

2026 ASPIRE Conference Bios



Yinghong Wang, MD, PhD
Speaker

Dr. Yinghong (Mimi) Wang is a professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Deputy Division Head of Research in Internal Medicine at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She holds an MD, PhD, and MSc, with clinical training from Johns Hopkins and the Cleveland Clinic.

Since joining MD Anderson in 2017, she has advanced research in IBD, fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT), and cancer immunotherapy–related GI toxicities, gaining national recognition for her expertise.

Dr. Wang and her team have pioneered FMT for refractory immunotherapy-induced colitis since 2017, achieving 80–85% efficacy through 2026. Their work appears in *Nature Medicine* and *Science Translational Medicine*, and she has edited two books on cancer toxicities.



Kerry Reynolds, MD
Speaker

Dr. Kerry Reynolds is an oncologist at the Massachusetts General Brigham Cancer Institute and an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. She directs the Severe Immunotherapy Complications (SIC) Service and serves as program director for inpatient oncology at Mass General Brigham Hematology Oncology.

The SIC Service, the first program of its kind in the nation, evaluates all hospitalized patients at the Mass General Cancer Center who have received immunotherapy and are suspected of experiencing immune-related adverse events. The multidisciplinary team includes more than 60 clinicians and researchers across 19 specialties.

Dr. Reynolds leads research on severe immunotherapy toxicities, focusing on predictors, biomarkers, and best practices for management. She co-founded ASPIRE, an international consortium dedicated to improving care for patients experiencing immune-related adverse events.



Eric Roeland, MD
Moderator

Dr. Eric Roeland is an associate professor at Oregon Health & Science University. He is a medical oncologist and palliative care specialist whose clinical practice focuses on caring for adults with cancer who experience difficult-to-manage symptoms, including adverse events related to immunotherapy.

As director of the Knight Cancer Institute's Symptom Science Clinical Research Program, he focuses his research on characterizing symptom phenotypes and biological underpinnings to develop novel, effective clinical interventions that inform practice.

Dr. Roland also serves as chair of the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Evidence-Based Medicine Guidelines Committee for 2025-2026. He has participated in numerous industry and grant-sponsored clinical trials over the past decade and has extensive firsthand experience conducting supportive oncology clinical research.



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Alliance for Support and Prevention of Immune-Related adverse Events

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Yevgeniy Semenov, MD
Moderator

Dr. Yevgeniy Semenov is an assistant professor of Dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School and co-director of the Oncodermatology Program at MGH. A board-certified dermatologist and physician-scientist, he specializes in melanoma, oncodermatology, and immunotherapy-related toxicities.

He cares for patients with complex melanoma and advanced cancers, with expertise in cutaneous immune-related adverse events from checkpoint inhibitors and targeted therapies. He is frequently consulted nationally for challenging toxicity cases.

His research integrates clinical registries, genomics, digital pathology, and machine learning to advance precision immuno-oncology. His work focuses on mechanisms of toxicity, biomarker development, and AI-based risk prediction. He leads the NIH- and DoD-funded Dermatology Clinical Informatics Laboratory and has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications.

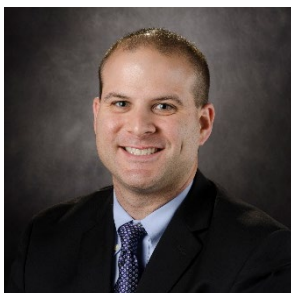


Afreen Shariff, MD
Speaker

Dr. Afreen Shariff is director of the Cancer Therapy Toxicity Program at the Duke Cancer Institute and an associate professor of medicine at Duke University. She is a recognized leader in onco-endocrinology, specializing in endocrine complications of cancer therapy and in developing AI-enabled care models that support access, equity, and improved outcomes.

She serves on the board of the Association of Cancer Care Centers, co-chairs ASCO's ASPIRE Community of Practice, founded the Onco-Endocrinology Group at the Endocrine Society, and hosts the global medical podcast *Checkpoint NOW*.

Her work also extends to digital innovation as co-founder of Citrus Oncology, an AI-enabled platform that generates clinical insights and connects patients to rapid, multidisciplinary virtual care, with planned expansion into AI-powered tools for intake and triage.



