Part 3: Progress and Challenges in Cancer Screening

Wednesday, June 2

LISA ASPINWALL, PhD

Dr. Lisa G. Aspinwall is Professor of Psychology at the University of Utah and a member of the Huntsman Cancer Institute's Cancer Control and Population Sciences program. As a social and health psychologist, her research program examines how people seek to understand, anticipate, and prevent or manage important negative outcomes, especially in the area of familial cancer.

She has examined these questions in two large studies of members of melanoma-prone families undergoing genetic testing with the goal of understanding how physicians and genetic counselors might best communicate genetic risk information to high-risk patients with the goal of promoting both prevention and early detection.

Dr. Aspinwall received her Ph.D. from UCLA in 1991. She has received grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Cancer Institute, a Templeton Positive Psychology Prize, and two teaching awards. Dr. Aspinwall is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science.

ALICE BERGER, PhD

Dr. Alice Berger is an Assistant Professor and the Innovators Network Endowed Chair at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA. Her laboratory applies genomics and functional genomics technology to discover mechanisms of lung carcinogenesis and develop new strategies for lung cancer therapy. Originally from West Virginia, Dr. Berger earned a B.S. in Chemistry at the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Cornell University's Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences. She then trained as a postdoctoral fellow at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. She has identified cancer-associated mutations in lung cancer such as RIT1 and MET exon 14 skipping. She is a co-developer of eVIP, a technology for rapid assessment of the functional impact of genetic variants. Dr. Berger was named the Devereaux Outstanding Young Investigator by the Prevent Cancer Foundation for her work on the genomics of lung cancer in women.

RUTH ETZIONI, PhD

Dr. Ruth Etzioni is a full professor in the Program in Biostatistics, Division of Public Health Sciences at the Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center where she holds the Rosalie and Harold Rea Brown endowed chair. She is also Affiliate Professor of Biostatistics and Health Services in the School of Public Health at the University of Washington. Dr Etzioni received her PhD in Statistics from Carnegie Mellon University Her research focuses on modeling for cancer surveillance and policy, with the goal of informing medical decision making around cancer prevention, early detection and treatment. She is a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's prostate cancer early detection guidelines panel, the American Urology Association screening guidelines panel, and the American Cancer Society's early detection guidelines panel.

Dr. Etzioni's research also covers cancer disparities, precision screening, informatics and analytics for cancer recurrence, and multi-cancer early detection. She is co-director of an NCI T32 training grant (Developing Data-Drive Cancer Researchers) to the University of Washington and the Fred Hutch Cancer Center. She is the author of the recent Springer textbook, "Statistics for Health Data Science: An Organic Approach," based on a course she developed for public health sciences PhD students at the University of Washington. In 2020 she served on a COVID modeling and policy guidance panel for the Washington State Department of Health.

HEATHER HAMPEL, MS, LGC

Ms. Heather Hampel is a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Associate Director of the Division of Human Genetics. Her research focuses on Lynch syndrome and universal tumor screening for Lynch syndrome. She has >160 publications on the prevalence of Lynch syndrome among colorectal and endometrial cancer patients, the best testing protocols, cost-effectiveness, and referral guidelines for cancer genetics. She was on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Genetic Counseling from 2006-2011, serving as President in 2009 and 2010. She has been on the Steering Committee of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable since 2016. She was on the Council of the Collaborative Group of the Americas on Inherited Colorectal Cancer from 2016-2019, serving as president in 2017-2018. She was just elected Secretary/Treasurer Elect of the National Society of Genetic Counselors with her term starting in 2021.

SUE HORTON, PhD

Dr. Susan Horton is Professor of Global Health Economics at the University of Waterloo, and a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Her earlier work on the economics of nutrition is well known, and more recently she has worked on non-communicable disease in low- and middle-income countries, She is currently Deputy Chair of the new Lancet Commission on Diagnostics. She has worked in more than twenty low- and middle-income countries and consulted for over a dozen UN organizations, international development banks and international research organizations. According to Google Scholar, there have been more than 13,000 citations of her work to date.

SANCY LEACHMAN, MD, PhD

Dr. Sancy Leachman is a physician-scientist who chairs the Department of Dermatology at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and is the director of the Melanoma Research Program at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. The inaugural recipient of the John D. Gray Endowed Chair in Melanoma Research and Chair of the Southwest Oncology Group Melanoma Prevention Working Group, she is a dermatologist using basic science research and state-of-the-art technology to combat skin cancer.

Her clinical interests include skin cancers, especially melanoma, pigmentary disorders that result from abnormalities of melanocytes such as vitiligo, and genetic disorders that involve the skin such as pachyonychia congenita, Cowden syndrome, and other cutaneous cancer syndromes. Dr. Leachman's research interest is in the prevention, early detection and chemoprevention of melanoma, particularly in genetically predisposed melanoma families.

Prior to joining OHSU in 2013, Dr. Leachman was at the University of Utah, where she was director of the Melanoma and Cutaneous Oncology Program in the Huntsman Cancer Institute, a professor in the Department of Dermatology, and member of the Imaging, Diagnostics, and Therapeutics Program and the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Program.

