

The 22nd Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference
Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Michelle Abramowski, MSN, CRNP

Ms. Abramowski received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University in 2003. In 2007, she received a Master of Science in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University and obtained her board certification as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner that same year. Abramowski has worked in pain management at Maryland General Hospital, genitourinary oncology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and palliative care/hospice at GBMC. Her interests include disease prevention through nutrition and clean living as well as palliative care and symptom management.

Patsy Astarita, LCSW-C, OSW-C

Ms. Astarita received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and her Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Maryland School of Social Work. A current member of the Association of Oncology Social Workers, Astarita is certified as an Oncology Social Worker (OSW-C). Astarita is currently the Manager of Supportive Care and Community Services at the Kaufman Cancer Center.

Kevin Cullen, MD

Kevin J. Cullen, M.D., is Director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center. Dr. Cullen, who specializes in head and neck cancer, is a professor of medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and is head of its Program in Oncology. He came to the University of Maryland in January 2004.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Cullen completed his internship and residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston and received additional training at the National Cancer Institute. He served as interim director of the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University from October 2000 to September 2002 and was professor of medicine, oncology and otolaryngology at Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Dr. Cullen's research interests include cellular factors that promote the growth of cancer and molecular mechanisms that make some cancers resistant to treatment with chemotherapy. He is the author of numerous journal publications and has served on review panels for the National Cancer Institute, the Veterans Administration Research Program, and other organizations. His honors include a special achievement award from the National Cancer Institute. Outside of the University of Maryland, Dr. Cullen serves on the external advisory boards of several NCI designated cancer centers. He has chaired two working groups for the NCI and is a member of the national board of directors of the American Cancer Society and in 2011 was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Cancer Advisory Board.

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Joanne Dorgan, PhD, MPH

Dr. Dorgan is an epidemiologist with particular expertise in molecular and nutritional epidemiology. She has a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, a M.P.H. in Nutrition from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, and a B.S. in Biology from Cornell University. She did her post-doctoral training in Cancer Prevention and Control at the National Cancer Institute.

After completing her M.P.H. in Nutrition, Dr. Dorgan worked on national nutrition policy at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She subsequently earned her Ph.D. in Epidemiology, and since that time has conducted epidemiologic research at the Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama, Maryland Medical Research Institute, the National Cancer Institute, and Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Dr. Dorgan currently is a tenured Professor in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Maryland School of Public Health. She is a co-leader of the Population Science Program, University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center. Dr. Dorgan's research focuses primarily on identifying hormonal determinants of cancer, particularly breast cancer, and hormonal mechanisms by which lifestyle, including diet and physical activity, affect cancer risk.

Maryam Doroudi, PhD, MPH

Maryam Doroudi is a Cancer Prevention Fellow at the National Cancer Institute. She received her PhD from Georgia Institute of Technology and an MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Doroudi's main research interests involve endogenous hormones and cancer risk and the use of preventive screening services in populations at high risk for cancer. Dr. Doroudi's public service includes her participation as a member of the Maryland Cancer Collaborative where she provided feedback on the drafted 2016-2020 Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.

Howard Haft, MD

Dr. Howard M. Haft is the Deputy Secretary for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Haft has 27 years of clinical experience in primary internal medicine, and 10 years of hospital based emergency medicine clinical and leadership experience. His employment experiences include working in a large medical group, small private group, and hospital. Dr. Haft's work settings have included private enterprise, public companies, and not for profit organizations. He has served as an Adjunct Professorial Lecturer at the Georgetown University McDonough Graduate School of Business. Dr. Haft is Co-Chair of the Maryland State Medical Society Physician Leadership Committee, and has served as a member of the Maryland State Telemedicine Advisory Committee, several Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission committees, and Maryland Health Care Commission advisory panels.

Dr. Haft earned his medical degree from Penn State University and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Brown University.

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Terry Langbaum, MHS

Ms. Langbaum's career in academic health care administration has spanned 39 years. She has held various administrative and leadership roles in the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Following her tenure in Pediatrics, Ms. Langbaum served for over six years in a central role in Planning and Marketing as Director of Hospital Affiliations for Johns Hopkins Medicine. In this role, she assisted institutional and departmental leadership in planning, defining and negotiating relationships with other hospitals, health systems, physician groups and health care vendors.

Since 2001, Ms. Langbaum has served as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. In this role she is charged with planning and managing cancer programming across departmental lines and institutional entities, including 5 hospitals and several ambulatory sites. She is responsible for direct management of the academic and clinical revenue for the Department of Oncology, start-up and management of multidisciplinary programming for cancer patients, and satellite cancer programs for Johns Hopkins Medicine at member institutions. She is currently a Board member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), and chairs the Best Practices Committee. She is on the Advisory Committee of the U.S. Military Cancer Institute, and on the Advisory Council of the Guys and St. Thomas Cancer Program in London, England. Ms. Langbaum has both undergraduate and master's degrees from the Johns Hopkins University.

In 2015, Ms. Langbaum, along with colleague Lillian Shockney, developed and produced the Managing Cancer at Work program. This award winning employee benefit program uniquely serves the needs of cancer patients who are working at the time of their diagnosis, and the managers and supervisors who support them.