Nicolas Palaskas, MD
Speaker

Dr. Nicolas Palaskas is an associate professor of Cardiology at UT MD Anderson and deputy chair of research for the department. He completed his internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. His clinical and research work centers on immune checkpoint inhibitor myocarditis.

He has received multiple grants supporting advancements in myocarditis diagnosis and surveillance, including awards from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, the Sabin Family Foundation, and the Division of Internal Medicine. He also co-leads institutional initiatives to standardize immunotherapy toxicity research through automated data systems and longitudinal biospecimen collection.



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Lucie Heinzerling, MD
Speaker

Dr. Lucie Heinzerling is a professor and head of the Skin Cancer Center at LMU Munich, a role she has held since 2020. She previously led Dermato-Oncology at University Hospital Erlangen, served as a senior consultant at Charité in Berlin and at KSSG in Switzerland, and directed the EU health network GA²LEN.

She founded SERIO in 2011, a global immune-oncology side-effect registry with more than 100 participating centers. She has also patented multiple therapeutics and diagnostics and recently founded her own company.

Her work spans clinical leadership, research, and strategic program development. She trained in Zurich, earned her doctorate and habilitation at Charité, and focuses her research on immunotherapy mechanisms, resistance, side effects, biomarkers, and the microbiome.

She also holds an MPH from Harvard and brings extensive global health and project management experience, including work with McKinsey, J-PAL, and the World Bank.



Evan Hall, MD
Moderator

Dr. Evan Hall is an associate professor at the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle. As a medical oncologist, he cares for patients with melanoma, other skin cancers, and kidney cancer.

His research focuses on assessing and improving the quality of life for patients with cancer, particularly those receiving immunotherapy. He is also involved in clinical trials evaluating new immunotherapy treatments.



Michael Roth, MD
Moderator

Dr. Michael Roth is a professor of Pediatrics at UT MD Anderson and serves as medical director of cancer survivorship and co-director of the Adolescent and Young Adult and Childhood Cancer Survivorship programs.

He holds a national leadership role within the Children's Oncology Group, where he chairs the AYA Oncology Discipline Committee and is co-principal investigator of the group's National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program grant.

His work centers on understanding and reducing disparities in care and outcomes for adolescents and young adults diagnosed with cancer, with a focus on improving long-term health and quality of life for survivors.



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Douglas Johnson, MD
Speaker

Dr. Douglas Johnson is a professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University and director of the melanoma and precision oncology programs at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. He also serves as principal investigator of the Oncology Training Program T32 and as associate director for Translational Research, and he holds the Susan and Luke Simons Endowed Directorship.

His research aims to refine immune and targeted therapies for melanoma and other cancers by identifying biomarkers of response and resistance and improving the management of therapy-related toxicities. He leads multiple clinical trials and serves as vice chair of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Melanoma Committee.

His program is supported by philanthropic funding and grants from the National Cancer Institute, ASCO, the Melanoma Research Alliance, the Department of Defense, and the Melanoma Research Foundation.



Lidia Schapira, MD
Speaker

Dr. Lidia Schapira is a professor of Medicine at Stanford University and a medical oncologist specializing in breast cancer. She is the inaugural director of Stanford's Cancer Survivorship Program, where she leads research to improve outcomes for cancer survivors and expand survivorship care.

She has served on the Board of Directors of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society, chaired the Psychosocial Oncology Group for the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer, and led the International Development and Education Award Committee for the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

Dr. Schapira is a former associate editor of the Journal of Clinical Oncology and past editor-in-chief of Cancer.Net, ASCO's patient information website. She has authored more than 170 publications and edited two books, *Essentials of Cancer Survivorship: A Guide for Medical Professionals* and *Managing Menopause in Cancer Survivors*, both published by CRC Press. She is a Fellow of ASCO and an active contributor to global efforts to advance cancer survivorship science and education.



Deborah Collyar
Speaker

Deborah Collyar is an internationally recognized cancer survivor and advocate who founded the Patient Advocates in Research (PAIR) network to bring patient realities into health research. Drawing on her experience in technology, communication, strategy, and policy, she works across sectors to connect patients with researchers, clinicians, payers, governments, and nonprofits.

