

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 Mel Mann, M.B.A., M. Ed. Mission Speaker for Blood Cancer United <i>(10 min presentation + 5 min questions)</i>
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>Who Gets MGUS/MM and Who Gets Studied: Biology and Early Detection</i> Discussion leader: Rosalie Griffin, Ph.D. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX <i>(30-min call-to-action discussion)</i>
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>
<p>12:00pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:30-3:00pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:30 • 1:45 • 2:00 • 2:15 	<p>Session 3: The impact of social determinants of health on outcomes</p> <p>Ash Alpert M.D., Sc.M., M.F.A. Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT <i>Improving Experiences & Outcomes for Transgender People with Cancer</i></p> <p>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></p> <p>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></p> <p>Discussion leader: Theresa Keegan, Ph.D. University of California Davis School of Medicine, Davis, CA <i>(30-min call-to-action discussion)</i></p>
<p>2:45-3:10 pm</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>3:10 -3:50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:10 • 3:20 • 3:30 	<p>Patient Advocacy Session</p> <p>Tamara Mobley, B.A. Multiple Myeloma Survivor, Emory Winship Cancer Center</p> <p>Robin Pierce, B.A. Lymphoma Survivor, Emory Winship Cancer Center</p> <p>Discussion leader: Jean Koff, MD, MS. Emory University, Atlanta, GA</p>
<p>3:50 -5:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:50 • 4:05 • 4:20 	<p>Session 4: Developing strategies to increase access to clinical trial enrollment and access to state-of-the-art care</p> <p>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></p> <p>Carma Bylund, Ph.D. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL <i>Changing the Conversation: Clinician Education to Improve Representation in Clinical Trials</i></p> <p>Lynn Durham, EdD; Atira Goodwin Georgia CORE, Atlanta, GA <i>Improving Access to Blood Cancer Trials: A Collaborative Approach in Georgia</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:35 • 4:50 • 5:05 	<p>Gina Aracena, M.A. Lymphoma Research Foundation, New York, NY <i>Breaking Barriers: A Pilot Program for Hispanic/Latino Clinical Trial Inclusion</i></p> <p>Whitney Meeks, M.S.N., R.N. Blood Cancer United, New York, NY <i>The BCU Clinical Trial Support Center.</i></p> <p>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)</p>
5:35-7:00 pm	Poster Session and Happy Hour <i>(held within poster session- @ Spotlight tour at 6:00 pm)</i>

Day 2 - Saturday, June 6, 2026

8:00- 8:30 am	Registration and Breakfast
8:30- 9:00 am	<p>Session 5 <u>Project Highlight</u>: Reducing Ethnic Disparities in Acute Leukemia (REDIAL) SPORE Philip Lupo, Ph.D., M.P.H. Emory University, Atlanta, GA <i>Reducing Disparities in Acute Leukemia: Findings from the REDIAL SPORE.</i></p>
9:00- 10:40 am	<p>Session 6: Advanced tools for modeling disparities in drug metabolism and biologic processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Influences of germline variants as cancer vulnerabilities</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 <i>(30-min call-to-action discussion)</i>
10:30 -10:55 am	Coffee Break

<p>10:55 - 12:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:55 • 11:10 • 11:25 • 11:40 	<p>Session 6: The global burden of hematologic malignancies</p> <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> <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> <p>Eloisa Riva, M.D. Hospital de Clínicas, Montevideo, Uruguay <i>GELAMM: Grupo de Estudio Latinoamericano de Mieloma Múltiple.</i></p> <p>Discussion leader: Michelle Hildebrandt, Ph.D. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX (30-min call-to-action discussion)</p>
<p>12:10 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:20 – 2:20 pm</p>	<p>Keynote:</p> <p>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>
<p>2:20 – 3:40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:20 • 2:30 • 2:40 • 2:50 • 3:00 • 3:10 	<p>Session 8: Developing a funding strategy to address disparities</p> <p>Melissa Darbandi, B.S. Director of Institutional and Community Partnerships, Lymphoma Research Foundation, New York, NY</p> <p>Lore Gruenbaum, Ph.D. Sr. Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, Blood Cancer United, New York, NY</p> <p>Ola Banjo, Pharm.D. Sr. Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, New York, NY</p> <p>Joanne Elena, Ph.D., M.P.H. Scientific Director of Clinical and Population Sciences, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA</p> <p>Deirdra R. Terrell, Ph.D. University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK; ASH HIP Program</p> <p>Discussion leader: Christopher Flowers, M.D., M.S., F.A.S.C.O. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX (30-min call-to-action discussion)</p>
<p>3:40 -3:50 pm</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p>

3:50 pm

Adjourn