Brief Biographies of Some of the Speakers

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Conference details at www.thyca.org

Carol Anderson, M.D., Nuclear Medicine Physician, is Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She earned her medical degree at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, followed by residencies at Methodist Medical Center in Dallas and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and a fellowship in nuclear medicine at the University of Utah. She is board certified in nuclear medicine.

Douglas W. Ball, M.D., Endocrinologist, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, Maryland, is a clinician and researcher specializing in Thyroid Cancer, Medullary Thyroid Cancer, and Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia. His laboratory studies mechanisms underlying the neuroendocrine phenotype seen in some human cancers. Dr. Ball is active in developing new therapies for medullary thyroid cancer, and works in this translational research program in collaboration with other researchers and clinicians. Dr. Ball graduated from George Washington University Medical School and completed further training in Internal Medicine and in Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University of Pittsburgh and Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of numerous peer-reviewed medical journal articles and has been a speaker at previous ThyCa educational events. He is a member of ThyCa’s Medical Advisory Council.

Marcia Brose, M.D., Ph.D., is a Medical Oncologist and Assistant Professor at the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she also directs the Cancer Genetics Laboratory and is involved in clinical trials of new treatments for patients with advanced thyroid cancer. Her clinical focus is familial cancer syndromes and cancer risk evaluation, Phase I/II clinical trials, and novel drug target discovery. Her research focuses on genomic characterization of cancers of the head and neck, thyroid, and lung; novel drug target discovery; and the use of genetic testing in the diagnosis, prognostication, and treatment of cancer. Dr. Brose received her bachelor's degree from Amherst College, her medical degree from Cornell University Medical College, and her Ph.D. from The Rockefeller University.

Rebecca Brown, M.D., is an Endocrinologist at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, with residency and fellowship at the University of Chicago Hospital System. Dr. Brown specializes in thyroid diseases, as well as diabetes and metabolic disorders, including obesity. She coauthored a study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine that investigated the relationship between changes in thyroid function and weight gain.
Naifa Busaidy, M.D., is an Endocrinologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She is a graduate of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She completed postgraduate training at The Royal Hospital and the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Oman; Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; and University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She is the author of numerous research articles and book chapters.

Maria E. Cabanillas, M.D., Endocrinologist, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas. Dr. Cabanillas's clinical focus is metastatic thyroid cancer, and her research interests include targeted therapy for metastatic thyroid cancer, as well as supportive care in cancer. She is a graduate of The University of Puerto Rico Medical School. She completed a Residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, Texas, and a Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. She has authored many peer-reviewed journal articles.

Patti Carey, L.Ac., Licensed Acupuncturist, is in a private practice of acupuncture and traditional Oriental medicine in McKinney, Texas. She has more than 10 years of experience in acupuncture and massage therapy and is also familiar with Western and Oriental Medicine modalities including energetics, clinical hypnotherapy, Emotional Freedom Technique, and others, as well as health and wellness coaching and counseling. She received a Masters of Traditional Oriental Medicine from the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in San Diego in 1998. A former Navy nurse, hospital administrator, and hyperbaric physiology research associate, she also holds a master's degree in Health Care Administration, a bachelor's degree in business administration, and a massage therapy certification.

Mark S. Chambers, D.M.D., M.S., is a professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, and also serves in the Department of Radiation Oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. A graduate of the University of Louisville School of Dentistry, he also has a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Louisville Medical School, and in Chemical Engineering and Biology from Brescia College. He has longstanding positions as Chief of Oncologic Dentistry, Director of the Clinical Research Program, and Director of Rotating Residents in the Surgery Division of the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, as well as Fellowship Coordinator of the Advanced Education Program in Maxillofacial Prosthetics and Oncologic Dentistry. His extensive work with the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics since 1994 has led to the advancement of the field as well as the development of the Head and Neck Surgery Department at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He is a ThyCa Medical Advisor.
Gary L. Clayman, D.M.D., M.D., F.A.C.S., is the Alando J. Ballantyne Distinguished Chair of Head and Neck Surgery and Professor of Surgery in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. He also serves as the Director of the Head and Neck Cancer Program as well as Deputy Head of the Division of Surgery for academics at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Clayman has authored more than 190 peer-reviewed publications and serves on the editorial board of several international journals, including Clinical Cancer Research, Laryngoscope, Head and Neck, and Frontiers in Bioscience. After earning his dental and medical degrees, he completed a surgery internship at the University of Minnesota and subsequent residency in otolaryngology/head and neck surgery at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dr. Clayman was promoted to Professor of Surgery in 2000 and awarded his Distinguished Chair of Surgery in 2003.

