

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 (45-min call-to-action discussion)
9:50 -10:15 am	Coffee Break
10:15 -11:00 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>
11:00-12:30 pm • 11:00 • 11:15 • 11:30	Session 2: Prognostic and therapeutic implications of the somatic mutational landscape & 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"> • 11:45 	<p>Discussion leader: Michelle Lee, M.D. Emory University, Atlanta, GA <i>(45-min call-to-action discussion)</i></p>
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30-3:30 pm	<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 Raymond Mailhot, M.D., M.P.H. University of Miami, Miami, FL <i>Insurance Inequities in Hodgkin Lymphoma Treatment and Survivorship in the Southeast.</i> • 2:30 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> • 2:45 Discussion leader: Theresa Keegan, Ph.D. University of California Davis School of Medicine, Davis, CA <i>(45-min call-to-action discussion)</i>
3:30-3:55 pm	Coffee Break
3:55-5:00 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"> • 3:55 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> • 4:10 Aaron Rosenberg, M.D., M.S. University of California Davis School of Medicine, Sacramento, CA <i>Transplant disparities in MM.</i> • 4:25 Carma Bylund, Ph.D. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL <i>Developing strategies to increase representation in clinical trials through provider education efforts.</i> • 4:40 Shantoria Brown Georgia CORE, Atlanta, GA <i>The Blood Clinical Trial Network of Atlanta.</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:55 • 5:05 • 5:15 	<p>Gina Arcena Lymphoma Research Foundation, New York, NY Lymphoma Helpline in Spanish.</p> <p>TBD BCU: Patient Navigation, Clinical Trial Support Center</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 (<i>30-min call-to-action discussion</i>)</p>
5:45 -6:10 pm	<p>Patient Advocacy Session (25min) <i>TBD- (LRF/ BCU mission speakers)</i> Discussion leader: Luis Malpica, M.D. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX</p>
6:10-8:00 pm	Poster Session and Happy Hour

Day 2 - Saturday, June 6, 2026

8:00- 8:30 am	Registration and Breakfast
8:30- 9:00 am	<p>Session 5 <i>Project Highlight: Reducing Ethnic Disparities in Acute Leukemia (REDIAL) SPORE</i> Monica Gramatges, M.D., Ph.D. Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX Reducing Ethnic Disparities in Acute Leukemia (REDIAL) SPORE.</p>
9:00- 10:40 am	<p>Session 6: <i>Advanced tools for modeling disparities in drug metabolism and biologic processes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 Elisa TenHacken, Ph.D. Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY Tumor microenvironmental remodeling in African American DLBCLs harboring mutations in the DNA repair pathway. • 9:15 Nicole Peiris, Ph.D. Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA Genomics novel variants & inclusivity across heme malignancies: biases across different genomes. • 9:30 Irum Khan, M.D., M.S. Northwestern University, Chicago, IL Social stress & p53/inflammation in Chicago Cohort; biological model of social determinants & stress. • 9:45 Lee Cooper, Ph.D. Northwestern University, Chicago, IL Mitigating bias in AI digital pathology. • 10:00 Discussion leader: Irum Khan, M.D., M.S. University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL (<i>40-min call-to-action discussion</i>)
10:40 -11:00 am	Coffee Break

<p>11:00- 12:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:00 • 11:15 • 11:30 • 11:45 	<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>Jeja Sima, M.D. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN <i>Addressing global disparities for pediatric blood cancers- bispecific therapy to people in middle east ; global outreach (Leukemia in Eastern Mediterranean Region: Noth Africa, Middle East).</i></p> <p>Eloisa Riva, M.D. Hospital de Clínicas, Montevideo, Uruguay <i>GELAMM: Grupo de Estudio Latinoamericano de Mieloma Multiple.</i></p> <p>Discussion leader: Michelle Hildebrant, Ph.D. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX <i>(30-min call-to-action discussion)</i></p>
<p>12:15 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:20 – 2:50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:20 • 1:30 • 1:40 • 1:50 • 2:00 • 2:10 	<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, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 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>Patricia Frustace Senior Director, Awards & Diversity Programs, American Society of Hematology, Washington D.C.</p> <p>Deirdra R. Terrell, Ph.D. University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK; ASH MRI Program</p> <p>Discussion leader: Christopher Flowers, M.D., M.S., F.A.S.C.O. UT MD Anderson, Houston, TX <i>(35-min call-to-action discussion)</i></p>
<p>2:45 -3:00 pm</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>3:00 – 4:00 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>

4:00 -4:10 pm	Closing Remarks
4:10 pm	Adjourn