2023 PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

1ST ANNUAL

SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

Young Investigators' Forum

An academic research forum dedicated to cultivating meaningful connections among young investigators, with the overarching goal of expanding the horizons for small cell lung cancer research initiatives by connecting the unconnected.

CECONCEPTS HEALTHCARE EDUCATION | LUNGEVITY Transforming Lung Cancer

Presented by Creative Educational Concepts LLC (CEC Oncology) in collaboration with LUNGevity.
Supported through an independent educational grant from Jazz Pharmaceuticals.

Forum Recap

Dear Colleagues,

These are exciting times for those of us focused on improving the lives of patients with small cell lung cancer (SCLC). While this remains an exceptionally challenging disease with a poor prognosis, we are witnessing unprecedented progress in improving understanding of the biology of this disease, in defining new therapeutic targets, and developing new strategies to hit these targets. Many challenges remain, including bringing these new ideas forward to clinical implementation, ensuring that research reaches patients in underserved communities, and further expanding and strengthening the discovery pipelines from the lab to the clinic and back. Our patients are our most critical partners in addressing each of these challenges. And one thing is crystal clear: meeting these challenges will also require engaging and fostering the careers of the brightest young investigators in SCLC research.

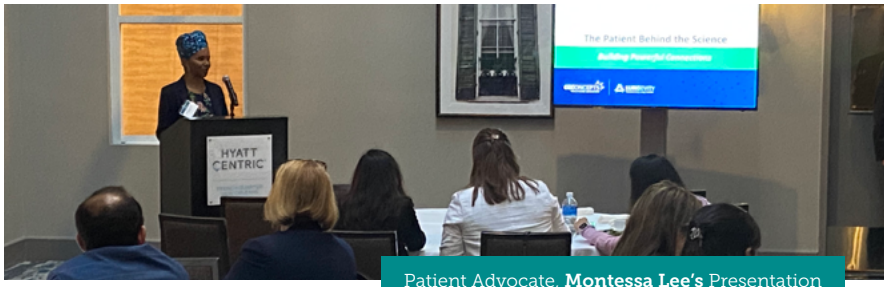
The first Small Cell Lung Cancer Young Investigators' Forum (SCLCYIF) sought to do just that. Together, with a superb patient advocate, Montessa Lee, and experienced investigators comprising a panel of Expert Judge Mentors (Christine Hann from Johns Hopkins, Titiana Leal from Emory, and Anne Chiang from Yale), we selected 14 outstanding young investigators to attend the 2023 SCLCYIF in New Orleans. These young investigators represent a notably diverse spectrum of research interests: basic discovery science in computational biology and laboratory models, innovative clinical trial concepts, and community outreach, engagement, and equity research. They also spanned a diversity of experience—from first-year graduate student to junior faculty.

Over the course of 2 days, we heard state-of-the-science and career advisory talks from the Expert Mentors, participated in small group roundtable discussions, and learned from an inspirational dinner seminar covering the patient journey from our advocate, Ms. Lee. In focused sessions across the 2 days, we also reviewed the exciting and novel research being led by the 14 young investigators, each of whom had the opportunity to present a 15-minute seminar on their ongoing work. We learned from each other, gained perspective on the disease, and had a lot of fun—including a late-night trip to a local jazz club!

On behalf of the Expert Judge Mentors, I would like to thank and congratulate all of the 2023 SCLC Young Investigators. We came away inspired by your energy, dedication, and insights; and we are confident that the future of SCLC research is in great hands. We look forward to seeing your continued progress in the field—and we hope to meet a new cohort of young investigators in SCLC research in 2024.

All the best,

Charles Rudin, MD, PhD (chair)



Patient Advocate, **Montessa Lee's** Presentation

"It was my pleasure to participate in the inaugural SCLCYIF. I was inspired by the Young Investigators who will shape the future of SCLC research and possibly improve outcomes for future SCLC patients. Including the patient's voice in these meetings allows investigators to 'see' the patient behind the science. It is imperative that patients are invited into 'the room where it happens'—where the decisions are made."

