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Christina Bach, MBE, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW

Christina Bach, MBE, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW, is a clinical oncology social worker and OncoLink's Psychosocial Content Editor. Christina is also a Financial Navigation Specialist at the Cancer Support Community Helpline. Christina focuses her clinical practice on biopsychosocial care of cancer patients and their caregivers, trauma-informed care, financial toxicity, animal assisted interventions/therapy and distress management. She is the social work facilitator of the Philadelphia Multiple Myeloma Networking Group and serves on the Board of Oncology Social Work Certification. Christina also has a Masters in Bioethics and specializes her work in this field on the intersection of technology, social media, ethics and healthcare. Christina loves to volunteer with her certified therapy dog, Huckleberry. In her spare time, she loves to watch her beloved Philly sports teams, knit, travel and spend time with her three rescued beagles.



Pia Banerjee, PhD

Pia Banerjee, PhD, is an MIT-trained health tech product leader and psychologist with an extensive background in patient experience, AI, and digital transformation. She builds high-impact initiatives from the ground up, across early-stage startups to billion-dollar enterprises. As the inaugural leader of health innovation and transformation for the American Cancer Society, Dr. Banerjee oversees the strategy and implementation for ACS's initiatives and partnerships in care innovation, serving over 110M people per year. Previously, Dr. Banerjee served as SVP of Clinical Strategy & Operations and the founding clinical executive at Neuroglee Therapeutics. There, she led the development of digital apps, clinical decision support tools, and a nationwide telehealth clinic. At St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, she held a senior research role for the world's largest studies on childhood cancer survivorship, where she directed operations, advanced digital innovations, and led studies that directly changed clinical care guidelines worldwide. She completed her undergraduate degree at MIT, her Master's degree and Ph.D. in Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis, and her postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA.



Tracy Battaglia

Tracy Battaglia, MD, MPH, is a physician-scientist internationally recognized for her collaborative and innovative approaches to addressing health disparities among communities historically marginalized. Dr. Battaglia received her medical degree from Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine and her MPH degree from Boston University School of Public Health. After completing her Internal Medicine Residency training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, she returned to Boston University to complete a Primary Care Academic Fellowship with a concentration in Women's Health and Preventive Medicine. Her own research focuses on designing, implementing and evaluating multi-level health system interventions in pursuit of equitable access to care for at-risk women, especially for cancer care. A pioneer in the development of oncology Patient Navigation programs that target under-resourced cancer patients, Dr. Battaglia has contributed to the scientific evidence solidifying the impact of navigation on reducing delays across the continuum of cancer care. As founding Chair of the National Navigation Roundtable, she partners across diverse sectors in pursuit of a sustainable navigation workforce. Her own experience as a two-time cancer survivor fuels her passion for community-informed and action-oriented equity research.



Jennifer Bires, LCSW, OSW-C

Jennifer Bires, LCSW, OSW-C, is the Executive Director of Life with Cancer and Patient Experience for the Inova Schar Cancer Institute (ISCI). As Executive Director, she works to ensure that patients, survivors, and their family members have access to psychosocial care at no cost to them to help individuals cope with cancer, its treatments, and survivorship in the best possible way. She specializes in working with Young Adults who have been diagnosed with cancer, communication around end of life concerns, sexual health and has over a decade of experience running groups for people impacted by cancer. She oversees the ISCI Arts and Healing program ensuring patients have access to the arts as a modality of healing and part of their treatment process. Jennifer earned her master's degree from Washington University in Saint Louis. She earned her bachelor's degree at Clemson University. She was awarded the Oncology Social Worker of the year in 2017 from the Association of Oncology Social Workers, sits on the Leadership Council for AONN+ and is the past chair for the Board of Oncology Social Work.



Lisa Simms Booth

Lisa Simms Booth has served Executive Director of the Smith Center for Healing and the Arts since 2019, the only independent, non-profit organization providing holistic, innovative health services in Washington, DC. Smith Center's mission is to provide whole-person care and support—with a focus on the unique needs of people with cancer, their caregivers, and healthcare providers — that nurtures healing and wellness through integrative and arts-based practices, programs, gallery exhibitions and community events.