Gilbert J. Cote, Ph.D., is Professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, as well as Director, Program in Human and Molecular Genetics at University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston. Dr. Cote received his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the University of Vermont in 1987 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular endocrinology at Baylor College of Medicine. He then joined the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, before coming to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in 1992. While at M.D. Anderson, Dr. Cote has been principal investigator, co-investigator, or faculty mentor for 10 research projects. He has been a reviewer for many medical journals and has authored numerous articles published in peer-reviewed journals, as well as 9 invited articles, 2 editorials, and 29 book chapters.

Peter Crane, Esq., 32-year thyroid cancer survivor, retired in 1999 from a 24-year career as an attorney at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He has spoken and written extensively to medical and regulatory groups on radiation, thyroid cancer, and the importance of stockpiling potassium iodide (KI) for radiation emergencies. In articles available on the Internet, he has shared his own experience with childhood neck irradiation and his thyroid cancer, first diagnosed when he was 26 years old. The thyroid cancer recurred when he was 42 years old and required treatment with five courses of radioactive iodine before he received a clean bill of health four years later.

Teresa L. Deshields, Ph.D. is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and the manager of Psycho-Oncology Services for the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. She has worked at the Siteman Cancer Center since February 1999. Her clinical practice is devoted to treating cancer patients and survivors and their family members, throughout the cancer continuum— diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, end of life, and grief. Her research is focused on issues related to psychological adjustment and quality of life in cancer patients and survivors.

Sherrie Flores, R.N.C., W.H.C.N.P.-B.C., is Nurse Practitioner for Dr. Naifa Busaidy and the Thyroid Cancer Survivorship Clinic in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormone Disorders at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.
Robert F. Gagel, M.D., Endocrinologist, is Director, Division of Internal Medicine, and Professor, Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, as well as Adjunct Professor at Baylor College of Medicine. A graduate of Ohio State University Medical School, he completed postgraduate training at Tufts-New England Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard School of Public Health. He is a frequent faculty member at medical meetings, serves on numerous committees and advisory groups for professional organizations, and has authored hundreds of peer-reviewed journal articles and other publications. His studies have focused on transcriptional regulation of the calcitonin gene. He and his colleagues identified the new variant of MEN2. Dr. Gagel has also been active in studies of the development of strategies for treatment of medullary thyroid cancer. He is a member of ThyCa’s Medical Advisory Council.

Mouhammed Amir Habra, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.E., Endocrinologist, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas. He is a 1995 graduate of Aleppo University Faculty of Medicine in Syria, followed by postgraduate training at Aleppo University Hospital, University of Missouri, Baylor College of Medicine, and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He is the author of many articles, abstracts, and book chapters.

Jan Halzel, Pharm.D., is a Pharmacist who lives in Colorado. She is the co-moderator of ThyCa's Medullary Thyroid Cancer E-mail Support Group and is involved in developing the Medullary Thyroid Cancer content on ThyCa's web site. She also represents ThyCa at medical association meetings. She earned her bachelor's degree in pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island and her doctoral degree at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She is a member of ThyCa's Medical Advisory Council.

C.J. Hartman, M.A., is a Certified USAT Coach and WSI Swim Instructor, and a thyroid cancer survivor. Since her treatment she has continued to compete in triathlons and Ironman events. She is dedicated to helping women and cancer survivors of any age enjoy exercise and become physically fit as well as achieve weight loss. Retired after 28 years in public education teaching science and physical education, she holds a master’s degree in Teaching Natural Science.

Shelby Holt, M.D., Endocrine Surgeon, is Associate Professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She is an author of numerous research articles related to endocrine surgery. Dr. Holt’s clinical interests include thyroid surgery and parathyroidectomy. She earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School and completed fellowships at Mayo Clinic, University of Michigan, and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Mimi I. Hu, M.D., Endocrinologist, is Assistant Professor, Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas. She is also Clinical Assistant Professor at Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine in Houston. Her clinical interests include thyroid cancer, multiple endocrine neoplasia Types 1 and 2, bone and mineral metabolism disorders, parathyroid disorders, pituitary tumors, and endocrine sequelae of cancer and its therapies. She is a graduate of Rice University and University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center. She completed postgraduate training at University of Texas-Houston Medical School and Baylor College of Medicine.