She serves on numerous boards and committees, speaks internationally, and contributes expertise across the research continuum, including clinical trials, data sharing, standards, genomics, and implementation. She has also been a faculty member for SITC's Winter School and SCION workshops.

Her work centers on integrating patient engagement into research and policy. She has trained hundreds of patient representatives and gathers meaningful patient input to guide initiatives from grassroots efforts to global programs.



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Aliyah Pabani, MD
Moderator

Dr. Aliyah Pabani is an assistant professor of Oncology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a medical oncologist at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center. She cares for patients with thoracic and squamous cell cancers and has a particular interest in immunotherapy-related toxicities.

She completed her internal medicine residency and medical oncology fellowship at the University of Alberta, pursued advanced training in thoracic oncology at Columbia University, and earned an MPH from Harvard University.

Her clinical and translational research focuses on immunotherapy-related adverse events and the use of immunotherapy in squamous cell cancers. She co-directs the Immune-Related Toxicity Team at Johns Hopkins.



Alexa Meara, MD
Moderator

Dr. Alexa Meara is an associate professor in the Division of Oncology at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and directs an Immunotherapy Management Clinic dedicated to autoimmune complications from cancer immunotherapy. Her work focuses on understanding and improving the classification and treatment of immune-related adverse events while maintaining antitumor efficacy.

She co-founded the Alliance for Support and Prevention of Immune-Related Adverse Events and launched the Foundation for Autoimmune Cancer Support, a nonprofit that elevates patient voices at the intersection of cancer and autoimmune disease.

In addition to her clinical and research roles, she teaches pre-clinical learners and serves as a Success Coach for residents and fellows through the Graduate Medical Education office.



Ajay Sheshadri, MD
Speaker

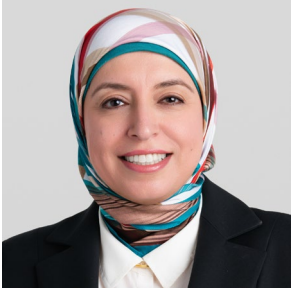
Dr. Ajay Sheshadri is an associate professor of Pulmonary Medicine at UT MD Anderson, where he specializes in complications of cancer therapies, particularly drug-induced pneumonitis. His work integrates clinical care with research in obstructive airway diseases and advanced imaging.

He received a K23 Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health to apply quantitative imaging to lung-disease phenotyping, including bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome after stem cell transplantation. He also developed an early screening and intervention program for patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitors at UT MD Anderson to better understand the earliest features of pneumonitis.

As part of the core team that manages immune checkpoint inhibitor pneumonitis, he leads studies to define clinical risk factors and develop radiomic and clinical prediction models across treatment settings. His current research examines how interstitial lung diseases increase the risk of pneumonitis, using human genomics, blood and lung biomarkers, and preclinical models.



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**Noha Abdel-Wahab,
MD, PhD
Speaker**

Dr. Noha Abdel-Wahab is an associate professor in the Department of Rheumatologic and Immunologic Diseases and holds a dual appointment in the Department of Cancer Sciences, where she is part of the Global Center for Immunotherapy and Precision Immuno-Oncology at the Cleveland Clinic. She is also an associate staff member at the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi Cancer Institute, where she contributes to clinical care, research, and international program development. She chairs the Immuno-Oncology Toxicity Working Group within the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology.

She also holds adjunct appointments as an associate professor of General Internal Medicine at UT MD Anderson and as a tenured associate professor of Rheumatology at Assiut University Faculty of Medicine in Egypt. Her work spans global efforts to advance the understanding, diagnosis, and management of immune-related toxicities in cancer care, with a focus on improving outcomes across diverse patient populations



**Nazli Dizman, MD
Panelist**

Dr. Nazli Dizman is a third-year Hematology/Oncology fellow specializing in genitourinary cancers and microbiome-focused translational research at UT MD Anderson. Her work centers on microbiome-based biomarker development and microbiome-directed interventions to improve immunotherapy outcomes, including live biotherapeutics and dietary interventions.

She will join Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in July 2026 as a genitourinary oncologist.



