



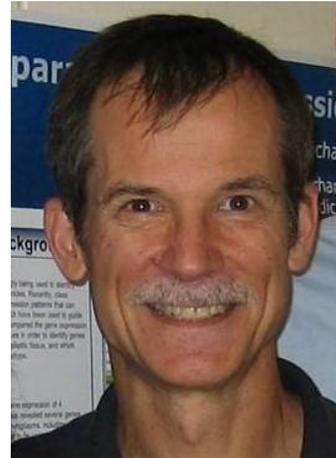
Speaker Biographies

Second Chordoma Community Conference
June 26-28, 2009

David Alcorta, PhD

Donor Dollars at Work: Funded Research Presentation

David Alcorta is a Ph.D research scientist that joined Dr. Kelley's laboratory in August 2008 at Duke University and the Veterans administration Hospital. He is partially supported by funds from the Chordoma foundation. In April 2009, will be funded for the next 4 years under a Veterans Administration Merit Award grant to Dr. Kelley on the study of chordoma. Dr. Alcorta was trained as a basic science cancer cell biologist. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University and post-doctoral training at Harvard University. He has over 25 years of experience in cellular/molecular cancer biology and autoimmunity.



Christopher Austin, M.D.

High Throughput Drug Screening for Chordoma

Dr. Christopher Austin is Director of the NIH Chemical Genomics Center (NCGC) and Senior Advisor to the Director for Translational Research at the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). NCGC, part of the NIH Roadmap Molecular Libraries initiative, develops small-molecule probes for biological functions and new paradigms for high-throughput screening, chemistry, and cheminformatics. In his role as Senior Advisor for Translational Research, he initiated the Knockout Mouse Project, which is producing knockout mice for all mouse genes, and an in-depth transcriptome map of the mouse. Dr. Austin came to NIH from Merck and Co., where he directed research programs in genomics-based target discovery, pharmacogenomics, and DNA microarray technologies, with a focus on neuropsychiatric diseases. Dr. Austin received his A.B. from Princeton University and M.D. from Harvard University. He did clinical training in neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by a fellowship in genetics at Harvard.



Wayne Beyer, PhD

Banking on a Cure – the process of establishing a biobank

Wayne Beyer received his Ph.D. specializing in Inorganic and BioAnalytical Chemistry. Since then, he has been involved in the Medical Devices, Diagnostics and Therapeutics areas for the past 20 years. He has worked for a Fortune 500 device/diagnostics company and helped launch and consult for several Biotechnology start-up companies nationally and in the Research Triangle, North Carolina area. He served as Director of Rare Reagent Development and Proteomics Research at a small Oncology Venture specializing in Women's health and later as Vice President of Biological Chemistry at a Medical Device Company. He works with the Duke Translational Research Institute facilitating "bench to bedside" discoveries rapidly to first in man studies, is an Adjunct Professor of Pathology at Duke University Medical Center and his work with the Chordoma Foundation is funded through a generous grant provided through the Duke Institute of Genome Sciences and Policy (IGSP) where he works with Dr. Robert Cook-Deegan as a Senior Research Fellow.



Carolyn Compton, MD, PhD

Banking on a Cure

Dr. Carolyn Compton is the Director of the Office of Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research (OBBR) and the Acting Director of the Office of Technology and Industrial Relations (OTIR) within the Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives at the NCI Office of the Director. In these capacities, she has oversight responsibility for strategic initiatives that include the Biospecimen Research Network, the Human Biobank (caHUB) project, the Clinical Proteomics Technologies for Cancer program, the Nanotechnology Alliance, the Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies for Cancer program, The Cancer Genome Atlas project and the NCI Community Cancer Centers pilot project. She is an adjunct Professor of Pathology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.