Douglas Lowy, MD

Douglas Lowy is Acting Director of the National Cancer Institute and Chief of the Intramural Laboratory of Cellular Oncology in the Center for Cancer Research at the NCI. He received his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine, and trained in internal medicine at Stanford University and dermatology at Yale University. His research includes papillomaviruses and the regulation of normal and neoplastic growth. The papillomavirus research is carried out in close collaboration with John Schiller, with whom he has co-authored more than 100 papers over the past 25 years. In the 1980s, he studied the genetic organization of papillomaviruses and identified the oncogenes encoded by the virus. More recently, he has worked on papillomavirus vaccines and the papillomavirus life cycle. Their laboratory was involved in the initial development, characterization, and clinical testing of the preventive virus-like particle-based HPV vaccines that have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and many other countries. It is for this body of work that Drs. Lowy and Schiller received the 2007 Federal Employee of the Year Award from the Partnership for Public Service, the 2007 Dorothy P. Landon-American Association for Cancer Research Prize for Translational Cancer Research, the Sabin Gold Medal in 2011, and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from President Obama in 2014. Dr. Lowy also received the 2007 Medal of Honor for basic research from the American Cancer Society. He is listed by the Institute for Scientific Information as one of the most highly cited authors in microbiology, and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine of the NAS.

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Elizabeth Martinez

Ms. Martinez has a Bachelor's degree in accounting from Bio-Bio University in Chile. She has been working in The Closing the Gap program on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland for the past seven years; five years as an outreach worker to the Hispanic community, and the last two years as the Spanish interpreter and patient navigator. She is bilingual, very familiar with the local Hispanic community on the lower shore, and is trusted by members of the community, which has contributed greatly to the success of the program.

Barry Meisenberg, MD

Barry Meisenberg M.D. is the Medical Director of the DeCesaris Cancer Institute at Anne Arundel Medical Center and Visiting Professor in the Department of Oncology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He is also a visiting faculty member of the Armstrong Institute of Patient Safety at Johns Hopkins Medicine. Prior to these appointments, he was the Head, Division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Meisenberg did his medical training at the Naval Hospital San Diego, and has held academic and leadership positions at Duke University School of Medicine and the Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, CA.

Van Mitchell

Van Mitchell serves as the Secretary for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), appointed by Governor Larry Hogan on January 21, 2015. Van previously served as a Government Relations Specialist from 2007 – 2015 for Manis Canning & Associates. He was appointed Principal Deputy Secretary of the DHMH from 2004-2007 where he was a member of the Interagency Disabilities Board, Homeland Senior Policy Group and the Maryland Commission on Disabilities. Van served as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates for three terms from 1995 – 2004. During his tenure in the legislature he sat on both the Economic Matters and Appropriations Committees. During this time he was a member of the Unemployment Insurance Subcommittee; Real Property Subcommittee; House Chair of the Workers' Compensation Subcommittee; House Chair Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight Committee; Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review; member Capital Budget Subcommittee; Oversight Committee on Pensions; Chair of the Health and Human Resources Subcommittee; House Chair Joint Audit Committee; and Chaired both the Charles County and Southern Maryland Delegations.

Since 1985, Van has served as President/CEO of MSI, Inc., a building supply company which operated in Charles County, MD for forty-nine years. He has also served on many boards such as the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center (formerly Civista Medical Center), College of Southern Maryland Board of Trustees and is a Co-Founder & Board Member of County First Bank. Van attended Campbell University.

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William G. Nelson, MD, PhD

Dr. Nelson is the Marion I. Knott Professor of Oncology and Director of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. He currently holds Professorships in Oncology, Medicine, Pharmacology, Pathology, Radiation Oncology, Urology, and Environmental Health Sciences. A trained medical oncologist, he directs a research laboratory focused on discovering new strategies for prostate cancer treatment and prevention. Outside of Johns Hopkins, Dr. Nelson has also become a recognized leader in cancer research, organizing national and international meetings in cancer health disparities, cancer prevention, and prostate cancer, serving on the Scientific Advisory Boards for Stand Up 2 Cancer and the Prostate Cancer Foundation, co-chairing the National Cancer Institute Translational Research Working Group, and working as Executive Editor of Cancer Today and a Senior Editor of Cancer Research. Owner of seven issued patents, he is a co-founder of Digital Harmonics, a Board Member of CHD Biosciences, and an Advisory Board Member of Abbvie and of Proquest Investments.

Cara Rozaieski

Ms. Rozaieski has a Bachelor's degree from Salisbury State College in Liberal Studies and a Bachelor's from Salisbury State University in Spanish. She has been a health educator for 28 years. She began her career at the American Lung Association of Maryland in Salisbury as a Program Coordinator for asthma and tobacco use prevention/cessation. While there, she created a stop smoking curriculum for Latinos that was facilitated by native Spanish speakers.

Since 2004, she has worked at the health departments in Wicomico and Somerset counties, coordinating tobacco, worksite wellness, chronic disease, sexual abstinence, and Komen breast cancer prevention programs, as well as worked in alcohol and HIV programs. Cara worked in the migrant camp, providing HIV testing and education, and tobacco education. She currently directs the Office of Prevention and Health Communications at Wicomico County Health Department. At both health departments, she performed Public Information Officer duties.

Meredith Truss, MPP

Meredith Truss is the manager of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In this role, she facilitates partnerships between public health, healthcare systems and providers, and community organizations to advance cancer control. She also coordinates implementation and updates of the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. Her work has spanned the cancer continuum and has included initiatives to assess hospital-based palliative care in Maryland, improve quality of life for cancer survivors, and promote cancer patient navigation. She also serves as the Department's staff partner for the Maryland Cancer Collaborative, a statewide coalition that implements the Cancer Plan. Ms. Truss earned a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, and a Bachelor's Degree from Franklin and Marshall College.