

# AACR VIRTUAL PATIENT ADVOCATE FORUM

## A NEW FRONTIER: THE VERY EARLY DETECTION OF CANCER SIGNALS

### Speakers

*-in order of appearance*



#### **TIMOTHY R. REBBECK, PHD**

**Vincent L. Gregory, Jr. Professor of Cancer Prevention  
Director, Zhu Family Center for Global Cancer Prevention  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
Dana Farber Cancer Institute  
Boston, Massachusetts**

Dr. Rebbeck is the Vincent L. Gregory, Jr. Professor of Cancer Prevention at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and Professor of Medical Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Rebbeck's research focuses on the etiology and prevention of cancer, with an emphasis on cancer disparities and global health. He has directed large, multicenter studies and international consortia that have identified genetic, molecular, and epidemiological factors associated with cancer risk, outcomes, and disparities. He leads the international Men of African Descent and Carcinoma of the Prostate (MADCaP) network and has led a number of consortia studying hereditary cancer risk and prevention.

In addition to his research activities, Professor Rebbeck leads a number of initiatives on the Harvard Campus. He serves as Associate Director for Cancer Equity and Engagement in the Dana-Farber / Harvard Cancer Center. He is the founding director of the Zhu Family Center for Cancer Prevention at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. In these roles, he fosters a variety of cancer research and educational activities to ensure that Harvard research engages with and positively impacts communities with the greatest disease burden worldwide.



#### **ANJEE Q. DAVIS, MPPA**

**President, Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Springfield, MO**

Anjee Davis joined Fight Colorectal Cancer in 2011 as the first Director of Community Engagement. In 2015, she accepted the role of President. Under her leadership, Fight CRC grew more than 30% year-over-year from 2011-2019.

Anjee is a champion for patients and uses her voice as a member of many advisory councils and boards, including the NCI Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee (CTAC) and the NCI Gastrointestinal Cancer Steering Committee (GISC). Under Dr. Ned Sharpless' leadership at NCI,

Anjee served two terms (2020-2022) as chair of the NCI Council of Research Advocates (NCRA). In 2020, she was appointed to the President's Cancer Panel to address colorectal cancer prevention, equity, and screening challenges due to COVID-19.

Prior to leading Fight CRC, Anjee built a statewide awareness and screening program at the University of South Carolina's Center for Colon Cancer Research. Under Dr. Frank Berger's leadership, she managed over \$11 million from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to build a multidisciplinary basic science team of young investigators in colorectal cancer. Anjee holds a Bachelor's degree from Southwest Missouri State University and a Master of Public Policy Administration from the University of Missouri St. Louis.



**PHILIP E. CASTLE, PHD, MPH**

**Director, Division of Cancer Prevention**

**Senior Investigator, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics**

**US National Cancer Institute**

**Bethesda, Maryland**

Philip E. Castle, PhD, MPH was appointed Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in July 2020. In this role, Dr. Castle oversees the conduct and support of research in cancer prevention, early detection, and screening, and prevention and management of symptoms and toxicities in cancer patients. Dr. Castle earned a Ph.D. in Biophysics in 1995 and, in conjunction with his training in the CFPF, a Master's in Public Health in 2000, both at The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

Most recently, Dr. Castle was a tenured professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York, and a visiting professor at institutions in Singapore, China and Australia. Dr. Castle was previously the Chief Scientific Officer of the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Dr. Castle has been a principal investigator for more than 15 years, initiating, conducting, and leading several large NCI molecular and clinical epidemiologic research studies in the U.S. and internationally, including the Mississippi Delta Project; the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Persistence and Progression Cohort and the Guidelines Cohort at Kaiser Permanente Northern California (KPNC); and the Anal Cancer Screening Study.

Dr. Castle is also a senior investigator with DCEG, focused on discovery, development, and evaluation/validation of new technologies for the prevention of cancer. His professional interests include health disparities, science and translation of cancer prevention strategies, cancer screening, health services research and delivery, epidemiology of HPV and cervical/anogenital cancers, international health, and evidence-based medicine. Dr. Castle is conducting research studies on cancer screening and prevention in Mozambique, Rwanda, and India.



**C. JIMMY LIN, MD, PHD, MHS**

**Chief Scientific Officer, Freenome  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Rare Genomics Institute  
San Francisco, California**

C. Jimmy Lin, MD, PhD, MHS is the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) at Freenome, working on early diagnostic of cancers. Dr. Lin is also a 2016 Senior TED Fellow and Founder & President of Rare Genomics Institute, the world's first platform to enable any community to leverage cutting-edge biotechnology to advance understanding of any rare disease.

Prior to joining the private sector, as Chief Scientific Officer for Oncology at Natera, the global genomic diagnostics company, Dr. Lin led the intramural clinical genomics program at the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. At Johns Hopkins and Washington University in St Louis, he spearheaded the computational analyses of the first-ever exome sequencing studies in multiple cancer types.

Dr. Lin holds an MD and a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Medicine from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, as well as a Master of Health Sciences in Bioinformatics from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. As an undergraduate at Yale, he majored in Cognitive Science and Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry.



**RUTH B. ETZIONI, PHD**

**Professor, Public Health Sciences Division  
Rosalie and Harold Rea Brown Endowed Chair  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Seattle, Washington**

Ruth Etzioni is a biostatistician whose research centers on addressing evidence gaps that inevitably arise in medical decision making and health policy development. She is a full member of biostatistics at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle and affiliate faculty in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Washington.

Dr. Etzioni's population models of cancer progression and survival have been used to project long-term harms and benefits of prostate cancer screening, reconcile apparently conflicting clinical studies, and demonstrate that most published estimates of overdiagnosis in breast and prostate cancer screening cannot be trusted. Dr. Etzioni's current research focuses on risk stratification as a path to making early detection sustainable as an approach to a cancer control. She is a member of three national panels on early detection in cancer, a fellow of the American Statistical Association and the chair of its Health Policy Statistics Section. Dr. Etzioni earned her Ph.D. in statistics from Carnegie-Mellon University.

## Moderator



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

**Founder and Chair, AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program®**

**Chief Strategy Officer of the Lawrence J. Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine**

**Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Complex Adaptive Systems Arizona State University**

**Los Angeles, CA**

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 the Ohio State University.