Speaker Biographies
Fourth Chordoma Community Conference
March 22 - 24, 2013

Al Ferriera, RN
Nurse Coordinator
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harris Center for Chordoma Care

After graduating from Northeastern University, Al’s 30-year clinical career includes working in critical care, post-anesthesia, perioperative, and orthopedic nursing. In addition, he has worked as a clinical analyst in information systems and as a perioperative informatics consultant for two software firms.

Anthony Galanos, MA, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Duke University Medical Center

Dr. Tony Galanos is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine at Duke University Medical Center. Having created an inpatient service in 1994, Geriatric Medicine Associates, Dr Galanos was instrumental in starting the inpatient Palliative Care Service at Duke, and has served as its Medical Director since its opening in May, 2003. This opportunity has led to many "teachable moments " with the housestaff, and Dr Galanos has been nominated for the Eugene Stead Teaching Award numerous times by the Internal Medicine Housestaff and won the Golden Apple Teaching Award bestowed by the Medical Students in 2000. A graduate of the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, he trained in Internal Medicine at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and did Fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine at Duke. He joined the Faculty in 1992, is Medical Director at The Forest at Duke Continuing Care Retirement Community, Senior Research Fellow in the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, and Soros Foundation Project Death in America Faculty Scholar (2000-2002). Dr. Galanos is the Co-Director of the Fellowship in Palliative Medicine at Duke, July 2005.

Mrinal M. Gounder, MD
Medical Oncologist
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Gounder is a medical oncologist specializing in the care of patients with sarcomas of soft tissue and bone. As an attending physician at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he work closely with leading
sarcoma experts in medicine, surgery, radiation, pathology, cancer biology, and nursing to deliver the best patient care for each type of sarcoma. His research interest is to further unravel the complexity of each type of sarcoma and develop new drugs in order to move away from the “one size fits all” paradigm. Currently, he is the lead investigator on several clinical trials in his division. He is also an attending physician in the Phase I Clinical Trials program, where he focuses his research on discovering and developing new and exciting compounds that are more effective in treating all solid tumors and that are less toxic for the patient. As an oncologist, his foremost goal is to recognize the unique needs of people living with cancer, improve the quality of their lives and maintain their dignity.

Phyllis K. Hicks, DMin, NCLPC
Senior Insight Dialogue Teacher
Metta

Phyllis Hicks, DMin, NCLPC is a Senior Insight Dialogue Teacher and teaches Insight Dialogue retreats worldwide. She is a faculty member for Metta’s Relational Insight Meditation Program and serves on Metta Programs Teachers Council. She has also taught for Metta’s Whole Life Program.

Phyllis is a licensed psychotherapist and minister. For twenty-five years she has brought together Eastern and Western understandings of psychology and contemplative practice in a clinical setting. She has studied with a variety of Vipassana teachers and trained and taught with Gregory Kramer since 2004. She is a guiding teacher for Triangle Insight and teaches Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction at an integrative medical center. She directs the Pastoral Care and Counseling Institute of Durham, North Carolina, a non-profit center for counseling and clinical education where she also offers Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy and courses in Interpersonal Mindfulness. Phyllis lives and works in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Julia Hincman-Francavilla MS, RD, CSO, LDN
Clinical Nutrition Specialist
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center

Julia has been an Outpatient Clinical Nutrition Specialist for the last four years at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. She enjoys working with the entire outpatient oncology population at MGH, but specifically targets pediatric and adult populations in the Photon and Proton Radiation Departments, as well as the Bone Marrow Transplant Department. Julia graduated from Boston University with a Bachelors in Dietetics and a Masters in Nutrition in 2007; furthermore, she went on to pass the exam to become a Certified Specialist in Oncology Nutrition (CSO) in 2011. Julia hopes to motivate her patients by instilling a belief that nutrition is truly a powerful tool to fight cancer, improve energy, reduce side effects, and enjoy eating.
Paula K. Rauch, MD  
**Director, Marjorie E. Korff PACT Program**  
**Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center**

Dr. Rauch is a child psychiatrist who began her professional career caring for the emotional health of medically ill children. She founded the MGH Cancer Center PACT parenting program in 1997. This parent consultation program provides guidance to parents with cancer and their partners in practical ways to support the health and well being of their children during cancer care and beyond. Dr. Rauch is the co author of "Raising an Emotionally Healthy Child When a Parent is Sick".

