**Speaker Biographies**

2015 New York Regional Chordoma Community Conference
June 13, 2015

**Ilya Laufer, MD**  
**Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**  
I am a fellowship-trained neurosurgeon specializing in the disorders of the spine. As a member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Spine Tumor Center, my goal is to provide comprehensive care for all patients with spinal disorders. I specialize in the surgical treatment of primary and metastatic spinal tumors and in the treatment of degenerative spinal disorders. My goal is to use modern surgical and radiation techniques in order to effectively prevent or reduce back pain and neurological deficits that the oncologic patient population may experience.

My goal is to employ cutting-edge surgical techniques that include image guidance and minimally invasive surgery in the treatment of spinal tumors and degenerative disorders. Image-guidance provides improved localization of the bony spinal elements in order to allow increased precision of instrumentation positioning during operations that require spinal reconstruction and stabilization, thereby minimizing the risk of neurologic injury and construct failure in the future. The goal of minimally invasive surgery is to decrease the collateral tissue damage caused by extensive open spinal dissections, in order to decrease surgical risk and postoperative pain and to facilitate recovery.

My research interests include the design and oversight of longitudinal studies and prospective clinical trials designed to determine the optimal treatment of patients with spinal tumors.

**Mark Bilsky, MD**  
**Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**  
I am a board-certified neurosurgeon who has been at Memorial Sloan Kettering since 1995. I specialize in the care of patients with primary and metastatic tumors of the spine and spinal cord, as well as those with sinonasal and skull-base tumors.

I am the director of Memorial Sloan Kettering’s multidisciplinary spine tumor team, which has a weekly, multidisciplinary clinic and tumor board to facilitate coordinated patient care. This focused group is comprised of dedicated physicians from neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, radiation oncology, neuroradiology, interventional neuroradiology, medical oncology, psychiatry, and pain and palliative care. The evolution of specialized techniques in each discipline has significantly improved the treatment of patients with spine and paraspinal tumors.

**Mrinal Gounder, MD**  
**Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**  
I am a medical oncologist specializing in the care of patients with sarcomas of soft tissue and bone. The word “sarcoma” encompasses more than 50 different rare types of cancer, each with unique characteristics and behavior. As an attending physician at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, I
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.

My 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, I am the lead investigator on several clinical trials in our division. I am also an attending physician in the Phase I Clinical Trials program, where I focus my 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, my foremost goal is to recognize the unique needs of people living with cancer, improve the quality of their lives and maintain their dignity.

Cameron Brennan, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
I am a neurosurgeon and laboratory investigator who specializes in the treatment of patients with primary brain tumors and metastatic brain tumors, with career experience in the computational analysis and molecular profiling of human and mouse tumors for translational research. I am a member of the Brain Tumor Center and the Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program. In the laboratory, my research focuses on the genomic analysis of human and mouse gliomas and medulloblastomas.

I have identified several new gene fusions affecting receptor tyrosine kinases in glioma and recently have used combined genomics and proteomics to characterize molecular subclasses of glioblastoma that feature distinct patterns of activation among signaling pathways. As a funded co-investigator and external co-chair in The Cancer Genome Atlas pilot project, I developed microarray and computational methods to identify candidate translocations and gene fusions from microarray data.

Meera Hameed, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
I am a pathologist with expertise in surgical pathology, molecular pathology, and clinical cytogenetics.

As a surgical pathologist, my particular expertise is bone and soft tissue (musculoskeletal) pathology. I work very closely with my clinical colleagues — including surgeons, radiologists, and medical oncologists. This collaboration has given me an in-depth understanding of clinical situations and has provided me the opportunity to participate as a team member with my clinical colleagues. I am an Invited Member of the International Skeletal Society — an organization of radiologists, pathologists, and surgeons who meet yearly to discuss rare and unusual presentations of the various bone and soft tissue neoplasms. I am also interested in teaching, and am a course co-director for orthopedic pathology at meetings of the U.S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology.

I am also a molecular pathologist with board certification in molecular genetic pathology, which allows me to keep abreast of latest developments in the fast-growing field of molecular oncology. As an invited member of the Molecular Oncology Committee of the College of American Pathologists, I serve as the committee member for the sarcoma sub-division and provide expertise on test development and appropriate molecular testing for sarcoma patients.

Clinical cytogenetics, in which I am also board certified, is a field where one studies chromosomal changes to interpret and provide pathological diagnostic correlations. My research involves exploring
prognostic markers in bone and soft tissue neoplasms. For example, we have studied expression of markers with therapeutic significance, such as the EGFR family of tyrosine kinases in synovial sarcomas and osteosarcomas.

**Bill Dorland**  
As a chordoma patient, Bill has been living with chordoma for over a decade. He has undergone four surgeries, and participated in three clinical trials. Most recently he participated in a Phase 1 trial of the GI-6301 vaccine at the National Cancer Institute, with great success.

With the Chordoma Foundation, Dr. Dorland initiated and co-sponsored the first conference for chordoma patients in 2008 and continues to support the foundation’s battle against this malignant but extremely rare cancer of the skull and spine.