Julie Hunsaker has been associated with the Hypoparathyroidism Association for many years and is participating in the hypoparathyroidism session at this year's conference.
Nick Isenberg, Documentary Film Producer, has been a news reporter/photographer for 34 years, with credits in television, radio, and print media. He is a thyroid cancer survivor. He developed his new documentary, “Thyroid Cancer’s Magic Bullet,” in cooperation with specialist physicians and other professionals and numerous thyroid cancer survivors. The 62-minute film is designed to help patients and caregivers see, hear, and understand what to expect before, during, and after receiving radioactive iodine, and includes experts’ answers to dozens of questions. The documentary will have its premiere showing at the conference. Mr. Isenberg lives in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. His experience in photography and writing includes travel a few years ago to Mount Everest.

Uzma Zubair Khan, M.D. has been an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Cosmopolitan International Diabetes and Endocrinology Center at the University of Missouri in Columbia since September 2004. Her academic career is focused on thyroid disorders and endocrinology subjects such as pituitary disorders, thyroid tumors, and endocrine symptoms. Dr. Khan has also authored several publications in the areas of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and endocrinology, and is board certified in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism. She earned her medical degree and completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Missouri in Columbia. She is a previous presenter at ThyCa events.

Joshua P. Klopper, M.D., Endocrinologist, is Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colorado, having joined the faculty of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes in July 2006. Dr. Klopper has written numerous journal articles and has a particular research interest in the treatment of poorly differentiated thyroid cancer. Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Klopper earned a bachelor’s of science degree in psychology from Indiana University in 1995. He received his medical degree from the Emory University School of Medicine in 1999 and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in 2002.

Cheri Lindle, M.Ed., of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a Trainer and Educator. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from Oklahoma State University, and a Master’s Degree in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University at Mankato. She has worked in the field of experiential training and development for 25 years. She has held positions such as challenge course facilitator with high risk youth, challenge course director at an acute care adolescent psychiatric hospital, HR Director, Senior Management Trainer, and Corporate Consultant. Cheri has taught Sociology/Psychology at Tulsa Community College, as an adjunct since 1999, and has served as Senior Consultant/Trainer with an International Training and Development Company, Learning Unlimited Corporation. Cheri founded the Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer E-Mail Support Group and has previously served on the Board of Directors for ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association.

Idiko Lingvay, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc., Endocrinologist at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, is an Assistant Professor at Southwestern Medical School. She is a graduate of Carol Davila University Of Medicine & Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania, and completed residencies at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and University of Texas Southwestern. She also earned a Master’s Degree in Public Health at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.
Jochen Lorch, M.D., M.Sc., is a Medical Oncologist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Clinical Instructor in the Department of Medicine at Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. A graduate of University of Regensburg Medical School in Germany, he completed residencies at University of Munich in Radiology and the University of Pennsylvania Health System in Internal Medicine, followed by fellowships in Hematology and Oncology at Martin-Luther-University, Halle, Germany, and Northwestern University in Illinois. He is board certified in Internal Medicine as well as Hematology and Medical Oncology.

James G. Luehman is the Deputy Director, Division of Materials Safety and State Agreements at the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C.

Donald Margouleff, M.D., is a Nuclear Medicine Physician at North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, Long Island, New York. He is also Clinical Professor at New York University Langone Medical Center. He is a member of the editorial board of the journal Clinical Nuclear Medicine. He is a member of ThyCa’s Medical Advisory Council.

Bryan McIver, M.B., Ph.D., F.R.C.P., Endocrinologist, is with the Thyroid Group within the Division of Endocrinology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; this group has more than 40 full-time endocrine specialists. As a consultant in endocrinology, metabolism and nutrition, he has extensive experience treating patients with diseases of the thyroid, specifically those faced with aggressive cancers such as anaplastic thyroid cancer and other advanced thyroid cancers. He also runs a research lab, working on thyroid cancer genetics and on new treatments for patients with thyroid cancer. Dr. McIver has received numerous awards and honors, including the Endocrine Society Mentor Award for Outstanding Research. He graduated Summa Cum Laude in Medical Sciences from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, received his Ph.D. in Physiology and Biophysics from the University of Vermont; and his M.B. Ch.B. Faculty of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. He is a member of the American Thyroid Association’s Thyroid Cancer Guidelines Development Group. He is a member of ThyCa's Medical Advisory Council.