She came to the NCI from McGill University where she had been the Strathcona Professor and Chair of Pathology and the Pathologist-in-Chief of McGill University Health Center from 2000-2005. Prior to this, she had been a Professor of Pathology Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was the Director of Gastrointestinal Pathology for 15 years. She received her MD and PhD in degrees from Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She trained in both Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Compton has held several national and international leadership positions including the Chair of the Cancer Committee of the College of American Pathologists, Chair of the Pathology Committee of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B, and Executive Committee of the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. She is a member of the ASCO Cancer Research Committee and chairs the Biospecimens Committees of the Interagency Oncology task Force and the AACR-NCI-FDA Biomarkers Collaborative. She is the Chair of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC).

She serves on the editorial boards of Cancer, the Journal of Clinical Proteomics, Cell Preservation Technology, the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, and the ASCO Compendium, among others. She has been the lead pathologist on more than 16 national clinical cancer trials in the US. She has published more than 500 original scientific papers, reports, review articles, books and abstracts.

Paul Gardner, MD

Expert panel: Skull Base Surgery

Paul A. Gardner, MD, joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh Department of Neurological Surgery in 2008 after completing his residency and fellowship training at the University of Pittsburgh program. He completed his undergraduate studies at Florida State University, majoring in biochemistry, and received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Gardner completed a two-year fellowship with Amin Kassam, MD, focusing on endoscopic endonasal pituitary and skull base surgical techniques. His research has focused on evaluating patient outcomes following these surgeries.

In April of 2008, Dr. Gardner was named co-director of the skull base program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. His specialties include endoscopic endonasal skull base surgery; pituitary tumors; minimally invasive surgery; peripheral nerve surgery and neurooncology.



Laura Gemme

Funding the Cure

Laura Gemme has worked in nonprofits for more than 15 years, covering a spectrum of areas including fund development, operations, human resources, marketing and event management. For more than 8 years, she held various executive-level positions at the Alliance for Nonprofit Management, a DC-based national nonprofit association whose members are devoted to increasing the management capacity of nonprofits. She spent the remaining 7 years in administrative positions and consulting roles for a number of nonprofits located in Southern Florida, Southern California, and the Washington DC area. Laura has volunteered for a number of nonprofits over the years and is a supporter of the Alliance for Nonprofit Management, North Carolina Center for Nonprofits, and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. She is also a supporter of jazz, visual and performing arts, and is a contemporary figurative painter in her spare time. She loves reading, cooking, singing, drawing and painting. Laura lives in Winston Salem, North Carolina, with her daughter Gillian, partner Dusty, 3 cats and 1 rabbit.



Brigid Gutmacher, M.A., L.P.C

Holding our Hearts Together – In memory of our loved ones

Brigid Gutmacher, M.A., L.P.C., has a private practice specializing in helping individuals and families cope with illness, life transitions, and grief and loss issues. Prior to opening her practice, she worked for Capital Hospice (formerly Hospice Care of DC) in Washington, DC, as Bereavement Care Coordinator and Community Outreach and Palliative Care Counselor. Brigid has 20 years experience with hospice in DC and Vermont, as both a volunteer and a clinician. As Capital Hospice's Washington, DC Bereavement Coordinator for four years, she provided support to family members and friends of hospice patients and members of the DC community after the death of a loved one. As the Community Outreach and Palliative Care Counselor, she focused on community outreach, speaking on end-of-life issues to various groups as well as facilitating support groups for students in DC Public schools after a crisis and long-term groups centered on issues of grief and loss.



Brian Harfe, PhD

Expert panel: Developmental Biology

My undergraduate degree is from the University of Glasgow in Glasgow, Scotland. After having a lot of fun traveling all over Europe I returned to the United States and obtained a Ph.D. investigating muscle development in the nematode *C. elegans* in the laboratory of Dr. Andrew Fire (2006 Nobel Prize winner for his discovery of RNAi) at Johns Hopkins University. After obtaining my Ph.D. in 1998, I moved to Emory University and began my first postdoctoral position in the laboratory of Dr. Sue Jinks-Robertson working on DNA damage pathways in yeast. In 2000, I moved to Boston where I began my second postdoctoral position in the laboratory of Dr. Cliff Tabin at Harvard Medical School working on the molecular pathways responsible for limb formation using the mouse and chick model systems. In 2003, I became an Assistant Professor in the Molecular Genetics and Microbiology Department at the University of Florida (UF) College of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida. Currently, I am an Associate Professor (tenure) in the UF College of Medicine and Director of the Program in Developmental Genetics. My lab uses the mouse and chick model systems to investigate any area of development that either I, or someone in the lab finds interesting. Currently, projects investigating limb and intervertebral disc development are ongoing in my lab.