**Glenn Blumenson, LMSW**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
I am a clinical social worker with special training in couples and family therapy. I graduated from New York University Silver School of Social Work and joined Memorial Sloan Kettering in September 2012. I work with patients in the Urgent Care Center, as well as patients of our Neurology Medicine, Neurosurgery, and Orthopaedics Services.

**Linda Mathew, LCSW**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
I am a clinical social worker with special training in cognitive behavioral training. I co-facilitate the Caregivers Program and as part of Kids Express I co-lead support programs for families affected by cancer. I graduated from New York University Silver School of Social Work and joined Memorial Sloan Kettering in 2011. I work with people receiving outpatient care at the Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion from our General Internal Medicine, Gastric Mixed Tumor, Melanoma and Sarcoma, Thoracic Medicine, or Thoracic Surgical Services.

**Leah Moroge, LMSW**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
I am a clinical social worker with special training in psychosocial oncology. I graduated from New York University Silver School of Social Work and joined Memorial Sloan Kettering in 2012, working with inpatients being treated by our Medicine, Breast, Lymphoma, and Myeloma Services.

**Josh Yamada, MD**  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
I am a board-certified radiation oncologist with expertise in treating cancers with brachytherapy (radiation placed inside of tumors) and image-guided radiation (using advanced medical imaging technology to deliver precise beams of radiation to safely destroy tumors.) Brachytherapy and image-guided radiation are both very effective and safe ways to treat tumors because high doses of radiation can be given to a tumor while sparing healthy tissue and causing few side effects.

I work with a multidisciplinary team of highly skilled surgeons, radiologists, medical physicists, radiation therapists, and nurses. Through these collaborations, we are able to take advantage of the sophisticated
medical technology available at Memorial Sloan Kettering that is necessary to provide these types of treatment.

In addition, I am involved in clinical research that involves using image-guided technologies to treat tumors in all sites of the body, including adult brain and spine tumors, as well as liver tumors. I am also the primary investigator for several protocols using brachytherapy to treat cancers in the prostate. I have been invited to speak in many scientific forums both nationally and internationally. I am currently serving on the board of directors of the American Brachytherapy Society.

**Patrick Boland, MD**
**Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**
Dr. Boland is a full-time, senior member of the Orthopaedic Service, Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he specializes in the management of malignant and benign tumors of the bones, including those of the spine and pelvis, and in soft tissue sarcomas of the extremities. He also has special training in limb salvage surgery—that is the removal of the limb cancers while preserving a functional extremity.

Together with colleagues from neurosurgery, diagnostic radiology, and radiation therapy at Memorial Sloan Kettering, he has extensive experience in the treatment of primary and metastatic tumors of the spine. Over the years, he has developed a special interest in the management of tumors of the sacrum.

Dr. Boland is involved in extensive research activities, including on-going clinical research in sacral tumors and in the assessment of quality of life in patients with metastatic bone cancer.

He has also authored and co-authored chapters and scientific papers on surgery for tumors of the extremities and the spine. Dr. Boland is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in England, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

**Vinay Puttanniah, MD**
**Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**
I am a board-certified anesthesiologist with additional expertise and training in pain medicine. As a member of both the Anesthesiology Service and the Pain Service in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, my clinical work involves delivering anesthesia as well as treating postoperative pain. I also treat cancer pain using medications, nerve blocks, intrathecal drug delivery systems, radiofrequency techniques, and neurolytic blocks. I regularly supervise and teach clinical fellows.

**Lisa Ruppert, MD**
**Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**
I am a physician of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, also known as physiatry, who specializes in evaluating cancer patients and cancer survivors who have neurological and musculoskeletal impairments related to their cancer and its treatment.

I have specialized training in spinal cord injury medicine, and my clinical interests include the care of patients with neurological impairments secondary to primary and metastatic tumors of the spine, spinal cord, and brain, as well as neurological impairments that can develop as a result of cancer treatment.
These impairments can include weakness, sensory deficits, unstable balance, autonomic dysfunction, pain, bowel and bladder dysfunction, spasticity, sexual dysfunction, difficulty swallowing, and abnormal gait.

My goal is to optimize my patients’ function and improve their overall quality of life. To accomplish this goal, I collaborate with a team of dedicated physicians, physical and occupational therapists, and speech and language pathologists to establish comprehensive treatment plans utilizing a combination of physical, occupational, and speech therapies; medications; therapeutic injections; bracing and assistive devices; and patient education.

**Chandra Sen, MD**

**NYU School of Medicine**

Chandranath Sen, MD, is the new director of the Benign Brain Tumor and Cranial Nerve Disorders Programs at NYU Langone. He specializes in skull base tumor surgery, which encompasses the surgical treatment of a variety of tumors such as cranial nerve schwannomas, pituitary tumors, craniopharyngiomas, glomus tumors, meningiomas, chordomas and chondrosarcomas, as well as paranasal sinus tumors that invade the base of the skull. He is also experienced in the surgery for trigeminal neuralgia, glossopharyngeal neuralgia and hemifacial spasm.

Prior to coming to NYU Langone, Dr. Sen was chairman of neurosurgery at Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan for ten years, and before that was vice chairman, Department of Neurosurgery at Mt. Sinai Medical Center for ten years. He completed fellowships at the University of Pittsburgh (microneurosurgery) and the National Hospitals for Nervous Disorders in London. Dr. Sen 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.