

Health Disparities in Hematologic Malignancies: From Genes to Outreach

Loews Hotel Atlanta

June 5-6, 2026

Day 1 - Friday June 5, 2026

7:30 am	Registration and Breakfast
8:00 am • 8:05	Opening remarks TBD_ Patient Advocate (10 min presentation + 5 min questions)
8:20- 9:50 am • 8:20 • 8:35 • 8:50 • 9:05	Session 1: The impact of germline variants and genomic abnormalities Lara Sucheston-Campbell, Ph.D. Wayne State University, School of Medicine, Detroit, MI <i>Leveraging HLA and polygenic risk approaches to better understand heterogeneity in risk and outcomes across populations.</i> Elad Ziv, M.D. University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA <i>Insights into genetic architecture of gene expression across genetic ancestries.</i> Joselle Cook, Ph.D. Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN <i>Biological drivers of myeloma and MGUS (recruiting minority patients to cancer trials).</i> Discussion leader: Rosalie Griffin, Ph.D. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX (30-min call-to-action discussion)
9:35 -10:00 am	Coffee Break
10:00 -10:45 am	Keynote: Elaine Mardis, Ph.D. Institute for Genomic Medicine; Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH <i>Translational genomics; co-led ancestry-aware AML risk models.</i>
10:45-12:00 pm • 10:45 • 11:00 • 11:15	Session 2: Prognostic and therapeutic implications of the molecular landscape and microenvironment Edward Biercheck, M.D., Ph.D. Ohio State University, Columbus, OH <i>Investigating Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) variation in NK/T-cell lymphomas.</i> Gareth J. Morgan, M.D., Ph.D. NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY <i>Differentiating the racial and temporal incidence of multiple myeloma.</i> Manoj Bhasin, Ph.D. Emory University, Atlanta, GA <i>Ancestry-Driven Immune Rewiring in Multiple Myeloma: Insights from Single-Cell Profiling.</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 	<p>Discussion leader: Michelle Lee, M.D. Emory University, Atlanta, GA <i>(30-min call-to-action discussion)</i></p>
12:00pm	Lunch
1:30-3:00pm	<p>Session 3: The impact of social determinants of health on outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:30 Susan Parsons, M.D., M.R.P. Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA <i>Health-related quality of life (HRQL), outcomes and economic evaluation in children, adolescents and young adults (AYAs) with cancer and their families.</i> • 1:45 Ash Alpert M.D., Sc.M., M.F.A. Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT <i>Cancer disparities in gender/sexual minorities.</i> • 2:00 Kimberly Bertrand, Sc.D., M.P.H. Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, Boston, MA <i>Socio-environmental context in monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) disparities.</i> • 2:15 Robin Yabroff, Ph.D. American Cancer Society, Atlanta GA <i>The Role of Insurance Design on Financial Toxicity and Access to Care for Individuals with Blood Cancer.</i> • 2:30 Discussion leader: Theresa Keegan, Ph.D. University of California Davis School of Medicine, Davis, CA <i>(30-min call-to-action discussion)</i>
3:00-3:25 pm	Coffee Break
3:25 -3:50 pm	<p>Patient Advocacy Session (25min) <i>TBD- (LRF/ BCU mission speakers)</i> Discussion leader: TBD_ Jean Koff, MD UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX</p>
3:50-4:55 pm	<p>Session 4: Developing strategies to increase access to clinical trial enrollment and access to state-of-the-art care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:50 Ajay Nooka M.D., Sc.M., M.F.A. Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA <i>Clinical disparities in MM: Clinical trial enrollment of AA pts w/ MM- CAR T access.</i> • 4:05 Carma Bylund, Ph.D. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL <i>Developing strategies to increase representation in clinical trials through provider education efforts.</i> • 4:20 Shantoria Brown Georgia CORE, Atlanta, GA <i>The Blood Clinical Trial Network of Atlanta.</i>