Mira M. Milas, M.D., F.A.C.S., has been an Endocrine Surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, since 2002, and is now Director of the Thyroid Center. She is Associate Professor at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. After graduating from Rice University and the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, she completed specialty training at Emory University and Emory University Hospitals and School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia as well as the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She has received numerous awards and honors, including being named in the Guide to America’s Top Surgeons 2007 by the Consumers’ Research Council of America, as well as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. She is extensively involved in research as well as in training other medical professionals, including faculty member for the course Advances in Diagnostic and Interventional Endocrine Neck Ultrasound, of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. She is a member of ThyCa's Medical Advisory Council.
David Myssiorek, M.D., F.A.C.S., Otolaryngologist, is Professor of Otolaryngology at the New York University Clinical Cancer Center in New York City, New York. He is also Secretary of the New York Head and Neck Society. Previously he was on the staff of Long Island Jewish Hospital. A graduate of New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Myssiorek did his internship at Lenox Hill Hospital and was Chief Resident at New York University/Bellevue. He is the author of numerous articles on thyroid cancer surgery and other head and neck surgery. At ThyCa conferences Dr. Myssiorek has spoken about general surgical issues and issues related to having additional neck surgeries, as well as on the causes, prevention, and solutions for voice issues. Dr. Myssiorek is a member of ThyCa’s Medical Advisory Council.

Rebecca Nagy, M.S., C.G.C., is a Certified Genetic Counselor at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, as well as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Human Genetics. Ms. Nagy is a graduate of the University of Iowa and University of Minnesota, where she received a Masters of Sciences in Genetic Counseling. Ms. Nagy was certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling in 1999 as a genetic counselor. She is specifically interested in cases of genetic pre-disposition to non-medullary thyroid cancer. She has spearheaded studies as a research coordinator to search for genes involved in non-medullary thyroid cancer, as well as the Familial Papillary Thyroid Cancer Gene-Hunting Study. Ms. Nagy is involved with the Endocrine Neoplasia Repository, a database and collection of human tissue samples of individuals with thyroid and endocrine disorders. Ms. Nagy is also a member of the Cancer Genetics Editorial Board of the National Cancer Institute’s Physicians Data Query, as well as current co-chair of National Society of Genetic Counselors, and a founding member of the Ohio Department of Health’s Cancer Genetics Network.

Christine Neill, Esq., Attorney with Neill & Byrne of Dallas, Texas, is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law. Her practice focuses on representing and advising clients in employment law matters, including wrongful termination. Her experience includes representation at administrative agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and managing all aspects of litigation at the federal, state and county court levels, and in arbitration tribunals and on appeal. She is extensively involved in the local, state and national employment law communities. She is a graduate of the University of Texas in Austin and South Texas College of Law in Houston.

Theresa A. Rich, M.S., C.G.C. is a Certified Genetic Counselor at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She works largely with the Department of Surgical Oncology by counseling patients with hereditary endocrine conditions. Ms. Rich works with patients with Mutiple Endocrine Neoplasia (MEN) Types 1 and 2, Von Hippel-Lindau Disease, and hereditary pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma. Ms. Rich has worked with the Clinical Cancer Genetics team for 4 years. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and later from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan with a master's degree in Genetic Counseling.
Scott A. Rivkees, M.D., is a Pediatric Endocrinologist, at Yale Pediatric Thyroid Center, Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut. He is Professor of Pediatrics (Developmental Biology & Biophysics); Director, Yale Child Health Research Center; Chief, Section of Developmental Endocrinology & Biology; and Associate Chair, Research. His clinical interests include thyroid disorders, focusing on thyroid cancer, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, Graves’ disease, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, and neuroendocrine problems. A graduate of New Jersey Medical School, he completed a residency and fellowships at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital.