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Marissa Brown, MA

Marissa Brown, MA, is the Senior Vice President for State and Local Advocacy at the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network. In this role she is responsible for directing ACS CAN's public policy advocacy across the US in addition to directing strategic planning and metrics. Prior to this role, she was the founding Executive Director at Democracy Initiative, a start-up organization energizing membership organizations on behalf of issues related to American democracy. She also served as Deputy Director of the Alliance for Justice and Vice President of Programs at League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. She earned her MA and BA from The Johns Hopkins University.



Michelle Chappell, MS

Michelle Chappell, MS, is Program Manager of the ACS National Navigation Roundtable. She is a 18 year ACS employee and her most recent role was that of Senior Manager, State Health Systems Strategic Partnerships for the North Central region in 2020. Michelle has served in various roles over the course of her career addressing health disparities. Her portfolio has included work focused on access to care, cancer screening, HPV vaccination, patient navigation and health policy. She has worked extensively with the implementation of evidence-based interventions to increase health equity and foster high quality cancer care across the cancer continuum. Michelle's work from 2020-2022 was as the Program Manager for the West Virginia Immunization Network. Michelle lives in New Cumberland, West Virginia and is a graduate of University of Maryland and the Johns Hopkins University. She is also a 14-year cancer survivor.

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Karen Costello, MSS, LSW, OSW-C

Karen Costello, MSS, LSW, OSW-C, is Strategic Director of the ACS National Navigation Roundtable. Mrs. Costello brings 30 years of experience in oncology social work, patient navigation, and administration across academic cancer centers, hospitals, and non-profit patient advocacy organizations. Mrs. Costello began her social work career with the blood and marrow transplantation team at the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania before taking on leadership roles at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She later returned to Penn as a cancer center administrator and hematology-oncology navigator, ultimately serving as a practice administrator for Penn Radiation Oncology. Most recently, she served as the Senior Director of Navigation at Cancer Support Community, where she built a global navigation program that has been acknowledged as a best practice in the field.



Andi Dwyer, MPH

Andrea (Andi) Dwyer, MPH, is the Director of the Colorado Cancer Screening Program (CCSP) at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and The Colorado School of Public Health and serves as a co-investigator on a number of dissemination and implementation science grants, particularly focusing on health equity and sustainability strategies for lung, hereditary and colorectal cancer screening. Ms. Dwyer is on the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Community Health Workers, Patient Navigators and Promotores de Salud. Andrea is the Chair of the National Navigation Roundtable, supported by the American Cancer Society and is on the Leadership Council of AONN+. Ms. Dwyer also advises Fight Colorectal, a national colorectal survivorship nonprofit, in their health promotion and research aims.



Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH

Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH, is the Research Professor at LINC Lab – Leveraging Implementation Research, Navigation and Communication for the Cancer Prevention & Control at Fox Chase Cancer Center. Dr. Fleisher also is the Co-Lead & Research Director, Tobacco Treatment Program, Co-Lead, ADACT Initiative, Stand Up To Cancer, PI, Promoting Access to Clinical Trials (PACT) – Pancreatic Cancer, Co-PI, RECONNECT: Overcoming Racial and Ethnic Inequity in Clinical Trial Enrollment via Clinical Trial Educator & Coordinator and Provider Communication Training. Dr. Fleisher also is the Tobacco Treatment Program Co-Lead, ADACT Initiative, Stand Up To Cancer at Fox Chase Cancer Center and at the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences College of Public Health Temple University. She was the Project Director and Principal Investigator for the NCI’s Cancer Information Service in the tri-state area for over 17 years, serving over ½ million callers with in-depth information and resources addressing the continuum of cancer prevention, risk, detection, treatment and survivorship. She also founded Fox Chase Cancer Center’s Patient Resource Education Center in 2000, which is one of the first multi-media patient education programs at a comprehensive cancer center, serving over 30,000 people.

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Katie Garfield, JD

Katie Garfield, JD, is the Director of Whole Person Care and a Clinical Instructor for the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School. In this role, Katie leads the Center's initiatives focused on better equipping the US health care system to effectively identify, respond to, and pay for interventions that address patient health-related social needs. To achieve these goals, Katie and her team provide resources and technical assistance to community-based organizations, health care providers, health plans, and policymakers regarding policies related to Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement for innovative services. Katie and her team also provide TA about regulatory frameworks governing community-clinical partnerships. Katie is also a co-lead for the Policy Task Group of the National Navigation Roundtable. Prior to joining the Center, Katie was an associate at Ropes & Gray LLP. She is a licensed member of the Massachusetts Bar.