—Montessa Lee, Patient Advocate

"Everyone was great and very open and supportive. It was great to see such a supportive community in the field."

"The SCLCYIF provided a wonderful opportunity to network and form new collaborations with key leaders in the field of SCLC. I gained a new appreciation for my colleagues, not only as scientists, but as advocates who are passionate about improving outcomes for SCLC patients. This is one of the best meetings that I have ever attended."

About the Small Cell Lung Cancer Young Investigator Forum

The Small Cell Lung Cancer Young Investigators' Forum (SCLCYIF) offers a distinct educational opportunity tailored for young investigators (MD, DO, and/or PhD) in North America who are dedicated to advancing academic research in small cell lung cancer (SCLC) across basic, translational, and clinical research domains. This competitive program invites oncology junior faculty and fellows to submit abstracts of their unpublished, original SCLC-focused research for evaluation by a panel of expert faculty.

The 2023 SCLCYIF, its inaugural installment, was meticulously crafted to ensure a high standard of scientific excellence, quality, and participation. CEC Oncology initiated a comprehensive Call for Abstracts (CFA), targeting clinician scientists, research scientists, clinical fellows, and postdoctoral fellows engaged in SCLC research. Following a rigorous, blinded selection process overseen by top scientific experts and thought leaders, a select group of researchers received invitations to present their findings to peers and an esteemed panel of Expert Faculty Judge Mentors, employing a modified NIH scoring format. In an effort to enhance the professional development dimension of the forum, all young investigators were provided access to a professional coach with extensive experience in assisting scientists in presenting complex data clearly, addressing challenging questions effectively and articulately, and managing tight timeframes with professionalism and finesse. The overarching objective of this initiative is to identify, nurture, and equip Young Investigators for successful careers that contribute to the advancement of SCLC research. The approach involves connecting the unconnected through collaboration, collegiality, strategic mentoring, and community-building to ultimately expanding horizons for SCLC patients.

> "It was amazing to see this focus of young people hungry and passionate about studying small cell lung cancer. There's so much work to be done, but it was great to see the work that everyone is doing."
>
> —Montessa Lee, Patient Advocate

2023 Awards

2023 SCLCYIF Junior Faculty Winners

The Distinguished Young Investigator Award | $10,000 Grant

The Distinguished Young Investigator Research Award provides recognition for junior faculty who continue their dedication and sustained research efforts within SCLC. This year's Distinguished Young Investigators' Award was presented to:

Matthew Oser, MD, PhD

Assistant Professsor of Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

Mechanisms Underlying Hypersensitivity of Small Cell Lung Cancers to Cyclin A/B RxL Macrocyclic Peptide Inhibitors

Matthew G. Oser MD, PhD, is a physician-scientist in the Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, and the principal investigator of a research laboratory within the Division of Molecular and Cellular Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. He obtained a bachelor of arts from Oberlin College, and a medical degree and doctorate from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and was a medical oncology fellow in the Dana-Farber/Partners Cancer Care program. In 2019, following completion of a postdoctoral fellowship at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School in the lab of Dr. William G. Kaelin Jr., Dr. Oser began a tenure-track independent investigator position in the Division of Molecular and Cellular Oncology, where he heads an independent research laboratory, and a clinical position within the Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology.

Dr. Oser's research laboratory focuses on understanding small cell lung cancer (SCLC) tumorigenesis and identification of new therapeutic strategies for patients with SCLC and other lung neuroendocrine cancers. His specific interests include understanding how the neuroendocrine state of SCLC is regulated; discovery of new approaches to target the unique neuroendocrine identity of SCLC; understanding how specific genetic mutations found in SCLC impact tumor development; and uncovering how these recurrent genetic mutations can be leveraged to develop new selective targeted therapies.

Dr. Oser has been the recipient of a K08 grant and a R37 grant from the National Cancer Institute, a Lung Cancer Research Foundation Career Development Award, and a Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award.

> This was an outstanding opportunity in a small intimate setting to: 1) meet senior faculty mentors that can continue to serve as mentors going forward as my career develops; and 2) meet junior faculty colleagues and form collaborations where together we can make progress at better understanding and treating small cell lung cancer.