Marlys and Gary Johnson

Cancer Adventures: turning loss into triumph

In 2004, Gary was diagnosed with prostate cancer at a relatively young age. No worries—removing a cancerous prostate cures the disease.

On the morning of surgery, the urologist found me in the hospital waiting room and calmly explained that preliminary tests indicated cancer had spread to the lymph nodes. I sat alone, trying to process this information. We were so sure this uninvited guest would not be staying long.

Gary and I began reading as much as we could about prostate cancer. Wanting to be Radiation wasn't an option in his case, and there is no proven chemotherapy effective on slow-growing prostate cancer cells. Hormone therapy was prescribed. It doesn't cure, but buys us time.



Wanting to be as proactive as possible, we recruited a Cancer Team. Gary is the coach and I signed on as assistant coach. Our team consists of the medical professionals and treatments, physical activity, nutrition, our faith, a strong support system, stress management, a positive attitude and finding purpose.

We have a passion to share hope and practical information with other survivors and caregivers. Cancer is not anything Gary and I would ever wish on anyone, but in some peculiar way it has enhanced our marriage, our family relationships, our dreams and goals ... and we are energized to see what adventures are waiting for us around the bend.

Heather A. Lee, Ph.D.

Taking Action to Find a Cure

Heather Lee holds a Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. She currently is an Associate Professor of Human Resources and Psychology at Peace College in Raleigh. She also is a principal in the nonprofit and public sector consulting firm, Developmental Associates, LLC. Prior to joining Peace, Heather spent nearly eight years as Vice President for Human Resources at Easter Seals of North Carolina, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities. In 2002, Heather's then seven-year old son Justin was diagnosed with a clival chordoma. After four craniotomies, proton radiation and numerous chemotherapies, Justin died from metastasized chordoma in September of 2008. Justin's Journey was chronicled in an autobiographical speech he gave at the 2nd International Chordoma Research Workshop in April 2008. Heather is dedicated to the mission of the Chordoma Foundation so that fewer families have to endure the loss of a loved one to this relentless disease. Justin's legacy will be perseverance by many to find a cure.



Norbert Liebsch, MD, PhD

Expert panel: Radiation Oncology

Dr. Liebsch is an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology at the Harvard Medical School, and Associate Radiation Oncologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He received his medical education at the University of Munich, Germany, and completed residencies at Washington University Hospital in St. Louis, and the Mayo Clinical and Foundation, in Rochester, MN. He is board certified in diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology.

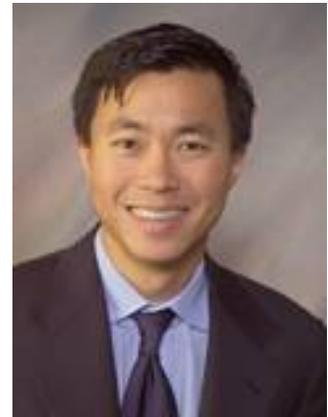


Dr. Liebsch specializes in treating adult and pediatric skull base tumors and tumors of the spine. He has published extensively on the use of proton therapy for treating chordomas and chondrosarcomas.

Deric Park, MD

Clinical Trials: What Are They, Why Participate and What's on the Horizon

Deric Minwoo Park, MD, joined the faculty of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh in July of 2008. He is a board-certified neurologist with subspecialty training in clinical neuro-oncology.



