

## AACR COVID-19 and Cancer Task Force Bios

---

**Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD, FAACR**, *Task Force Chairperson, University of California Los Angeles Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center*



Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD, is Professor of Medicine, Professor of Surgery, and Professor of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), Director of the Tumor Immunology Program at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC), and the Chair of the Melanoma Committee at SWOG. Dr. Ribas trained at the University of Barcelona, with postdoctoral research and clinical fellowships at UCLA. Dr. Ribas is a physician-scientist who conducts laboratory and clinical research in malignant melanoma, focusing on gene engineered adoptive cell transfer (ACT) therapies, anti-CTLA4 antibodies, anti-PD-1 antibodies, BRAF and MEK inhibitors and nanoparticle-siRNA.

His National Cancer Institute (NCI), State of California, and private foundation-supported research laboratory develops models of disease to test new therapeutic options and studies mechanism of action of treatments in patients. He has been instrumental in the clinical development of several agents approved by the FDA, including pembrolizumab (Keytruda), vemurafenib (Zelboraf), cobimetinib (Cotellic), dabrafenib (Tafinlar) and trametinib (Mekinist). He is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation (ASCI), the recipient of the AACR Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Award, and a NCI Outstanding Investigator Award.

**Dafna Bar-Sagi, PhD, FAACR**, *New York University Langone Medical Center*



Dafna Bar-Sagi, PhD, was named senior vice president and vice dean for science, chief scientific officer of NYU Langone Health in summer 2011. In these roles, she serves as the principal strategist to advance the NYU Langone's research enterprise. Additionally, Dr. Bar-Sagi oversees all clinical, translational, and basic science operations, graduate education, and administration for the research enterprise through the Office of Science and Research. She also manages research IT, space allocation, finance, and research compliance.

Dr. Bar-Sagi is a world-renowned cancer biologist whose research has had a major impact on the understanding of mechanisms that control tumor initiation and progression. The focus of her work is the Ras oncogene and its role in the regulation of cell proliferation and survival, tumor immunity, cellular metabolism, and cell-to-cell signaling. Dr. Bar-Sagi holds the academic titles of full professor in both the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology and the Department of Medicine at NYU Langone. Prior to joining NYU Langone in 2006 as chair of the Department of Biochemistry, she headed the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook. Dr. Bar-Sagi earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from Bar-Ilan University, Israel, and her PhD from SUNY at Stony Brook.

## **John M. Carethers, MD, *University of Michigan***



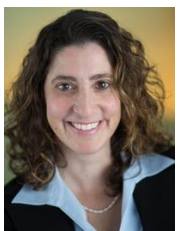
John M. Carethers, MD, received his BS degree in Biological Sciences with a minor in Chemistry from Wayne State University, and his MD with high distinction from the same institution. Dr. Carethers did his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by a fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of Michigan. He was then recruited to the University of California San Diego where he researched DNA mismatch repair and colorectal cancer pathogenesis, saw medicine and gastroenterology patients, including serving as the main physician for hereditary colon cancer referrals in Southern California. He served in leadership roles including the gastroenterology fellowship director, the gastroenterology Section Chief for the San Diego VA Hospital, then Division Chief for UC San Diego before being recruited to the University of Michigan as Chair of Internal Medicine. He was the founding Director of the NIH-funded UCSD Gastroenterology Center grant and was the director of the gastroenterology T32 training grant. Dr. Carethers also has interests in colorectal cancer disparities as it relates to genetics and outcomes. He is the former PI of the SDSU/UCSD Cancer Center Comprehensive Partnership U54 grant, which addresses cancer disparities. He has published over 200 manuscripts and book chapters. He recently completed the role of Senior Associate Editor for *Gastroenterology*, the highest impact GI journal. He completed a 2-year term on the National Commission for Digestive Diseases, a U.S. Congressional Commission, after his appointment by Elias Zerhouni, MD, then-Director of the NIH. He was elected a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians (AAP), and serves on the AAP Council and was elected President in 2018. He was elected a member of the National Academy of Medicine in 2012 and elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2016. He was named the C. Richard Boland Distinguished University Professor at the University of Michigan as of September 2017.