LISA SCHLAGER

Lisa Schlager is a recognized consumer advocacy leader for people affected by hereditary cancer. As Vice President of Public Policy for FORCE, she spearheads the organization's legislative and regulatory policy efforts, advocating for the unique needs of the high-risk cancer community.

Well-versed in healthcare and genetic privacy laws—e.g. Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA), Affordable Care Act—Schlager is the point person on national guidelines and advocacy issues impacting the hereditary cancer community. She possesses expert knowledge on policies affecting individuals at increased risk of cancer, insurance coverage of genetic, screening and preventive services, and targeted treatments for those diagnosed with hereditary cancers.

Ms. Schlager holds leadership positions with a number of cancer and healthcare initiatives in the government, nonprofit, and private sectors. She represents FORCE and the hereditary cancer community as an expert speaker at conferences, events, and in the media.

STEVEN J. SKATES, PhD

Dr. Steven Skates is an associate professor of medicine (biostatistics) at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. His research is on the early detection of cancer, with a focus on first line tests and longitudinal methods to detect the first significant increases above a patient's baseline biomarker level as the earliest sign the patient may have undetected cancer. However, the false positive rate needs to be kept very low so that there is a minimum number of interventions on patients without the target cancer per patient detected with the target cancer. The balance needs to be such that the benefits always outweigh the harms while maximizing the sensitivity for early stage disease. Another area of research is on the design and analysis of early detection randomized controlled trials (RCTs) which have unique features distinct from standard RCTs for treatment trials

RICHARD WENDER, MD

Dr. Richard Wender has dedicated his career to leading medical and public health efforts that strive to improve the quality of primary care and improve population health. He is currently Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Wender spent the 33 years in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University, including 12 years as the Alumni Professor and Chair of the Department. From 2013 to 2020, Dr. Wender served as the first Chief Cancer Control Officer of the American Cancer Society. He helped launch a national initiative to achieve 80% colorectal cancer screening rates in every community and a campaign to increase HPV vaccination rates. Dr. Wender has continuously advocated for the importance of preventive care and for the creation of an effective bridge between primary care and public health.

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DURADO BROOKS, MD, MPH

Dr. Durado Brooks is the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Screening Business Unit of Exact Sciences Corporation, a position he assumed in October 2020.

Prior to joining Exact Sciences Dr. Brooks spent 20 years with the American Cancer Society's national headquarters. During his tenure at ACS Dr. Brooks served in a variety of positions with steadily increasing areas of responsibility, culminating in the role of Vice President of Prevention and Early Detection. Throughout his ACS career Dr. Brooks worked to increase access to high quality prevention and screening and to decrease cancer-related disparities through the design, implementation and evaluation of cancer prevention and early detection programs at the national, state and local levels.

A graduate of the Ohio State University and the Wright State University School of Medicine, Dr. Brooks completed his internal medicine residency and chief residency at Wright State's Affiliated Hospitals in Dayton, Ohio, and a fellowship in General Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He provided primary care and served as medical director for community health centers in Dayton and in the Community Oriented Primary Care Program at Parkland Memorial Hospital in his current hometown of Dallas, Texas. His experience in these settings led to expertise in areas including disease prevention and health promotion, disparities in healthcare and outcomes, cultural competency of health care providers and systems, and the impact of managed care on vulnerable populations.

Dr. Brooks completed the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy and earned an MPH degree from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1999, and joined ACS after a one-year Senior Health Policy Internship in the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PAUL LIMBURG, MD, MPH, AGAF

Dr. Paul Limburg holds the academic rank of Professor of Medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and serves as Chief Medical Officer for Screening at Exact Sciences. His previous Mayo Clinic leadership roles include Co-Leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Medical Director for Global Business Solutions, Medical Director for the Office of Health & Well-Being, Physician Lead for Prediction & Prevention in the Center for Innovation, and Research Director for the Healthy Living Program, among others. Dr. Limburg has served on several enterprise-wide committees at Mayo Clinic, including the Management Team and the Clinical Practice Committee. With respect to his research activities, Dr. Limburg is Principal Investigator for the Cancer Prevention Network, an international, multicenter clinical trial consortium funded by the U. S. National Cancer Institute since 2003. He is a Fellow in the American Gastroenterological Association, an inductee into the honorary American Society for Clinical Investigation, and a member of the Sigma Xi scientific research honor society. His primary research interests include screening innovation, cancer chemoprevention, and molecular epidemiology. To date, Dr. Limburg has published over 140 peer-reviewed articles and 19 book chapters.

Dr. Limburg earned his BA degree in chemistry from Augustana College (Sioux Falls, SD), MD degree from Mayo Medical School, and MPH degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. He completed his Internal Medicine residency and Gastroenterology & Hepatology fellowship training at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. Dr. Limburg also completed an advanced fellowship in Preventive Oncology at the U. S. National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Limburg has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career, including a Cancer Prevention Laurel for Dedication to Community Programs from the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation of America, a Career Development Award from the National Cancer Institute, and the Karis Award from Mayo Clinic. Dr. Limburg was selected to serve as Chair for the 2013 Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research Program Committee (American Association for Cancer Research) and is widely recognized for his clinical, research, and leadership contributions in the field of cancer prevention