> I'm the principal investigator of a laboratory at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute focused on understanding the biology of small cell lung cancer with the ultimate goal of identifying new therapeutic strategies that will lead to better treatments for patients with small cell lung cancer. We have several very exciting projects in the laboratory identifying and understanding potential new therapeutic strategies for small cell lung cancer. I plan to use this award on projects related to finding ways to make immunotherapy work better for small cell lung cancer patients.

Junior Faculty

1st Runner Up

Amanda Linkous, PhD

Research Associate Professor
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Cerebral Organoids as a Model for SCLC Brain Metastasis and Plasticity

> The SCLCYIF provided a wonderful opportunity to network and form new collaborations with key leaders in the field of SCLC. I gained a new appreciation for my colleagues, not only as scientists, but as advocates who are passionate about improving outcomes for SCLC patients. I also learned the importance of advocating for my own career development and am now better prepared to set boundaries and clearly communicate my needs and career goals to others. Participation in the SCLCYIF has been instrumental to achieving my professional goals.

> This grant award will be used to perform single-cell RNA-sequencing on human SCLC tumors grown within miniature organoid models of the human brain.

2nd Runner Up

Joel Pearson, PhD
Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba
Scientist, CancerCare Manitoba Research Institue
Winnipeg, Canada

Mechanisms Underlying YAP/TAZ-TEAD Function in SCLC

> Attending the SCLCYIF allowed me meet other SCLC researchers and see the exciting SCLC research that is going on at different centers in North America. I was able to develop new collaborations and identify new research questions that will impact the SCLC field. The presentation skills workshop was very helpful to hone my speaking/ presentation skills and the mentoring moments and small group discussions gave me a greater appreciation for some of the unresolved problems in the SCLC field as well as various strategies to help build a research program and balance different aspects of lab, work and home life. Together, this will help to establish my career as an SCLC researcher and build an internationally recognized SCLC research program.P12

> This award will be used to support our ongoing research exploring the molecular mechanisms that regulate the epigenetic landscape of SCLC and how we can use this information to develop novel targeted therapies for SCLC.

Trainees

2023 SCLCYIF Trainee Winners

Winner

Benjamin Morris, PhD
CPRIT TRIUMPH Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Comprehensive DNA Repair Landscape Analysis Reveals Novel Small Cell Lung Cancer Biology

> Participating in the first annual SCLCYIF has had, and will continue to have, an enormous impact on my professional development. The ability to network with my peers across basic science and clinical specialties was very impactful. I left the SCLCYIF with several new collaborations and friends that I did not have prior to attending. Additionally, the ability to receive mentoring from established/renowned faculty was invaluable. Beyond networking and mentoring, learning how to assemble impactful translational research teams was great. I will use these tips as I transition to faculty and build my own group in the near future. Lastly, participating in the SCLCYIF reminded me once again of the real reason for an academic career in cancer research—improving patient outcomes. Hearing from patient advocates, research nurses, private foundations, and expert clinicians was essential to understanding how to identify clinically relevant questions, conduct the best science possible, and to always have an eye toward improving patient outcomes in the near future.

> I plan to use my award to attend another conference and continue my training! I'm planning on attending the AACR Special Conference Translating Cancer Evolution and Data Science: The Next Frontier (12/3/23–12/6/23, Boston, Massachusetts). This meeting will help me further refine my ability to mine patient derived datasets to uncover routes of cancer progression and ultimately how to therapeutically target therapy-resistant tumors in the clinic.

1st Runner Up

Eric Gardner, PharmD, PhD
Postdoctoral Associate in Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine
New York, New York

Tumor Cell Intrinsic and Extrinsic Immunosuppressive Factors in SCLC Development

> This event provided another opportunity to network with young investigators who are on a similar timeline to myself or several years advanced. Speaking with these colleagues has better prepared me for my transition to independence.