## **Melissa Cushing, MD, *Weill Cornell Medicine***



Melissa Cushing, MD, received her MD from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 2001. She completed clinical pathology residency at Emory University School of Medicine in 2005. She finished her training with a fellowship in Transfusion Medicine and Cellular Therapy at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 2006. Dr. Cushing joined the faculty at Weill Cornell Medical College in October 2006. She is Director of Transfusion Medicine and Cellular Therapy.

## **Gypsyamber D'Souza, PhD, MPH, *Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health***



Gypsyamber D'Souza, PhD, MPH, is a cancer epidemiologist and Professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was involved in discovering the association of human papillomavirus (HPV) and oropharyngeal cancer and has made contributions to our understanding of oral HPV infection, transmission and natural history as well as the epidemiology of HPV-related cancer.

Dr. D'Souza's work focuses on the epidemiology of oral HPV infection and how to understand and communicate about risk of oral HPV infection and related cancers. Her work has translational impact for social dynamics of current patients with HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer and their families, and informs cancer screening and prevention efforts.

**Keith T. Flaherty, MD, *Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School***



Keith T. Flaherty, MD, holds the positions of Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Director of the Termeer Center for Targeted Therapy, and Director of Clinical Research at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. The goal of Dr. Flaherty's research is to understand the molecular and clinical consequences of inhibiting oncogenes and oncogenic pathways in melanoma, while establishing individual therapeutic approaches and constructing rational combinatorial therapies. A pioneer in developing targeted therapies matched to the genetic characteristics of a patient's tumor, Dr. Flaherty led early clinical trials on the development of vemurafenib and trametinib and the dabrafenib/trametinib combination.

**Susan M. Galbraith, MBBCh, PhD, *AstraZeneca***



Susan Galbraith, MBBCh, PhD, has over 20 years' experience in drug discovery and development with a background as a Clinical Oncologist. Dr. Galbraith trained in medicine at Manchester and Cambridge Universities, was admitted to the Royal College of Physicians in 1992, and then trained in Clinical Oncology in London. Dr. Galbraith gained a Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists in 1997 and completed a PhD at the University of London involving translational work on a vascular-targeting agent. In 2017, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Medical Science from the Institute of Cancer Research, and in 2018 was admitted to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Dr. Galbraith moved from medicine to industry in 2001, to Bristol-Myers Squibb where she held increasing levels of responsibility becoming Vice President for the Clinical Discovery Oncology & Immunology and Clinical Biomarkers groups.

Dr. Galbraith joined AstraZeneca in 2010 as Head of Oncology in the IMED Biotech Unit. Since joining, four programmes have moved into Phase 3 trials; and two are now approved in many countries around the world.

In addition to her role at AstraZeneca, Dr. Galbraith co-leads the Cambridge Cancer Centre Onco-Innovation group, connecting Cambridge scientists to the biotech and pharmaceutical companies in the region. She is the current Chair of the Board at Definiens AG, a Non-Executive on the Board of Horizon Discovery PLC, and on the Scientific Advisory Board of the ICR Cancer Research Centre of Excellence; and she serves on the AACR Finance Committee and the AACR Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee.

**Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, FAACR, *Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins University***



Elizabeth M. Jaffee, MD, is an international leader in the development of immune based therapies for pancreatic and breast cancers. In 1981, she graduated magna cum laude from Brandeis University before receiving her medical degree from New York Medical College. From 1985-1988 she completed her medical residency at Presbyterian-University Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, and subsequently received a National Institutes of Health Research Training Grant as a research fellow and principal investigator at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Jaffee came to the Johns Hopkins University in 1989 as Senior Clinical Oncology Fellow. In 1992, she joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of Oncology.

