACER) and the Virginia State University – VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center Partnership for Cancer Disparities (SUCCEED).

PANELISTS

– listed in alphabetical order



Phuong Ho, MD. Dr. Ho is an emergency room physician and survivor of adenocarcinoma lung cancer. She was born and raised in Vietnam until her family immigrated to the US when she was in High School. Dr. Ho received her medical degree from St. George's University in Grenada, West Indies and completed her residency training in Emergency Medicine at Wayne State University/Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. From there, she joined Kaiser Permanente at Fremont and has been with San Leandro Medical Centers as an Emergency Physician for the last 17 years. Dr. Ho has a passion for international health and participated in several medical outreach trips to Mauritania (Africa), India, Philippines, and Vietnam.

Dr. Ho was diagnosed with Stage I lung cancer in 2020 and following surgery made a complete recovery. She is a strong advocate for early lung cancer screening and for raising awareness in Asian American communities. Dr. Ho shared her story in the *AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report 2024*.



Katrece Nolen, MBA. Katrece is an author, entrepreneur, and AI consultant in the Washington, DC area. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and an 11-year survivor of stage III inflammatory breast cancer. Katrece received a degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and an MBA from the George Washington University School of Business. She worked for over a decade as a Systems Engineer before becoming a consultant within the defense industry.

Following Katrece's diagnosis, she became committed to improving access to medical care for patients with cancer. In 2020, Katrece published the book, *I've Been Diagnosed, Now What?: Courageously Fighting Cancer in the Face of Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt* to share her story and provide advice and resources to others facing a cancer diagnosis. Her story is featured in the *AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report 2024*.



Camille Ragin, PhD, MPH. Dr. Ragin is the Associate Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Professor in the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Fox Chase Comprehensive Cancer Center. She served as a Co-Chair of the *2024 AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report Steering Committee*. Dr. Ragin's research addresses a range of diverse topics related to the molecular epidemiology of cancer in the African Diaspora, populations that originated on the continent of Africa.

As an expert on the many socio-cultural factors that contribute to disparities in cancer and other health outcomes, Dr. Ragin is a leader of numerous collaborative research projects that seek to elucidate and address cancer and other health disparities. She founded the African-Caribbean Cancer Consortium (AC3), a multi-institutional collaboration begun in 2006 that pursues education, training, and research on all facets of cancer in populations of African Descent. A leader in community-engaged research, she is the principal investigator of the Cancer Prevention Project of Philadelphia (CAP3), an effort to simultaneously foster dialogue and communication about the importance of cancer prevention and screening with diverse Philadelphia communities and encourage participation in cancer epidemiological studies.



Matthew Schabath, PhD. Dr. Schabath is a Moffit Distinguished Scholar, Program Leader in Cancer Epidemiology, and a Senior Member in the Departments of Cancer Epidemiology and Thoracic Oncology at the Moffit Cancer Center. He served on the *2024 AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report Steering Committee*. An expert in quantitative imaging and radiomics, Dr. Schabath's research explores the development and validation of lung cancer biomarkers, including those associated with early detection, diagnosis, treatment response, and overtreatment. He is a pioneer in both radiomics and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for epidemiological research.

Dr. Schabath is also an expert on health disparities afflicting LGBTQ/sexual and gender minority (SGM) populations. He has published on the state of current

knowledge of cancer in sexual minorities, and conducted extensive research on healthcare provider attitudes, knowledge, and institutional practices related to SGM cancer patients. This research led to the development of the Curriculum for Oncologists on LGBT populations to Optimize Relevance & Skills (COLORS), an educational program to enhance cultural sensitivity for oncologists when they treat LGBTQ/SGM patients.



Katherine Tossas, PhD. Dr. Tossas is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Policy in the School of Population Health at VCU. She is the founding Director of the Office of Catchment Area Data Access and Alignment and Assistant Director of the Global Oncology Program at the VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. She served on the *2024 AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report* Steering Committee.

Dr. Tossas is an expert in cancer disparities and has spearheaded several community-engaged projects to understand and address health inequities in Virginia. Her research focuses on understanding how the microbiome influences the disparate progression of precancerous lesions of the cervix and lungs.



Daniel West Daniel has spent close to two decades working in finance and is currently a portfolio associate at a global investment firm based in Houston, TX. Daniel is a Texas A&M graduate with a degree in economics. He also has an MBA in International Business from the University of St. Thomas. In 2022, Daniel was diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer. He completed chemotherapy in 2023 and started receiving EGFR-targeted treatment. Daniel currently has no evidence of active cancer.

An advocate for healthcare for the LGBTQ+ community, Daniel has spoken about the importance of clear communication and trust with one's physician. Daniel also advocates for early detection and affordable screening for all patients with cancer. He shared his story in the *AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report 2024*.