> This award will support expenses related to a pilot experiment that was formulated while attending this meeting. Based on the preliminary evidence I showed during my brief talk, I had a longer discussion with Matthew Oser on what we believe to be an immune-mediated restriction point for neuroendocrine transformation. In brief, this award will be used for [some] single cell RNA-sequencing costs.

2nd Runner Up

Nikita P. Patel, MD
Fellow
Robert Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois

Trial in Progress: Phase II Study of Tusamitamab Ravtansine (SAR408701) in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)

> Participating in the SCLCYIF was a wonderful opportunity to learn from leaders in thoracic oncology and bridge the gap between laboratory and clinical research.

> I plan to use the grant award to contribute to my research efforts as a fellow.

Attendees

Asrar Alahmadi, MBBS, MAS-CR

Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio
@AsrarAlAhmadi

Area Deprivation Index and SCLC, a Preliminary Report about Immunotherapy Utilization in ES-SCLC

Priyanka Gopal, PhD

Research Assistant Professor
Department of Radiation Oncology
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois
@priyanka_gopal

Cell-Cell Interactions Regulate the Intrinsic Diversity of Individual Small Cell Lung Cancer Tumors

Wade Iams, MD, MSCI

Assistant Professor, Thoracic Oncology
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee
@WadeIams

Next-generation Sequencing Genomic and Methylomic Evaluation to Detect Circulating Tumor DNA and Minimal Residual Disease in Patients with Limited Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer

Benjamin Morris, PhD

CPRIT TRIUMPH Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Comprehensive DNA Repair Landscape Analysis Reveals Novel Small Cell Lung Cancer Biology

Matthew Oser, MD, PhD

Assistant Professsor of Medicine
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts
@Oser_Lab

Mechanisms Underlying Hypersensitivity of Small Cell Lung Cancers to Cyclin A/B RxL Macrocyclic Peptide Inhibitors

Eric Gardner, PharmD, PhD

Postdoctoral Associate in Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine
New York, New York
@WCM_MeyerCancer/@WeillCornell

Tumor Cell Intrinsic and Extrinsic Immunosuppressive Factors in SCLC Development

Leonard Harris, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Biomedical Engineering
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Computational Modeling of T Cell Dynamics and Interactions in the Small Cell Lung Cancer Tumor Microenvironment

Amanda Linkous, PhD

Research Associate Professor
Department of Biochemistry
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee
@quarantalab

Cerebral Organoids as a Model for SCLC Brain Metastasis and Plasticity

Bahareh Nourmohammadi

PhD student
Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Promising Therapeutic Effects of Pyrimidine Synthesis Inhibition by a Novel Dihydroorotate Dehydrogenase (DHODH) Inhibitor in Small Cell Lung Cancer

Nikita P. Patel, MD

Fellow
Robert Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois
@JPatelMD

Trial in Progress: Phase II Study of Tusamitamab Ravtansine (SAR408701) in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)

Attendees

Joel Pearson, PhD
Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba
Scientist, CancerCare Manitoba Research Institute
Winnipeg, Canada
@JoelDPearson

Mechanisms Underlying YAP/TAZ-TEAD Function in SCLC

Bindu Potugari, MD
Senior Faculty
Henry Ford Cancer Institute
Detroit, Michigan
@bindupotugari

Outcomes in Small Cell Lung Cancer with the Primary Tumor Size of 2 cm or Less

Michela Saviana, PhD
Post-doctoral fellow
Department of Internal Medicine
Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

A Plasma miRNA-based Classifier for Small Cell Lung Cancer Diagnosis

Hui Yu, MD, PhD
Instructor and Research Pathologist
Department of Pathology
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, Colorado
@HuiYu95592845

Development of Pre-clinical Hematopoietic Humanized Mouse Model of Small Cell Lung Cancer

"Overall was a great experience. I got to meet many colleagues and listen to their exciting research."

"I anticipate connecting with researchers who I met at the meeting."

"It was a great opportunity to meet others in the field, to develop collaborations and generate some new ideas. These will be beneficial in both the short and long-term for my career."