Bobby Green

Bobby Green is Co-Founder, President, and Chief Medical Officer at Thyme Care, the leading value-based cancer care partner, collaborating with payers and providers to transform the experience and outcomes for individuals living with cancer.



Natalie Jaynes

Natalie Jaynes is the Director – Strategic Planning & Facilitation at ACS. Prior to that she ran a coaching and consulting business, supporting social justice leaders. Before that she held senior leadership positions within the global human rights philanthropy, the Open Society Foundations, both in South Africa and the United States. She holds a Bachelors in Theology from the University of Pretoria, and a Master's degree in Justice and Transformation from the University of Cape Town. She is an Associate Certified Coach (ACC) through the International Coaching Federation (ICF), and holds certifications in nonviolent communication, and emotional intelligence (EQ-I 2.0; EQ-I 360).



Arif Kamal, MD, MBA, MHS, FACP, FAAHPM, FASCO

Arif Kamal, MD, MBA, MHS, FACP, FAAHPM, FASCO, is the inaugural chief patient officer for the American Cancer Society. In this role, he drives coordinated efforts to accelerate progress against cancer through the organization's patient, caregiver, and healthcare professional mission initiatives. Dr. Kamal oversees the organization's support network, patient navigation services, educational programs, patient and caregiver lodging and transportation, 24/7 contact center, digital patient support resources, and organizational efforts that impact the full cancer continuum across 20,000 global communities. He is also a practicing oncologist and palliative care physician in North Carolina and an associate professor of medicine and population health at the Duke University School of Medicine. In 2017, Dr. Kamal co-founded Prepped Health, a company that develops innovative technology solutions to educate and engage people facing serious illness and their caregivers. Dr. Kamal is active with several national professional organizations, currently serving as the president for the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine board of directors. He has published more than 225 peer-reviewed scientific articles and is recognized as an international expert in supportive oncology and palliative care. He has been a guest on Good Morning America and interviewed by The New York Times, CNN, NPR, The Washington Post, and USA Today. Dr. Kamal received his medical degree from the six-year combined B.A./M.D. program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He completed his internal medicine residency and a hospice and palliative medicine fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, and a hematology-oncology fellowship at Duke University. He holds a Master of Health Science in clinical research from Duke University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Kamal lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with his wife and two children.

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Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH

Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH, has centered his primary research interests on addressing the impact of systemic barriers, on improving access to high quality cancer diagnostics and treatments for communities most burdened with the disease. He maintains a clear focus on broadening the pathways to early diagnosis and ensuring the distribution of new treatment across populations. Dr. Lathan and his team aim to bridge the gap between research efforts in cancer therapeutics, and the realities of clinical care by developing innovative, patient focused interventions that are integrated within the clinical health care delivery system. He remains an active clinical medical oncologist, treating lung cancer patients both in the academic center and in the community.



Julie McMahon, MPH

Julie McMahon, MPH, Director of Community Health Programs at Susan G. Komen, leads national initiatives to improve cancer care access for underserved populations. She helped launch Komen's telehealth navigation model and oversees community health efforts, including workforce development for patient navigators, and connecting healthcare professionals to Komen's mission programs. With an MPH in Epidemiology from The Ohio State University and a BA in Political Science from Denison University, Julie specializes in patient-centered care, health equity, and workforce development. A passionate advocate with a personal connection to this work—both of her parents are cancer survivors—Julie received AONN+'s 2024 Ambassador Award for advancing cancer equity.

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Angelo Moore, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAAN

Angelo Moore, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAAN is the Founding Executive Director of the Center of Excellence for Integrative Health Disparities and Equity Research (CIHDER) at North Carolina A&T State University, where he leads research, funding, outreach, and partnerships to address health disparities and ensure CIHDER's sustainability. A former Director of the Office of Health Equity at Duke Cancer Institute, he developed programs to reduce cancer disparities and led community navigation efforts to improve prevention, screening, and treatment access for underserved populations. Dr. Moore also serves as an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at North Carolina A&T, Adjunct Associate Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, and contributes nationally through his work on the National Navigation Roundtable Steering Committee, the America250 Health & Wellness Advisory Council, and the National Black Nurses Association Board of Directors.