Chandra Sen, MD  
**Professor of Neurosurgery**  
**NYU Langone Medical Center**

Chandra Sen is professor of neurosurgery at NYU Langone Medical Center and is a pioneer in the field of skull base surgery. He is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, a founding member of the North American Skull Base Society, and a current member and former president of the New York Society of Neurosurgery. Since treating his first chordoma patient in 1987, Dr. Sen has made chordoma a primary focus of his practice, and throughout his career has become one of the most experienced chordoma surgeons in the world. He has published several papers and book chapters on skull base and cervical spine chordomas, and frequently lectures on chordoma at international conferences. Dr. Sen cares deeply for his chordoma patients and describes improving the treatment of chordoma as one of his life goals.

Douglas A. Smith - Keynote

Doug Smith is a retired business executive devoted to helping people live and lead more abundantly. He is deeply intrigued by what enables certain people to live with incredible joy and exuberance no matter what fate hands them and how certain leaders enable their organizations to achieve superior results no matter what the business environment. During the past 15 years he has served as CEO of Kraft General Foods Canada, Chairman/CEO of Borden Foods Corporation and most recently Chairman/CEO of Best Brands Corporation. Today he speaks on happiness and on leadership at numerous venues throughout the country, he also teaches at DePauw University and at Canyon Ranch. He devotes 100% of the compensation he receives to cancer research. Doug has a BA and an Honorary Doctorate from DePauw University and an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.
Janet Surrey, PhD
Insight Dialogue Teacher
Metta

Janet Surrey, PhD is an Insight Dialogue Teacher. She is a faculty member of Metta’s Relational Insight Meditation Program, facilitates a practice group in the Boston area, and co-teaches retreats. Jan has studied with a number of Vipassana teachers for over 25 years, and has worked with Gregory Kramer since 2007. Her original teacher was Vimala Thakar, but Jan has also done many retreats with Thic Nhat Hanh and Joanna Macy. In 2008 she completed a two and a half year Community Dharma Leader training at Spirit Rock Meditation Center. Jan is a practicing clinical psychologist and founding scholar of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at the Wellesley Centers for Women. She is on the faculty and board of the Institute for Meditation and Psychotherapy. Jan is dedicated to a lifelong exploration of the power of relationships to create suffering and the power of relationships to liberate and transform suffering. Jan lives in Newton, Massachusetts.

Kelly M. Trevino, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
Research Fellow
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Dr. Trevino received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Bowling Green State University where her work focused on spirituality and religious coping. She completed a clinical fellowship at the VA Boston Healthcare System where she then worked for 2 years in a long-term care, hospice and rehabilitation facility. She is currently completing a research fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute where she examines psychological distress and interventions in cancer patients. Dr. Trevino will be continuing this work as a faculty member at Rowan University in the fall.

Ask the Experts Panel

Gregory M. Cote, MD, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Medical Oncologist

Dr. Cote is a medical oncologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and is board certified in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology. He received his MD and PhD at Boston University School of Medicine, did his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and a fellowship at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. His clinical interests include sarcoma and connective tissue oncology, gastrointestinal stromal tumors, chordoma, and desmoid tumors.
Adrienne Flanagan, MD, FRCPath, PhD
University College London
Pathologist

Dr. Flanagan’s research programme focuses on identifying the genetic alterations involved in the development and progression of bone and soft tissue tumours. Correlation of these abnormalities with the histopathology improves diagnostic accuracy, allows sub-classification of neoplastic disease and helps to predict therapy, and outcome / survival. This approach has allowed us identify the molecule, brachyury, in a rare neoplasm, chordoma, which is now employed universally in the diagnosis of this tumour. Her research group has strong ties with The Wellcome Trust Sanger Centre where genome-wide analyses are being performed on chordoma. The research benefits from having access to one of the largest subspecialty orthopaedics referral centres in Europe, The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. Dr. Flanagan received her MD from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and her PhD from the University of London