Dr. Park received his medical degree from Loma Linda University and completed neurology residency at the University of Chicago, where he was chief resident. He then trained in neuro-oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and spent one year in the laboratory of Jerome Posner. This was followed by five years as a research fellow at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Park provides care for patients with brain tumors at the Hillman Cancer Center and is the principal investigator of a research laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. He works closely with members of the department to develop new treatment strategies for patients with brain tumors and chordoma. He is a member of the scientific advisory board of the Chordoma Foundation.

Dilys Parry, PhD

Expert panel: Chordoma Genetics

Dr. Parry holds a Ph.D in Genetics from the University of Washington. She did postdoctoral Fellowships in Zoology and Genetics at the University of Texas and University of Washington. She is board certified as a Ph.D. medical geneticist by the American Board of Medical Genetics. She served as Associate Director of the Medical Genetics Training Program at theNIH from 1980-1995.



She has been involved in research at the National Cancer Institutes, National Institutes of Health since 1976. Her focus has been on determining the genetic basis of disorders that involve tumors or cancer. Her group has been studying families with two or more blood relatives with chordoma since 1996. The major goal of this research is to identify genes that are involved in the initiation of chordoma. The hope is that by identifying and studying these genes scientists will be able to develop effective therapies that are specifically for chordoma. In families with two or more relatives with chordoma, knowledge of the underlying genetic change(s) will led to genetic testing to identify individuals at high risk for chordoma and implementation of early diagnosis and treatment which should improve the long term clinical outcome.

Vijaya Ramesh, Ph.D.

Donor Dollars at Work: Funded Research Presentation

Dr. Vijaya Ramesh is an Associate Professor of Neurology (Genetics) at Harvard Medical School and an Associate Neurologist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Madras, India, and completed postdoctoral training in the laboratories of Dr. James Gusella and Dr. Vivian Shih at MGH. She is a member of the Molecular Neurogenetics Unit and the Center for Human Genetic Research at MGH. Dr. Ramesh's laboratory investigates tumor suppressor genes and their functions, particularly tumor suppressors related to neurofibromatosis 2 (NF2) and tuberous sclerosis 1 and 2 (TSC).



Chandranath Sen, MD

Expert panel: Skull Base Surgery

Born on June 21, 1954, in Barakar, India, he finished his medical education at the M.S. University in Baroda, India in 1976 and a year of Rotating Internship at its affiliated hospitals in 1977. He entered Residency training in Neurosurgery at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in the USA in 1979 and graduated in 1985. He then pursued a Fellowship in Microneurosurgery at the University of Pittsburgh under the guidance of Prof. Peter Jannetta where he met and worked closely with Prof. Laligam Sekhar. He also spent time with Prof. Alan Crockard at the National Hospital for Nervous Disorders in London, England. After completing his Fellowship, he joined the Faculty at the University of Pittsburgh as a member of the Center for Cranial Base Surgery under the leadership of Prof. Laligam Sekhar as Assistant Professor.



In 1991 he moved to the Department of Neurosurgery at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York under the Chairmanship of Prof. Kalmon Post. He advanced to the rank of Tenured Professor and Vice Chairman in 1995. In Oct 2000 he left Mount Sinai to join the St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York as Chairman. In 2004 he also assumed Chairmanship of the Beth Israel Hospitals in New York.

He has held membership in many professional and scientific societies and is a founding member of the North American Skull Base Society. His main clinical areas of interest include the surgical management of tumors at the base of the skull and microvascular decompression for the treatment of cranial nerve compression syndromes. He has taught courses and lectured nationally and internationally and has performed live surgical demonstration at many institutions internationally.

He has authored and co-authored over 80 peer reviewed papers and over 40 book chapters. He has co-authored a book "Microsurgical anatomy of the skull base and approaches to the cavernous sinus, Thieme, New York". He has conducted research in the study of i). The pathophysiology of hemifacial spasm in a rat model; ii). The origin of spinal cord evoked potentials to direct retrograde stimulation; iii). The microsurgical anatomical studies of the human skull base in cadaver dissections iv). Molecular studies of clival chordomas and cell culture studies of chordomas; v). Clinical studies on clival chordomas

Josh Sommer

The Chordoma Foundation Research Roadmap

Josh Sommer is executive director of the Chordoma Foundation, which he co-founded with his mother, Dr. Simone Sommer, after he was diagnosed with a clival chordoma in 2006. He believes that patients should play an active role in bringing about treatments for their own conditions, and that patients represent an important source of funding, energy, and know-how in the treatment development process.