Since her arrival at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Jaffee has become a renowned oncology researcher and co-director of both the Cancer Immunology Program and the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program. She also established Cell Processing and Gene Therapy cGMP Facility. She is the first recipient of the Dana and Albert "Cubby" Broccoli Professorship in Oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, and also holds a professorship in Pathology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 2015, Dr. Jaffee was appointed deputy director of the Kimmel Cancer Center. Dr. Jaffee is also the co-director of the Skip Viragh Center for Pancreas Cancer Clinical Research and Patient Care. In 2007, she was appointed deputy director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, and has also served as chair of the Clinical Research Committee at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Jaffee currently serves as chair of the National Cancer Advisory Board. Dr. Jaffee has also served as a member of the NCI Board of Scientific Counselors and the RAID NCI Program Oversight Committee. She is co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Panel for Vice President Joe Biden's National Cancer Moonshot Initiative. In addition, she is on the scientific advisory council for the Cancer Research Institute and Team Leader of the Stand Up To Cancer-Lustgarten Foundation Dream Team: Transforming Pancreatic Cancer to a Treatable Disease.

### **Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, *Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Health***



Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, is the third director of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) at Jefferson Health, an NCI-Designated Cancer Center since 1995. She was appointed enterprise director in January 2015 after having served as the deputy director and the founding member of the SKCC Prostate Cancer Program.

Prior to taking on the directorship, Dr. Knudsen also served as the vice provost of Thomas Jefferson University, overseeing basic and clinical research at all six schools within the university. In addition to cancer center leadership, Dr. Knudsen serves as chair of the Department of Cancer Biology for Thomas Jefferson University, and holds the Hilary Koprowski Endowed Professorship. Given her translational research, Dr. Knudsen holds joint appointments in the departments of medical oncology, urology, and radiation oncology. Dr. Knudsen's translational laboratory is highly active and focuses on cell cycle and DNA repair regulation in prostate cancer. Her laboratory has generated discoveries that contributed to practice-changing clinical trials, including those targeting DNA repair defective cancers. At present, four investigator-initiated clinical trials have been activated based on discoveries in the Knudsen Laboratory.

Dr. Knudsen received her BS in Biology from the George Washington University, and her PhD from the University of California at San Diego, where she focused on cell cycle checkpoint control. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship training with Webster K. Cavenee studying hormone action and the impact of cell cycle dysregulation on prostate cancer progression. Dr. Knudsen served as tenured faculty at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine prior to recruitment to Thomas Jefferson University in 2007.

### **Jean-Charles Soria, MD, PhD, *Institut Gustave Roussy***



Jean-Charles Soria, MD, PhD, is General Director of the Institut Gustave Roussy. Dr. Soria trained as a medical oncologist and obtained the Silver medal from Paris Medical School in 1997. He gained a PhD in the fundamental basis of oncogenesis in 2001, and completed his training with a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Thoracic Head and Neck Medical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA, where he also held an adjunct professorship.

He was also an elected member of the Oncology Section of the National University Council for three years and was the Director of the Gustave Roussy SIRIC Socrate (Integrated Cancer Research Site) over 5 years (2012-2017). He studied health management at the Harvard Business School in 2017-2018. Over the last three years, Professor Soria has appeared on the list of the most influential research scientists in the world (Web of Science Group's highly cited researchers). He is author or co-author of more than 630 articles in leading international journals.

Prior to becoming General Director, Soria was Senior Vice-President, Research & Development in Oncology, with AstraZeneca in Gaithersburg, Maryland, United States, where he led research teams responsible for strategy and for development of new agents in immuno-oncology, cell therapy, and conjugated antibodies.

**Avrum E. Spira, MD, *Johnson & Johnson and Boston University***



Avrum Spira, MD, is the Global Head of the Lung Cancer Initiative (LCI) at Johnson & Johnson, which is developing solutions to prevent, intercept, and cure lung cancer. Practicing medicine for more than 20 years, Dr. Spira leads a team of dedicated industry leaders and medical professionals focused on developing novel technologies and approaches that support earlier lung cancer detection and treatment.

In addition to leading the LCI at Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Spira is an attending physician in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Boston University-Boston Medical Center (BMC) and is a Professor of Medicine, Bioinformatics and Pathology at Boston University. He also serves as the Alexander Graham Bell Professor in Health Care Entrepreneurship at Boston University. Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson, he was the Director of the Boston University-BMC Cancer Center and was the founding Chief of the Division of Computational Biomedicine at Boston University.