Bonny Morris, PhD, MSPH, RN

Bonny Morris, PhD, MSPH, RN, is Vice President of Navigation at the American Cancer Society, where she leads the strategy, development, and implementation of navigation programs, including ACS CARES (Community Access to Resources, Education, and Support), ACS LION (Leadership in Oncology Navigation) and the Patient Navigation Initiative capacity-building grants. Her program development and research focus on multi-level strategies that integrate digital health and patient navigation to optimize cancer care delivery. The collective goal of this work is to increase equitable access to high-quality cancer care by providing strategic patient navigation funding and program support to help overcome patient, provider, and system-level barriers. Dr. Morris leverages her multidisciplinary background to view program development and research through the lens of a clinical team member and patient advocate, considering key system and provider-level factors; an epidemiologist, focusing on rigorous study design and analyses; and a social and behavioral scientist, acknowledging the importance of community-level social determinants of health and patient-level factors impacting the cancer experience.



Krista Nelson, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW, FAPOS, FACCC

Krista Nelson, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW, FAPOS, FACCC, is an oncology social worker with Providence Cancer Institute, where she blends clinical care with programs that support patients, caregivers, and children affected by cancer. She provides individual and group support, facilitates online groups, and coordinates a program for children whose parents have cancer.

Krista is Editor-in-Chief of Oncology Issues and a recognized national speaker and author in psychosocial oncology. She is a past president of the Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) and the Association of Cancer Care Centers, and a past director for APOS, the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, and the American Clinical Social Work Association. Her leadership and compassion have been recognized with the ACS/AOSW Leadership Award (2019), Providence Social Worker of the Year (2021), and as a finalist for the Schwartz Center Compassionate Caregiver of the Year Award. She is a fellow of AOSW, ACCC, and APOS. A dedicated volunteer, Krista has led retreats for women with breast cancer, supported grieving children, served on medical relief teams in Haiti, and provides mental health care through Portland Street Medicine.

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Morgan Nestingen PhD, RN, AGCNS-BC, NEA-BC, OCN, ONN-CG

Morgan Nestingen, PhD, RN, AGCNS-BC, NEA-BC, OCN, ONN-CG, is the Executive Director of the Patient Navigation program at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she supports strategic initiatives to enhance navigation services, including outcome measurement and PIN billing implementation. With 16 years of oncology nursing experience and over a decade dedicated to oncology navigation, Dr. Nestingen is a recognized leader in the field. She has contributed to national navigation research and actively served in several professional organizations, including the Oncology Nursing Society, the National Navigation Roundtable, and the Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN+). She currently serves as Co-Chair of the AONN+ Tech and Innovation Committee and President of the Houston Area Local Navigator Network. Dr. Nestingen earned her Clinical Nurse Specialist degree and PhD from the University of Colorado. She is passionate about delivering evidence-based navigation care to improve the cancer experience for patients and families.



Belinda Paulicin, DSW, LCSW-QS, OSW-C

Belinda Paulicin, DSW, LCSW-QS, OSW-C, is Vice President of Cancer Care at the Cancer Support Community (CSC), where she leads the Cancer Support Helpline—a free, confidential resource offering emotional support, navigation, and referrals for cancer patients, caregivers, and loved ones. She also oversees Frankly Speaking About Cancer, CSC's signature education program, which provides accessible, culturally responsive cancer information. With over 20 years of experience in mental health and oncology social work, Belinda is committed to advancing equitable, patient-centered support systems that address barriers to care and empower individuals throughout the cancer experience.

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Marianne Pearson, MSW, LCSW

Marianne Pearson, MSW, LCSW, is the Vice President of Cancer Care at the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, the leading national nonprofit dedicated to ending colorectal cancer in our lifetime. In this role, Marianne is responsible for establishing, implementing, and communicating the vision, purpose, and strategic direction for Cancer Care within the organization. She guides the development and execution of evidence-based cancer prevention initiatives and patient navigation services, ensuring all programs align with the Alliance's overall strategic goals.