**Shantanu Solanki, MD
Panelist**

Dr. Shantanu Devanand Solanki is a third-year gastroenterology and hepatology fellow at UT MD Anderson has a background in public health. He completed the public health program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and his internal medicine residency at Westchester Medical Center.

He practiced as an internist in rural Pennsylvania and New Jersey before pursuing subspecialty training in gastroenterology. After completing his fellowship, he will join a private practice on the East Coast.



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Tanvi Gupta, MD
Panelist

Dr. Tanvi Gupta is a chief medical resident and clinical instructor in Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 2022 and completed her internal medicine residency at UTHealth Houston. She will begin a gastroenterology fellowship at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

During residency, she worked with Dr. Yinghong Wang at UT MD Anderson, studying immune checkpoint inhibitor–related toxicities. Her professional interests include curriculum innovation, leadership development, and medical education.



Raakhi Menon, DO
Panelist

Dr. Raakhi Menon is a fourth-year internal medicine chief resident at University of Texas Medical Branch and will begin a gastroenterology fellowship at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center this year. She is interested in advancing research on immune-mediated gastrointestinal toxicities, with a focus on improving patient care and outcomes.

She is particularly committed to strengthening inpatient GI care through specialized expertise and looks forward to collaborating with colleagues at ASPIRE–IOTOX.



Krista Rubin
Panelist

Krista Rubin is a nurse practitioner in the Center for Melanoma and Cutaneous Oncology at the Massachusetts General Brigham Cancer Institute. With more than 30 years of oncology nursing experience, she specializes in caring for patients with melanoma and other complex skin cancers receiving immune and targeted therapies, focusing on recognizing and managing immune-related adverse events.

She co-chairs the ASPIRE Advanced Practice Provider and Pharmacist group and serves as the “Ask a Skin Cancer Nurse” expert for the AIM at Skin Cancer Foundation, where she also hosts the *Skin Cancer and You* webinar series. She previously led the Melanoma Nurse Initiative and has contributed extensively to patient education and support programs.

Rubin serves on the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer’s Cutaneous Melanoma Immunotherapy Guidelines Committee and is part of Mass General’s Severe Immunotherapy Toxicity Service. She is also a long-time co-course director for the Mass General/Harvard Medical School Annual Immunotherapy Update CME program.



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**Alice Saji, DNP
Panelist**

Alice Saji has more than 29 years of nursing experience and has spent over a decade at UT MD Anderson in Gastroenterology and Hepatology. She serves as an advanced practice provider and patient safety and quality officer, specializing in acute GI and liver conditions with a focus on immune checkpoint inhibitor–related toxicities. She has presented her work at local and national conferences.

She is chair-elect of the APRN Education Committee, co-chair of the AANP GI Subcommunity for 2025–27, and a member of the ACG APP Education and Mentor Committee. Her DNP project evaluated the implementation of an immunotherapy-toxicity GI service to improve outcomes for immune-mediated diarrhea and colitis. She has received multiple awards recognizing excellence in nursing, education, and community service.



**Pauline Funchain, MD
Speaker**

Dr. Pauline Funchain is an associate professor in the Division of Oncology at Stanford University, specializing in melanoma medical oncology, immunotherapy toxicities, and hereditary cancer genetics. She co-directs the Immunotherapy Toxicity (IOTOX) Working Group and serves as associate director for Cancer Research Training and Education at the Stanford Cancer Institute, as well as associate program director for the Hematology/Oncology fellowship.

Nationally, she co-chairs the American Society of Clinical Oncology's guidelines panel on immune-related adverse events and co-founded the Alliance for the Support and Prevention of Immune-Related Adverse Events (ASPIRE), which she continues to lead.



**Namrata Singh, MD
Speaker**

Dr. Namrata Singh is a board-certified adult rheumatologist in the Division of Rheumatology at the University of Washington. Prior to this, she served on the faculty at the University of Iowa, where she also earned a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation, and completed her rheumatology fellowship at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Her work centers on the emerging field of onco-geri-rheumatology, caring for patients—especially older adults—with rheumatic diseases who develop cancer or experience complications from cancer therapies.

She is supported by a NIAMS K23 award and a GEMSSTAR grant from the NIA, through which she is building an evidence base to guide care for this complex and growing patient population.