Gary Gallia, MD, PhD
Johns Hopkins University
Neurosurgeon

Dr. Gallia is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, and Oncology and also the Director of the Skull Base Center at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Gallia’s specialty is endoscopic endonasal surgical approaches to skull base pathologies with a focus on neurosurgical oncology. He utilizes the latest techniques in preoperative imaging, computer guided surgical navigation, intraoperative monitoring and minimally invasive and neuroendoscopic approaches in the management of patients with benign and malignant brain tumors, metastatic tumors to the brain, skull base neoplasms and pituitary tumors. Dr. Gallia’s primary research interests are in the development of novel therapeutics against malignant brain and skull base tumors, outcomes following endonasal endoscopic skull base surgery and development of next generation intraoperative endoscopic platforms. Dr. Gallia graduated summa cum laude from the Gibbons Scholar MD/PhD program at Jefferson Medical College and Thomas Jefferson University. He completed his general surgery internship, neurological surgery residency and a postdoctoral fellowship in neuro-oncology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Following residency, he completed a minimally invasive and endoscopic neurosurgery fellowship with Dr. Charles Teo at the Prince of Wales Private Hospital and Sydney Children’s Hospital in Sydney, Australia.
Paul Gardner, MD
University of Pittsburgh
Neurosurgeon

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, in endoscopic endonasal pituitary and skull base surgery. 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. Dr. Gardner is a native of Niceville, FL.

Francis Hornicek, MD, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Orthopedic Surgeon

Dr. Francis Hornicek is Chief of the Orthopaedic Oncology Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital and an Associate Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Hornicek received his M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and his Ph.D. from Georgetown University School of Medicine. Dr. Hornicek has a long-term interest in clinical care and research.

Norbert Liebsch, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Radiation Oncologist

Dr. Norbert Liebsch is a radiation oncologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and is board certified in diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology. He received his MD at the University of Munich Medical School in Munich, Germany and did his postdoctoral training at Washington University Hospital in St. Louis, MO and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. His clinical interests include adult and pediatric skull-based tumors, orbital cranio-facial, spine tumors, proton therapy, chordomas and chondrosarcomas.
Robert Malyapa, MD, PhD  
University of Florida  
Radiation Oncologist

Dr. Malyapa has extensive clinical experience with proton therapy patients. He is the lead physician at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute for the proton treatment of adult patients with cancers of the head and neck, skull base, spine, central nervous system and eye tumors.

Prior to joining the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute in 2005, Dr. Malyapa was Assistant Professor of radiation oncology at Washington University and a radiation oncologist at the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to his clinical expertise, he has research experience and training in radiation biology from Hiroshima University in Japan, where he received his Ph.D. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics, Radiation Research and more.

Joseph H. Schwab, MD, MS  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Orthopedic Surgeon

Dr. Schwab is a board certified orthopedic surgeon who received his residency training from the Mayo Clinic where he was awarded the P.J. Kelly award for outstanding basic science research. He has sub-specialty fellowship training in spine surgery from The Hospital for Special Surgery and orthopaedic oncology from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Schwab earned a BA from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio majoring in Religion. He earned his MD from Chicago Medical School where he was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society, as well as a Master's degree in Clinical Pathology. Dr. Schwab recently earned his second Master's degree from Harvard/MIT School of Health sciences and Technology as part of the Clinical Investigator Training Program (CITP). The program is designed to train young investigators in the science of translational research and clinical trials. Dr. Schwab has an active clinical and research interest in chordomas. As part of the sarcoma service at Massachusetts General Hospital he works closely with his colleagues in orthopedic oncology, medical oncology and radiation oncology in the management of chordomas involving the sacrum and mobile spine. His research has focused on targeting Chondroitin Sulfate Proteoglycan 4 (CSPG4) in chordomas.