Jennifer Rosen, M.D., Surgeon, is Assistant Professor at Boston University School of Medicine. Her research laboratory focuses on thyroid nodules, and the prediction of benign versus malignant disease based on gene expression with an interest in identifying the roles, if any, these genes have on thyroid carcinogenesis. Her research also focuses on patient factors that contribute to disease recurrence, and on patient’s adherence to therapy with the goal of improving survival in patients with cancer. In 2010 she reported on her study of the use of complementary and alternative approaches by thyroid cancer patients, in a survey posted on ThyCa's web site. Dr. Rosen graduated from Jefferson Medical College, followed by residency at Beth Israel Medical Center, and then a Surgical Oncology Fellowship in the Surgery Branch at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Carol Sanders, Idaho Falls, Idaho, is a volunteer and board member of the Hypoparathyroidism Association, a nonprofit organization providing support and education for people affected by hypoparathyroidism. The Links section of ThyCa’s web site has a link to the web site of the Hypoparathyroidism Association. The Hypoparathyroidism Association, Inc. is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides education and support for people with all forms of Hypoparathyroidism, which can result from the removal of or damage to the parathyroid glands during thyroid surgery, as well as from other causes. ThyCa and the Hypoparathyroidism Association are working collaboratively together to try to reduce the incidence of post-surgical hypoparathyroidism.

Pamela Schultz, R.N., Ph.D. is Professor of Nursing and Interim Director of the School of Nursing at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Her interests include Mental Health and Oncology Research Projects regarding Long-Term Cancer Survivorship and the quality of life of cancer survivors. Previously she was Program Director for Endocrinology in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, where she worked for more than 30 years. In addition to her nursing and doctoral degrees, she has a master’s degree in psychiatric mental health nursing and has facilitated cancer support groups for families and patients. Dr. Schultz is a member of ThyCa’s Medical Advisory Council as a Nursing Professor and Researcher.

Gisela M. Schwab, M.D., has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Exelixis, S. San Francisco, California, since January 2008. She joined Exelixis in 2006 as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. From 2002 to 2006, she held the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Abgenix, Inc., a human antibody-based drug development company. She also served as vice president, clinical development, at Abgenix from 1999 to 2001. Prior to working at Abgenix, from 1992 to 1999, she held positions of increasing responsibility at Amgen Inc., most recently as Director of Clinical Research and Hematology/Oncology Therapeutic Area Team Leader. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Heidelberg, trained at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and the National Cancer Institute and is board certified in internal medicine and hematology and oncolog.
Jennifer A. Sipos, M.D., Endocrinologist, is a thyroid cancer clinician at The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Sipos has authored numerous journal articles and serves as a member of the National Cancer Institute’s Physician Data Query Cancer Genetics Editorial Board. Following her graduation from medical school, Dr. Sipos completed a residency at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center and a fellowship at the University of North Carolina Hospitals. She formerly served as a member of the staff at the University of Florida, where she worked closely with ThyCa Medical Advisor and Endocrinologist, Ernest L. Mazzaferri, M.D.

Julie Ann Sosa, M.D., M.A., is an Endocrine and Oncologic Surgeon and Associate Professor of Surgery at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut. She is principal investigator or co-principal investigator of studies of new drug treatments for differentiated thyroid cancer (papillary/follicular), medullary thyroid cancer, and anaplastic thyroid cancer. Following undergraduate education at Princeton University, she received a master’s degree in Human Sciences at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom and her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland. She received postgraduate training at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, as well as John Radcliffe and Churchill Hospitals, Oxford, England. She is a frequent invited lecturer and course leader/instructor for professional audiences.

Beatriz Tendler, M.D., is an Endocrinologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, Connecticut, where her special focus is endocrine tumors. A graduate of Central University, Venezuela, she did her residency at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, plus fellowship training at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She speaks fluent English and Spanish.

John R. Vemillion, Esq., Attorney with John Vermillion & Associates LLC, specializes in estate planning and has offices in Dallas, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Brentwood, Tennessee. A graduate of Texas Christian University, he received his Juris Doctor degree from the Louisiana State University Law School. He has worked as a corporate attorney in the fields of oil and gas exploration and production, real estate development, finance and estate planning. He is a member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and is affiliated with Hyatt Legal Services and serves as a referral attorney for The Estate Plan.
Steven G. Waguespack, M.D., Endocrinologist, is an associate professor of internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. A native of Louisiana, Dr. Waguespack graduated Summa Cum Laude from Loyola University in New Orleans, where he also participated in the presidential scholars honor program. He graduated from the University of Texas-Houston Medical School with honors and pursued training in internal medicine/pediatrics at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis. He completed a combined adult and pediatric endocrinology fellowship at Indiana University and is board certified in both subspecialties. Recognized as one of “America’s Top Doctors for Cancer” in pediatric endocrinology, his major clinical and research interests are thyroid cancer, pituitary tumors, and metabolic bone disease. At M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Waguespack provides endocrine care to patients of all ages. He is a member of ThyCa’s Medical Advisory Council.