Josh was a freshman at Duke University studying environmental engineering when he was diagnosed with chordoma. Soon after his diagnosis, Josh joined the lab of Dr. Michael Kelley, a Duke oncologist studying the genetic basis of chordoma, and the only federally-funded chordoma researcher. His research in Dr. Kelley's lab included cell line characterization, gene-expression microarray analysis, candidate gene knockdown using RNA interference, and in vitro drug screening. To support his work in the lab, Josh switched majors to a self-designed bioengineering curriculum focused on modeling and solving biological "problems" that lead to disease.

After finishing his junior year in May, 2008 Josh was awarded a two-year Echoing Green fellowship for social entrepreneurs, and subsequently has taken a leave of absence from Duke to lead the Chordoma Foundation with Dr. Simone Sommer. To complement his work for the Chordoma Foundation, Josh has joined Duke's Program on Global Health and Technology Access as a Fellow in Strategic Philanthropy and Health. In addition, Josh continues to participate in research in Dr. Kelley's lab, and helps coordinate collaborations with a network of chordoma researchers at other institutions around the world.

Simone Sommer, M.D., MPH

You're in the Driver's Seat: Navigating the Medical System

Simone Sommer is president of the Chordoma Foundation, which she formed after her son and best friend, Josh, was diagnosed with a chordoma in 2006. Dr. Sommer is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people affected by chordomas, and has devoted herself to bringing about effective treatments, and ultimately a cure for this disease. Under her direction, the Chordoma Foundation has initiated numerous collaborative research projects with scientists and physicians at institutions across the world. Dr. Sommer's goal is to serve as the focal point for a coordinated



international chordoma research effort. Dr. Sommer, is a graduate of George Washington University School of Medicine. She completed her internship at Duke University Medical Center and completed a Residency and Faculty Development Fellowship in Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Dr. Sommer also holds a Masters Degree in Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health. She was formerly Associate Clinical Professor at the University of North Carolina, Department of Family-Medicine and previously served as Medical Director of the Guilford County Health Department Infectious and Chronic Disease Prevention Program. She is past president of Sommer Health Services of Greensboro, North Carolina, which delivered comprehensive on-site corporate health promotion, disease prevention and targeted interventions for self-insured companies.

John Therien, JD

Taking charge of your healthcare decisions

Mr. Therien joined Smith Anderson Law Firm in November 2004 and focuses his practice on technology transactions. Mr. Therien works with both privately and publicly held companies on technology licensing and collaborations, with an emphasis on pharmaceutical, biotech and other life sciences-related transactions. Mr. Therien also regularly represents clients in the information and materials technology sectors on transactional matters. Prior to joining Smith Anderson, Mr. Therien practiced at Ropes & Gray LLP in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2001-2002, Mr. Therien clerked for Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.



Jean-Paul Wolinsky, MD

Expert panel: Spine Surgery

Dr. Jean-Paul Wolinsky received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He subsequently completed neurosurgery training at the same institution. In addition to general neurosurgical training, he gained extensive trauma experience at Ben Taub Hospital, one of the world's largest trauma hospitals. He also received specialized training in neurosurgical oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital during his residency. After his neurosurgical residency, he completed an AO Spine



fellowship in complex reconstructive spine surgery and spinal oncology at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Now an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, Dr. Wolinsky cares for patients with any neurosurgical problem. His primary neurosurgical interests lie in neurosurgical oncology, pathology of the occipital-cervical junction and complex spinal reconstruction. He has been actively developing new approaches to spinal surgery and concepts for spinal reconstruction.

Dr. Wolinsky currently sees patients at The Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center on Thursdays and The Johns Hopkins Bayview campus on Tuesdays.