Since his 2003 appointment to the BU faculty, Dr. Spira has built a translational research program that focuses on genomic alterations associated with smoking-related lung disease, leading to a molecular test for the early detection of lung cancer that has successfully translated into the clinic (Percepta™) as well as a novel therapeutic for COPD that is in preclinical development. Additionally, Dr. Spira has served as Principle Investigator on grants from three institutes at the NIH (NHLBI, NCI, and NIEHS) as well as the Department of Defense, and currently leads the Stand Up To Cancer Lung Cancer Interception Dream Team. He has authored more than 140 peer-reviewed publications, was elected as a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) in 2010, and serves as a member of the Association of American Physicians (AAP) as of 2017. Dr. Spira obtained his MD from McGill University in Montreal, and completed his Internal medicine residency at the University of Toronto and his fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at BMC. During his fellowship, Dr. Spira obtained a master's degree in Bioinformatics from Boston University.

**David A. Tuveson, MD, PhD, FAACR, *Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Cancer Center and Lustgarten Foundation***



David A. Tuveson, MD, PhD, completed his BS in chemistry at M.I.T., an MD-PhD at Johns Hopkins, medical residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and a medical oncology fellowship at Dana-Farber/Harvard. While training, Dr. Tuveson co-developed KIT inhibitors with George Demetri, MD, for gastrointestinal stromal tumors, and Kras-dependent mouse cancer models with Dr. Tyler Jacks. At the University of Pennsylvania, his lab generated the first mouse models of ductal pancreatic cancer, and at the University of Cambridge they identified new therapies. At Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, his lab developed organoid models of pancreatic cancer with Hans Clevers, MD, PhD, enabling basic discoveries and clinical findings including signatures of "common responders" to chemotherapy. Dr. Tuveson is the chief scientist of the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research, Cancer Center director and Roy J. Zuckerberg professor at CSHL, and serves on the Board of Scientific Advisors of the NCI, the Scientific Advisory Committee of SU2C, and the Board of Directors of AACR. His honors include the Rita Allen, Waldenstrom, and Hamdan Awards.

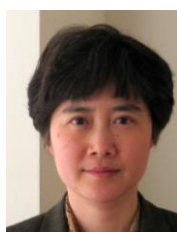
## **E. John Wherry, PhD, *University of Pennsylvania***



John Wherry, PhD, is the Barbara and Richard Schiffrin President's Distinguished Professor, Chair of the Department of Systems Pharmacology and Translational Therapeutics in the Perelman School of Medicine and Director of the UPenn Institute for Immunology. Dr. Wherry's research has focused on pioneering work to define the cellular and molecular nature of Immune Exhaustion – or failure of normal immune system function – in chronic infection and cancer. His work helped identify the role of the “checkpoint” molecule PD-1 and the ability to block this pathway and reinvigorate the immune function from exhausted T cells. He also has identified novel combinations of immune treatments

including one of the first to demonstrate the efficacy of co-inhibitory receptor blockade that may be future therapeutics for cancer and infections. His laboratory has also been a pioneer in using transcriptomics, high dimensional cytometry, and systems immunology approaches to study immune oncology, human vaccine responses and human infectious disease. Ongoing work in his laboratory focuses on epigenetics of exhausted T cells and other immune cells, systems immunology approaches, vaccine responses and respiratory infections.

## **Helen X. Chen, MD, *National Cancer Institute (Ex Officio)***



Helen X. Chen, MD, joined the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) of National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2000. She currently serves as Associate Chief of the Investigational Drug Branch (IDB) Section III, which focuses on the clinical development of antibody-based therapeutics, active immunotherapies, MAPK and RTK inhibitors, and antiangiogenic agents. She is also involved in NCI's efforts on novel agent combinations and is member of the NCI Experimental Therapeutics Committee.

