Part 2: Innovative Technologies to Expand Cancer Screening

Wednesday, June 24

T. PETER KINGHAM, MD, FACS
Dr. T. Peter Kingham obtained his undergraduate degree at Yale University and MD from SUNY Stony Brook. His general surgery residency was at NYU. He undertook a research fellowship in hepatic immunology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. After residency, he completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at MSK prior to being appointed on the Hepatopancreatobiliary Service. In 2015 he was appointed as Director of Global Cancer Disparity Initiatives. In 2016 he was promoted to Associate Professor. His primary research interest is determining how to improve cancer care for patients in low- and middle-income countries. Dr. Kingham is Co-PI on multiple prospective studies on colorectal and breast cancer in Nigeria, cofounded the African Research Group for Oncology (ARGO), and is President of Surgeons OverSeaS (SOS). He is PI of a UG3/UH3 NIH grant (2017) to study technologies to diagnose cancer in low- and middle-income countries. He has over 220 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

BERNARD LEVIN, MD, FACS
Dr. Bernard Levin earned his medical degree in South Africa. He held academic appointments at the University of Chicago and then served as Chair of the Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology and Digestive Diseases at UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center until his appointment in 1994 as Vice President for Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences. He retired from MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2007 and was appointed as Professor Emeritus. He has served as Chair of the American Cancer Society’s National Advisory Task Force on Colorectal Cancer, founding co-chair of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, President of the International Society of Gastrointestinal Carcinogenesis and founding Chair of the World Gastroenterology Organization Foundation. He serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. He is co-chair of the Scientific Review Panel of the Prevent Cancer Foundation. His research interests include molecular markers for early detection of colorectal cancer and methods for enhancing public awareness of colorectal cancer prevention.

NIMMI RAMANUJAM, PhD
Dr. Nimmi Ramanujam is the Robert W. Carr Professor of Biomedical Engineering, a faculty member in the Global Health Institute, Department of Pharmacology and Cell Biology at Duke University. Dr. Ramanujam is an innovator, educator, and entrepreneur. Her mission is to develop technology that will have a wide-reaching impact in women’s health. She directs the Center for Global Women’s Health Technologies at Duke where she empowers trainees at Duke and beyond to create impactful solutions to improve the lives of women and girls globally.

Dr. Ramanujam’s research focuses on breast and cervical cancer. Her goals are to design innovations that enable complex referral services often reserved for hospitals to be accessible at the community/primary care level, to develop technologies to see and treat women with early stage disease in one visit and to develop tools that will make cancer treatment more effective and efficient.

PETRA WILDER-SMITH, DDS, PhD
Dr. Petra Wilder-Smith is Professor and Director of Dentistry at the University of California, Irvine’s Beckman Laser Institute (BLI). She is a Senior Fellow of the University of California, Irvine’s Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Visiting Professor at Aachen University.

Dr. Wilder-Smith’s research interests include novel non-invasive optical approaches for oral diagnosis, especially oral cancer. Her work in this field over the past 25 years has resulted in many collaborations including more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, 250 presentations at peer-reviewed scientific meetings, and 300 public lectures. Wilder-Smith is Co-Principal Investigator on an NIH-funded study to develop and test a low-cost portable screening device to detect possible oral cancer for use by field workers in India. Other funded research interests include oral biofilm, dental de- and re-mineralization, and pulpal vitality interrogation. Additional projects focus on the use of stem cells and other approaches to prevent or mitigate cancer-therapy-induced mucositis.