At-a-Glance

Cancer Care Manitoba/University of Manitoba
Canada

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

Henry Ford Cancer Institute
Detroit, Michigan

Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois

Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas

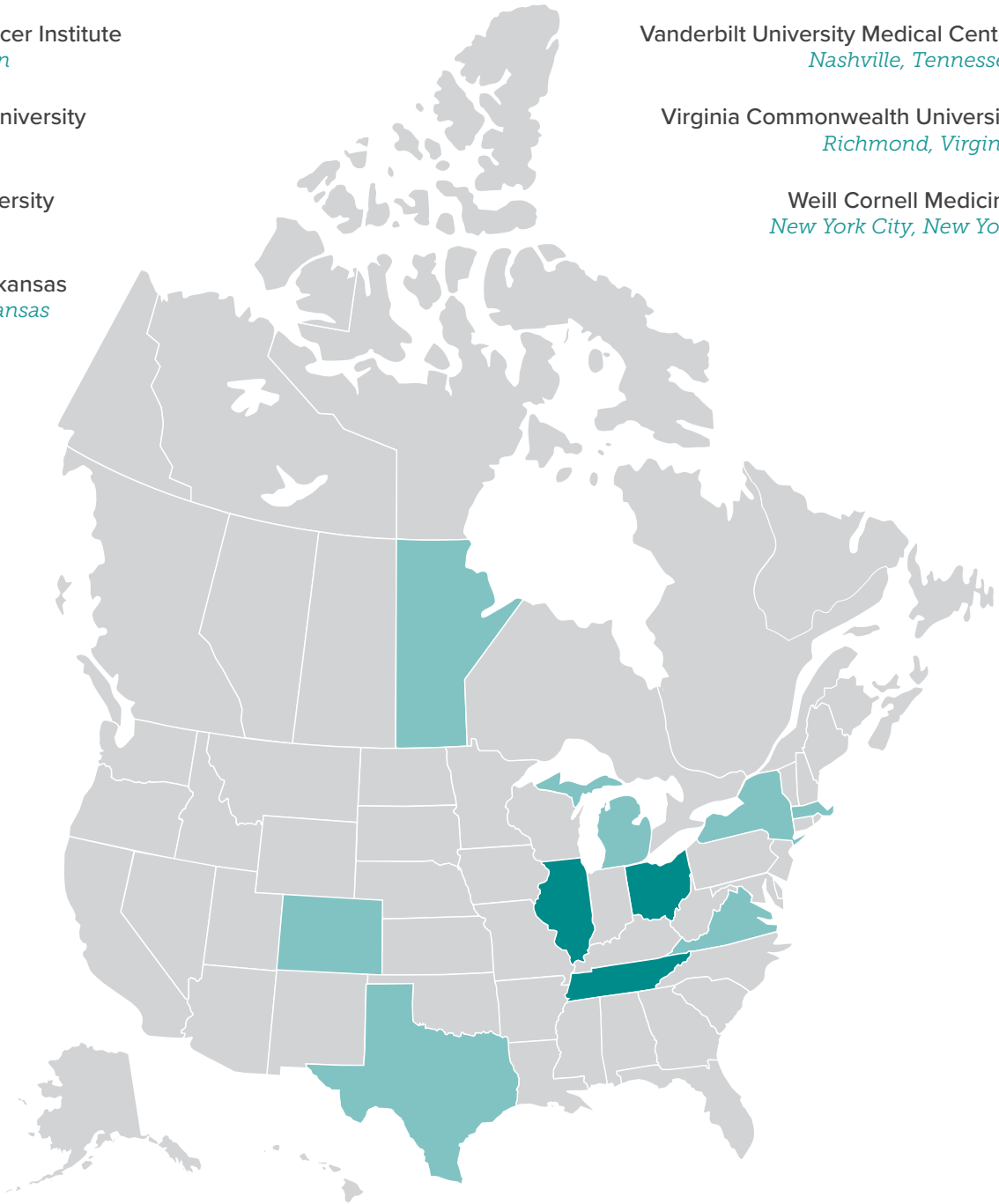
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, Colorado

