

# AACR PATIENT ADVOCATE FORUM

## EXPLORING A NEW GENERATION OF PATIENT-CENTRIC CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

### Speakers



**PATRICIA M. LORUSSO, DO, PHD (HC), FAACR**  
AACR PRESIDENT 2024-2025  
**Professor of Medicine**  
**Chief of the Early Phase Clinical Trials Program**  
**Yale University**  
**Associate Center Director of Experimental Therapeutics**  
**Yale Cancer Center**  
**New Haven, CT**

Dr. LoRusso is a nationally recognized expert in developing new cancer drugs through clinical trials. Dr. LoRusso has pioneered significant advances in medical oncology, drug development, and early phase clinical trials. She is currently serving as president of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Throughout her career, Dr. LoRusso has received numerous honors and awards, including the World Affairs Council of Connecticut Luminary Award (2018); Crain's Detroit Business Heroes of Healthcare Award (2008); Marygrove College Distinguished Alumni Award (2008); Top Doctors honoree (2007, 2009, 2011-2013, 2018); and the Michigan Society for Medical Research Bennett J. Cohen Educational Leadership Award for Medical Research (2004). Dr. LoRusso received an honorary PhD from Michigan State University in 2015 and was elected as a fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in 2022.

Dr. LoRusso received her BS from Marygrove College, her DO from Michigan State University, and an honorary PhD from Michigan State University in 2015. Prior to her appointment at the Yale School of Medicine, she served in numerous leadership roles at Wayne State University's Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, including as director of the Phase I Clinical Trials Program and director of the Eisenberg Center for Translational Therapeutics.



**JAN TOMLINSON**  
**Patient Advocate**  
**BLACC, Community Advisory Board**  
**ISPY 2.2 Trial, Breast Science Advocacy Core**  
**University of California San Francisco**  
**San Francisco, CA**

In March of 2023, Jan was diagnosed with aggressive triple negative breast cancer and offered standard chemotherapy for 24 weeks. Devastated by the diagnosis, Jan sought several opinions and opted to join a clinical trial program that offered significantly less chemotherapy than standard of care. Following treatment, pathology reports supported a successful

outcome reaching PCR and no residual cancer was found in the surrounding tissue or lymph nodes. The experience spurred Jan to become a patient advocate to share her story and encourage other women to strongly consider and participate in clinical trials. She is passionate about making sure that everyone knows that standard of care is only one treatment option and “clinical trials have to be on the table.”

Jan currently volunteers as a UCSF Patient Advocate and is involved in several programs focused on improving outcomes for patients with breast cancer. Jan is also a member of the Black Ladies Advocating for Cancer Care (BLACC) Community Advisory Board (CAB). She recently served as a panelist for the Quantum Leap Healthcare Collaborative’s press conference on ISPY 2.2 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Jan also recently spoke about her experience in clinical trials at the inaugural RISE Up for Breast Cancer Conference.



**DAVID A. TUVESON, MD, PHD, FAACR**

**AACR PAST PRESIDENT 2020-2021**

**Director and Roy J. Zuckerberg Professor of Cancer Research  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) Cancer Center  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
Cold Spring Harbor, NY**

Dr. Tuveson is the director of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center, where he is also the Roy J. Zuckerberg professor of cancer research.

Additionally, he is the chief scientist for the Lustgarten Foundation, a medical staff affiliate at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and serves on the Board of Scientific Advisors of the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Tuveson is a world-renowned physician-scientist whose basic and translational research focuses on increasing our understanding of the biology of pancreatic cancer and on identifying and testing new approaches for diagnosing and treating the disease in preclinical and clinical settings. An AACR member since 2003, Dr. Tuveson is a scientific editor of the AACR journal Cancer Discovery, a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Stand Up To Cancer, and a Fellow of the AACR Academy. He is also the AACR President for 2021-22.



**LAURA VAN 'T VEER, PHD**

**Angela and Shu Kai Chan Endowed Chair in Cancer Research  
Co-leader, Breast Oncology Program  
Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center  
University of California San Francisco  
San Francisco, CA**

Dr. van 't Veer is a world-renowned Molecular Biologist and inventor of MammaPrint®. Her research focuses on personalized medicine to advance patient management based on knowledge of the genetic make-up of the tumor as well as the genetic make-up of the patient. Dr. van 't Veer is the Biomarker Committee Chair for the Foundation of NIH sponsored multicenter adaptive clinical trial I-SPY 2, overseeing the processes for FDA-IDE biomarker usage and qualifying biomarker companion diagnostic testing. She served 2010-2014 as Board member of

the American Association of Cancer Research. She has over 230 peer-reviewed scientific articles and is co-inventor of 6 patents.

Dr. van 't Veer received undergraduate training in biology and a master of science in molecular oncology (1984) at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. She earned her PhD in Medicine at the University of Leiden and then completed two postdoctoral fellowships, first at the Cancer Center of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston (1989-1991), followed by the Division of Molecular Carcinogenesis at The Netherlands Cancer Institute (1992-1993).

Dr. van 't Veer moved to UCSF as Professor of Laboratory Medicine in 2010 and assumed leadership of the Bay Area Breast Cancer SPORE and the BOP. In 2011 she assumed leadership of the Athena Breast Health Network at UCSF. She holds the Angela and Shu Kai Chan Endowed Chair in Cancer Research.

## Moderator



### **ANNA D. BARKER, PHD, FAACR**

**Founder and Chair, AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program®**  
**Chief Strategy Officer, Ellison Institute of Technology**  
**Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Complex Adaptive Systems, Arizona State University**

Dr. Barker is the founder and chair of the AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program® and chief strategy officer of the Lawrence J. Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine and distinguished visiting fellow at Arizona State University. She develops information-based strategies through internal research and engagement of networks of leading experts in medicine, science, and engineering to solve complex problems in cancer and other diseases. Previously, Dr. Barker served as the principal deputy director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) where she led the development of Foundational platforms (Clinical Proteomics and National Cancer Nanotechnology Centers) and national programs (e.g., TCGA, Physical-Sciences Oncology Centers) to support the emerging concept of precision medicine. Hallmarks of these strategic innovative programs were networks of global institutions, team science and publicly available data.

Post NCI, Dr. Barker served as director of Transformative Healthcare Networks, co-director of Complex Adaptive Systems -Biomedicine (CAS) and professor of practice, School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University (ASU), where she maintains a courtesy academic appointment. At ASU, she employed CAS approaches through “knowledge networks” to enable progress in areas ranging from clinical trial designs to biomarker discovery and applying concepts from the physical sciences to fundamentally understand and control complex diseases such as cancer.

Dr. Barker also spent several years at Battelle Memorial Institute, a nonprofit transdisciplinary research organization, where she progressed from a research scientist to serve in several senior executive roles. She has received numerous awards for her contributions to cancer research, cancer patients and patient advocates, professional organizations, and the ongoing national effort to prevent and cure cancer. Dr. Barker received her doctoral degree from Ohio State University.