Lynn Waldmann, L.C.S.W., has been Senior Social Work Counselor at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston since 2000. She conducts clinical counseling with individuals and families to promote positive adjustment to cancer diagnosis and treatment and facilitate adherence to treatment, self-determination, and exploring choices. Previously she has served as a clinical social worker with children, adolescents, adults, and families in hospital and community-based settings. She is a graduate of Good Counsel College and Hunter College Graduate School of Social Work.

Carl Weisbrod, Esq., is an Attorney with Morgan & Weisbrod in Dallas, Texas law firm specializing in Social Security Disability issues. An authority on Social Security disability law, Mr. Weisbrod has represented thousands of disabled individuals in his 30 years of law practice. He is a past national president of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives (NOSSCR) and was Named a Texas Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly Magazine for 2004. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Law School.

Samuel A. Wells, M.D., is head of the Thyroid Clinical Research Program at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Maryland, and is a surgeon and senior clinician with the Medical Oncology branch of NCI of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Wells has also worked with the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and the Pediatric Oncology branch of NCI at NIH. He is spearheading a collaborative clinical trial between these two institutions to determine the success of a new drug treatment for children with Medullary Thyroid Cancer with hereditary components. Dr. Wells is also on the boards of several advisory groups through the National Cancer Institute, as well as a noted author of various studies on thyroid cancers. Dr. Wells is a graduate of Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, and completed a surgical residency at the Duke University Medical Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Wells is the Founding Director of the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group, and a member of the International Thyroid Oncology Group. He was awarded the Ernst Jung Prize for Medicine from the Federal Republic of Germany, the Joseph H. Burchenal Clinical Research Award from the American Association for Cancer Research, the Janeway Medal from the American Radium Society, and the Medallion of Scientific Achievement from the American Surgical Association. He is a member of ThyCa’s Medical Advisory Council.
Michelle D. Williams, M.D., is Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas. Her clinical interests focus on head and neck pathology. She is a graduate of the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, and completed postgraduate training in surgery, anatomic and clinical pathology, surgical pathology, and head and neck pathology at the University of Florida, where she was Chief Resident in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed research articles, as well as invited articles, abstracts, and book chapters, and an invited presenter at national and international conferences. She is an editorial board member of The Gulf Journal of Oncology, as well as reviewer for several medical journals, including Cancer, Head and Neck Pathology, and American Journal of Otolaryngology.

Lori J. Wirth, M.D., Medical Oncologist, is Assistant Professor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Medical Director of the Head and Neck Oncology Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. She is also Associate Physician in the Department of Medical Oncology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Dr. Wirth graduated from Brown University and received her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital and then became a fellow in Medical Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She is a member of the National Cancer Institute’s Metastatic/Recurrent Disease Task Force/Head and Neck Steering Committee, as well as a Thyroid Cancer Guideline Panel Member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Dr. Wirth has given numerous invited presentations at the regional, national, and international levels and has authored numerous publications. She is a reviewer for the American Journal of Hematology/Oncology and the Journal of Clinical Oncology, as well as an ad-hoc reviewer for several other medical journals.

Laura S. Wood, R.N., M.S.N., O.C.N., is a Renal Cancer Research Coordinator at the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Center in Cleveland, Ohio. She has presented multiple times at local, national, and international levels on a wide variety of oncology-related topics, including biotherapy and newer targeted therapies. She works collaboratively with her fellow team members in the hematology and oncology department. She is a past recipient of the Excellence in Biotherapy Nursing Award of the Oncology Nursing Society. She also has been published in the Oncology Nursing Forum, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, American Journal of Nursing, and Biotherapy, and others. As part of her work as a faculty member for Cleveland State University, she has also helped to mentor other nurses for the specialty of oncology and the role of biotherapy. Her article titled “Managing the Side Effects of Sorafenib and Sunitinib,” published in Community Oncology, is available in the Links section of ThyCa’s web site.

Anita K. Ying, M.D., Endocrinologist, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Endocrine Neoplasia and Hormonal Disorders at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. She also holds a joint appointment in the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center’s Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Ying, a graduate of Rice University and Duke University, is board certified in internal medicine, pediatrics, and endocrinology and metabolism. She has co-authored several articles for publication, including a study of thyroid cancer in young adults.