University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

Weill Cornell Medicine
New York City, New York



Faculty

"This was a meeting focused on small cell lung cancer with a focus actually on young investigators. And this is really the first such meeting that I've been privileged to be able to participate in—bringing together young investigators all the way from first year graduate students to junior faculty that are really interested in all aspects of small cell lung cancer. These ranged from very basic discovery research, understanding the basis of the disease, all the way to clinical trials and, and interventions to try to help patients with this disease to disparities research and understanding populations at risk for small cell lung cancer and disparities of access to care among populations of patients affected by this disease. For me, I think one of the highlights of the meeting was actually a talk by Montessa Lee, a patient advocate who suffered from small cell lung cancer a number of years ago and could really speak about the patient journey to her current state of being disease free and what this diagnosis meant to her at the time and the sort of fear and disruption of her life that was caused by this diagnosis.

It was a really nice meeting, and I think the nice aspect of it was that it was a pretty small collegial group. We had four experienced faculty members leading discussion and a number of trainees really from all over the country and including one from Canada. So, it's a really nice community and I think this could become an annual event, and I look forward to potentially reconvening the team in 2024 to do it again."

—Charles Rudin, MD

Charles Rudin, MD (Activity Chair)
Chief, Thoracic Oncology Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

Ticiana Leal, MD (Steering Committee)
Associate Professor
Director, Thoracic Medical Oncology
Winship Cancer Institute
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Anne Chiang, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Division of Thoracic Medical Oncology
Yale University School of Medicine
Associate Cancer Center Director, Clinical Initiatives
Yale Cancer Center
New Haven, Connecticut

Christine Hann, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Oncology
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

"Judge mentors were highly qualified and knowledgeable leaders in the field of SCLC. They were also very approachable and easy to engage in conversation."

"All of them are great, kind people that provided support for us. I benefit a lot from talking with them, not only in my career development but also my personal life, such as how to make the balance between career and life. Very helpful! They are great! So happy had a chance talking to them."

Patient Advocate

Montessa M. Lee, MS, EdS
Hyattsville, Maryland

Montessa M. Lee, MS, EdS, is a national board-certified teacher, mentor teacher, and advocate for lung cancer awareness. After being diagnosed with small cell lung cancer in 2006, she chronicled her journey in a memoir, He Whispered Life. It is through this journey that Ms. Lee realized funding for lung cancer research is inadequate, especially given that it is the leading cause of cancer death worldwide. Since her diagnosis, she has pursued efforts that focus on lung cancer awareness and research.

> "The patient advocacy talk by Montessa Lee was very inspirational."

Define the Role for the Patient Advocate

Decide why the patients will be engaged in the research project	• How will including patients benefit the research project? • How will patients contribute? • What information will be gained from patient engagement?
Identify patients for the research project	• What type of patients are needed for the protocol? • Do the patients need a specific experience? • Should there be more than one patient included? • How will patients be identified?
Discuss roles, responsibilities, and expectations	• What is the role of the patient on the project? • What is required of patients? • Will patients be involved at different levels? • What is expected of the patient?
Discuss how researchers and patients will communicate	• How often will researchers and patients communicate? • How will researchers and patients communicate? • Who are the contact people on the research project and what are their roles?

- Connect with advocacy groups to identify individual patient advocates
- Network with colleagues who have partnered with patient advocates

Adapted from Spears PA. *Future Oncol.* 2021;17(28):3717–3728. Slide courtesy of Jill Feldman, EGFR Resisters.

Educational Highlights

What Participants Value Most

Mentoring Moments and Small-group Networking Sessions

Driven by the core mission of connecting, educating, and empowering young Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) researchers, the first SCLCYIF created an intimate environment for our young investigators to engage with experienced and pre-eminent thought leaders in the field. Through small group sessions and formal mentoring moments presentations, attendees and our esteemed faculty judges explored topics such as unanswered questions driving research in SCLC, clinical trial design, navigating clinical trial networks, building a translational research team, and juggling early career and personal life.

"I feel more confident in starting collaborations and keeping contact with the leading researchers of the SCLC field."