Dr. Chen graduated from the Shanghai First Medical College of the Fudan University in China. She is board-certified in Medical Oncology after completing the Fellowship Training at Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington D.C. Dr. Chen also serves on external scientific committees including the International Symposium of Anti-angiogenic Therapies and Immunotherapy and the FDA-ASCO-AACR-sponsored Accelerating Anticancer Agent Development and Validation Workshop. She has presented at national and international meetings on strategies of combining novel and targeted agents, early drug development as well as antibody-based therapeutics and antiangiogenic therapies. She is the first or coauthor of over 50 original and review papers in peer-reviewed journals including Journal of Clinical Oncology, Nature Reviews, and New England Journal of Medicine.

## **James H. Doroshow, MD, *National Cancer Institute (Ex Officio)***



Dr. James H. Doroshow has been the Director of Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute, since 2004, and Deputy Director for Clinical and Translational Research of the National Cancer Institute since 2011. From 1983 to 2004, Dr. Doroshow was the Chairman of the City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center's Department of Medical Oncology and Therapeutics Research. From the time of his first research grant in 1980, Dr. Doroshow was continuously funded by NCI until he moved to the NIH in 2004. He is the author of over 400 full-length publications in the areas of reactive oxygen metabolism and oxidant signaling, anticancer pharmacology, and novel therapeutic approaches to solid tumors. Dr. Doroshow served from 1987-1992 as a member and then Chair of the

NIH Experimental Therapeutics II Study Section; from 1995-2001 as a member of the Subspecialty Board on Medical Oncology of the American Board of Internal Medicine; from 1999-2000 as Chair of NCI's Scientific Review Group A-Cancer Centers; from 2004-2007 as a member of the FDA's Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee; and in 2013 as Co-Chair of the NIH Clinical Trials Working group. He is currently a member of the Institute of Medicine's Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation; an Associate Editor of the 5th Edition of Abeloff's Clinical Oncology (2014); and the Oncology Editor of the 25th Edition of the Cecil Textbook of Medicine (2015). Dr. Doroshow received his bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Harvard College in 1969 and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1973. After completing an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, he spent three years (1975-78) performing his fellowship in Medical Oncology on the Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology Branches of the NCI.

**Marc Theoret, MD, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Ex Officio)**



Marc Theoret, MD, is a medical oncologist and serves as the Acting Associate Director of Immunology Therapeutics in the Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE), FDA, and the Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Oncologic Diseases. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Moravian College and his medical degree from the Penn State College of Medicine. Dr. Theoret subsequently completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston followed by fellowship training in Hematology/Oncology at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda. While a medical student as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute-National Institutes of Health (NIH) Medical Student Research Fellow and subsequently during fellowship training, he performed basic and clinical research in the Surgery Branch, NCI, to investigate novel immunotherapeutic strategies to treat patients with melanoma and other advanced solid tumors. Dr. Theoret remains actively engaged in clinical research at the NCI Genitourinary Malignancies Branch. Prior to his current role at FDA, Dr. Theoret has served as primary medical officer, clinical team leader of the Melanoma-Sarcoma team, and scientific liaison for melanoma in the Office of Oncologic Diseases (formerly the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. His regulatory research interests include evaluation of novel endpoints for development in oncology.

**Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), American Association for Cancer Research (Ex Officio)**



Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), is the chief executive officer of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the first and largest cancer research organization in the world. Under her visionary leadership, membership has grown from about 3,000 members to over 47,000 in 127 countries and territories, and the AACR's portfolio of peer-reviewed scientific journals increased from one to nine. Dr. Foti progressed through several key editorial and management roles in scientific publishing to become chief executive officer. She launched eight major peer-reviewed scientific journals: Blood Cancer Discovery, Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention; Clinical Cancer Research; Molecular Cancer Therapeutics; Molecular Cancer Research; Cancer Prevention Research; Cancer Discovery; and Cancer Immunology Research. She also helped launch Cancer Today, a magazine for cancer patients, survivors, and their families and caregivers, as well as a new AACR publication, titled Leading Discoveries.

A graduate of Temple University, Dr. Foti is one of the most influential voices in advancing the field of cancer research, both in the United States and abroad. She was elected president of three professional societies in scholarly publishing and in cancer research. She has also served as a board member, committee member, and consultant to a number of other nonprofit organizations. There is a legacy of young women, minority scientists, and investigators-in-training whose careers have been advanced as a result of her mentorship and support.