• 4:35	Gina Aracena, M.A. Lymphoma Research Foundation, New York, NY <i>Lymphoma Helpline in Spanish.</i>
• 4:50	Whitney Meeks, M.S.N., R.N. Blood Cancer United, New York, NY <i>The BCU Clinical Trial Support Center.</i>
• 5:05	Discussion leaders: Theresa Gillespie, Ph.D., M.A., F.A.A.N. , Emory University, Atlanta, GA; Chijioke Nze, M.D. , UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX (30-min call-to-action discussion)
5:35-7:00 pm	Poster Session and Happy Hour (held within poster session- @ Spotlight tour at 6:00 pm)

Day 2 - Saturday, June 6, 2026

8:00- 8:30 am	Registration and Breakfast
8:30- 9:00 am	Session 5 Project Highlight: Reducing Ethnic Disparities in Acute Leukemia (REDIAL) SPORE Philip Lupo, Ph.D., M.P.H. Emory University, Atlanta, GA <i>Reducing Ethnic Disparities in Acute Leukemia (REDIAL) SPORE.</i>
9:00- 10:40 am	Session 6: Advanced tools for modeling disparities in drug metabolism and biologic processes
• 9:00	Elisa TenHacken, Ph.D. Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY <i>Tumor microenvironmental remodeling in African American DLBCLs harboring mutations in the DNA repair pathway.</i>
• 9:15	Nicole Peiris, Ph.D. Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA <i>Genomics novel variants & inclusivity across heme malignancies: biases across different genomes.</i>
• 9:30	Irum Khan, M.D., M.S. Northwestern University, Chicago, IL <i>Social stress & p53/inflammation in Chicago Cohort; biological model of social determinants & stress.</i>
• 9:45	Lee Cooper, Ph.D. Northwestern University, Chicago, IL <i>Mitigating bias in AI digital pathology- Lymphoma Outcomes SPORE</i>
• 10:00	Discussion leader: Irum Khan, M.D., M.S. Northwestern University, Chicago, IL (30-min call-to-action discussion)
10:30 -10:55 am	Coffee Break
10:55 - 12:00 pm	Session 6: The global burden of hematologic malignancies

• 10:55	<p>Katherine Antel, M.B. Ch.B., F.C.P (SA), Ph.D. Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC <i>Lymphoma outcomes in South Africa; mixed ancestry cohort perspective.</i></p>
• 11:10	<p>Caitlyn Duffy, M.D., M.P.H. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN <i>Addressing global disparities for pediatric blood cancers- bispecific therapy to people in low- and middle- income countries.</i></p>
• 11:25	<p>Eloisa Riva, M.D. Hospital de Clinicas, Montevideo, Uruguay <i>GELAMM: Grupo de Estudio Latinoamericano de Mieloma Múltiple.</i></p>
• 11:40	<p>Discussion leader: Michelle Hildebrandt, Ph.D. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX <i>(30-min call-to-action discussion)</i></p>
12:10 pm	Lunch
1:20 – 2:20 pm	<p>Keynote: Electra Paskett, Ph.D., M.S.P.H. Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH <i>Strategies to increase clinical trial participation and care in rural areas/Appalachia.</i></p>
2:20 – 2:50 pm	<p>Session 8: Developing a funding strategy to address disparities</p>
• 2:20	<p>Melissa Darbandi, B.S. Director of Institutional and Community Partnerships, Lymphoma Research Foundation, New York, NY</p>
• 2:30	<p>Lore Gruenbaum, Ph.D. Sr. Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, Blood Cancer United, New York, NY</p>
• 2:40	<p>Joanne Elena, Ph.D., M.P.H. Scientific Director of Clinical and Population Sciences, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA</p>
• 2:50	<p>Patricia Frustace Senior Director, Awards & Diversity Programs, American Society of Hematology, Washington D.C.</p>
• 2:55	<p>Deirdra R. Terrell, Ph.D. University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK; ASH HIP Program</p>
• 3:00	<p>Discussion leader: Christopher Flowers, M.D., M.S., F.A.S.C.O. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX <i>(30-min call-to-action discussion)</i></p>
3:30 -3:40 pm	Closing Remarks
3:45 pm	Adjourn