"Made great connections with others in the field."

"I was able to network and meet new collaborators in my field. The mentoring sessions were helpful for both personal and professional development, and the presentation skills workshop was helpful to develop my speaking and presentation skills."

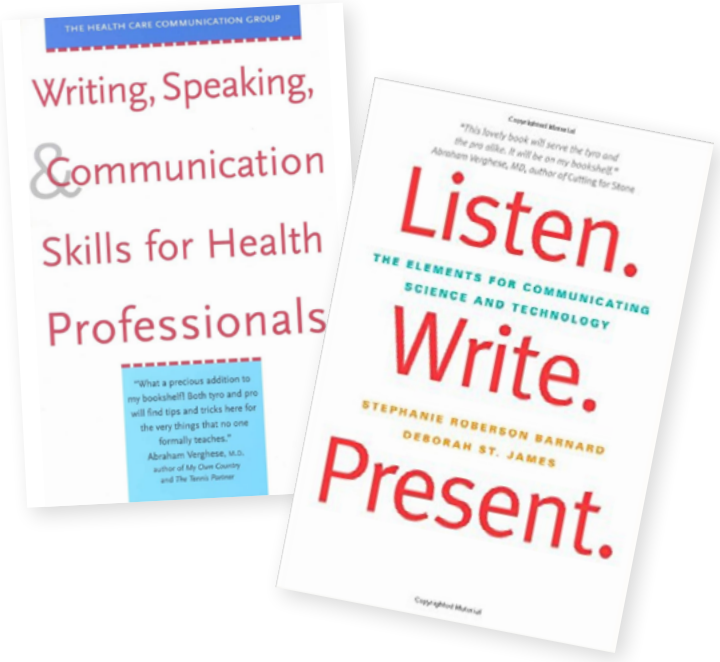
"I appreciated the honesty in each mentor's self-reflection."

"All of them are great, kind people that provided support for us. I benefit a lot from talking with them, not only in my career development but also my personal life, such as how to make the balance between career and life. Very helpful! They are great! So happy I had a chance to talk to them."

Educational Highlights

Presentation Skills Enhancement Workshop

To augment the professional development aspects of the SCLCYIF, 2023 Young Investigators had the opportunity to participate in individual coaching sessions with an expert from Listen Write Present. Young Investigators who attended the one-on-one pre-program coaching sessions received expert advice and critique of their presentation and public speaking skills, and were given a copy of the book *Listen. Write. Present*. In addition, the expert coach provided participants with tips for effectively answering questions about and defending their research.



2023 Professional Scientific Communication Coach

Stephanie Roberson Barnard (Coach)
Listen Write Present LLC
Greensboro, North Carolina

PRE-EVENT
POST-EVENT

Following coaching and abstract presentations, average participant confidence in their ability to present scientific information to peers increased from

2.0 to 3.0*

** on a 4 point scale*

PRE-EVENT
POST-EVENT

Similarly, average participant confidence in ability to defend their research following the event increased from

2.0 to 3.5*

** on a 4 point scale*

HOW ATTENDING THE SCLCYIF WILL

Impact Young Investigators' Careers

Watch for the next newsletter to see publication, presentation, and award updates for the 2023 cohort of SCLC Young Investigators!

"The opportunity to network with both established and junior investigators was invaluable (and will continue to my impact career through new collaborations/connections moving forward)."

"Overall, this meeting helped me to improve my knowledge about small cell lung cancer, and it also helped me to improve my confidence for presenting my data. The workshop was so helpful for me to have some ideas for my strengths and weaknesses of my presentation."

"I learned the importance of advocating for my own career development and am now better prepared to set boundaries and clearly communicate my needs and career goals to others."

Start Planning for 2024!

2ND ANNUAL
SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER
Young Investigators' Forum

To be notified when the Call for Abstracts is distributed, please email **info@ceconcepts.com**.

Visit the **SCLCYIF website** for the latest information about upcoming or past forums.

Follow us on **@SCLCYIForum**

ceCONCEPTS
HEALTHCARE EDUCATION