Kimberly Samuels, BS, ARDMS, ARRT, RT(R)(M)

Kimberly Samuels, BS, ARDMS, ARRT, RT(R)(M), is the Executive Director of the National Consortium of Breast Centers (NCBC), a national leader in interdisciplinary breast health. With over two decades of experience in healthcare leadership, she drives innovation in patient-centered care, professional certification, and equitable access to breast cancer services. A visionary strategist and passionate advocate, Kimberly is dedicated to advancing early detection, survivorship, and workforce excellence across the breast health continuum.



Shanthi Sivendran, MD, MSCR, MBA

Shanthi Sivendran, MD, MSCR, MBA, is the Senior Vice President for Cancer Care Support at the American Cancer Society (ACS), and spearheads global initiatives enhancing patient and caregiver support. With expertise spanning strategic direction, thought leadership, and patient-centered communication, she pioneers innovative approaches in cancer care delivery. Previously serving at the Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute, Dr. Sivendran brings over 12 years of experience in clinical practice, specializing in skin, breast, and sarcoma cancers. Notably, she led the development of a comprehensive skin cancer program and expanded palliative care services regionally. Dr. Sivendran holds an undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University and a medical degree from University College Dublin School of Medicine. She completed her residency at Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center and fellowship at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Complementing her medical expertise, she holds a Master of Science in Clinical Research and an MBA from Isenberg School of Management



Carmen Stokes, PhD, FNP-BC, RN, CNE

Carmen Stokes, PhD, FNP-BC, RN, CNE, is the Nurse Navigator for the SM Gavini Center for Cancer Prevention housed in the Henry Ford Health System in Michigan. She holds the LIONS navigator certification through the American Cancer Society. Dr. Stokes has been a Registered Nurse for over 31 years and Board Certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner for the past 25 years. She spent twenty-one years in the academy, employed as a full time Associate Professor of Nursing, committed to education, research, and underserved communities. Dr. Stokes is a nationally Certified Nurse Educator and holds a research based PhD degree in Educational Studies. Currently Dr. Stokes sits on the ACS's National Navigator Round Table (NNRT) as a Steering Committee Member, as well as the workforce development and public awareness & communication subcommittees. She also serves as a Board Member for the Michigan Cancer Consortium, Operation Breast Density, and most recently appointed to NorthStar Hospice's Board, serving on the Evaluation Committee (previously Hospice of Michigan). [Although her research, education and expertise encompass both depth and breadth, she considers herself an avid learner who approaches patient & community engagement with excitement.]Dr. Stokes is passionate about navigation and education- specifically navigating and educating patients & families to improve their health outcomes through access, knowledge and information.

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Tricia Strusowski, MS, RN

Tricia Strusowski, MS, RN, has over 40 years of experience in the oncology field. She has worked in a variety of roles, including an oncology nurse, nurse manager, case management, and clinical director overseeing a multitude of departments, including chemotherapy infusion, rehabilitation programs, multidisciplinary disease site centers, thoracic surgery, palliative care, oncology medical home program, wellness programs, navigation, survivorship, bone marrow coordinators, and FACT accreditation program. Her passion is in patient and family-centered care in the oncology landscape. In conjunction with serving on multiple advisory boards, she implemented fifteen multidisciplinary cancer centers, including breast, lung, head and neck, pancreatic, and other tumor site-specific teams. Mrs. Strusowski puts this rich work history to practice within private practices, hospitals, and health systems nationwide. She has published and presented nationally. Chair the Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigators (AONN+) Navigation Metrics Subcommittee, co-chair of the AONN+ Navigation Acuity project, past co-chair of the ACS National Navigation Roundtable Evidence-Based Promising Practice Committee and participated in the Biden Cancer Initiative for Patient Navigation. She was recently awarded the 2023 Academy of Oncology Nurse and Patient Navigator Lillie D. Shockney Lifetime Achievement Award.



Linnea Van Pelt, RN, BSN, OCN

Linnea Van Pelt, RN, BSN, OCN, has been an oncology nurse for 15 years and a UNC Tar Heel for over 20. She champions whole-person care, focusing on both patients and the caregivers who support them. Linnea leads a diverse team of oncology navigators, educators, social workers, administrators, and integrative bodywork professionals—all working to enhance the cancer care experience. A Midwest transplant now rooted in North Carolina, Linnea lives with her husband Jeff and their children, Eva and Ethan. This fall, they'll welcome a new family member: a facility dog who will join Linnea at work as UNC's first full-time oncology therapy dog.