

The 27th Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference

Speaker Biographies

Jennifer Guida, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Jennifer Guida is a Public Health Advisor in the Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch in the Behavioral Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Guida is interested in improving quality of life and longevity for cancer survivors following cancer treatment, including areas involving the intersection of aging, psychosocial and contextual factors, and late emerging treatment effects. Dr. Guida completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. She completed her doctoral degree in Epidemiology from the University of Maryland, College Park and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Colorado.

Kristi Graves, Ph.D.

Dr. Kristi D. Graves is a tenured Associate Professor of Oncology and Director of the Survivorship Research Initiative at Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has research interests in translational genomics and cancer survivorship. Dr. Graves has several current projects that span the cancer prevention and control continuum. She is multiple principal investigator on a training grant through the National Cancer Institute to train community health educators, patient navigators and community health workers about hereditary breast and ovarian cancer within the Latinx community. She is also multiple principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health-funded study to evaluate symptoms among patients diagnosed with thyroid cancer following radioactive iodine therapy. Dr. Graves is the site investigator for an expressive helping writing intervention to reduce symptoms among patients undergoing stem cell transplant and evaluation. She is also contributing to the development and initial testing of peer mentoring support program for patients diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Dr. Graves received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Virginia Tech. She completed a clinical internship at the Medical University of South Carolina and a postdoctoral fellowship in Psycho-Oncology at the University of Kentucky.

Minhaj Siddiqui, MD, FACS

Dr. Minhaj Siddiqui is an Associate Professor and Director of Urologic Oncology and Robotic Surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center and University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Siddiqui earned his MD degree at Harvard which included his executing a research thesis project on organ regeneration in the Harvard/MIT research program. Dr. Siddiqui is also Chief of Urology at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. Passionate about research, Dr. Siddiqui has conducted research on medical research fellowships at Harvard, MIT and at the

National Cancer institute. His research interests center around the improved diagnosis and management of prostate and bladder cancer.

William G. Nelson, MD, PhD

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

Niharika Khanna, MD, MBBS, DGO

Dr. Niharika Khanna is Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine, a member of the Tumor Immunology Program at the Greenebaum Cancer Center, Chief of Population Health at the Department of Family Medicine, and Chair of the Maryland Department of Health Cancer Collaborative. Dr. Khanna is the Principal Investigator for the C3I (Cancer Center Cessation Initiative) for the Greenebaum Cancer Center, and for a three-year National Cancer Institute grant to study e-cigarettes and vaping at the University of Maryland. In response to the pandemic, Dr. Khanna led a population health team to establish a COVID-19 dashboard for the Department of Family Medicine practices to track all screened individuals to ensure seamless communication of results, patient education and management of individuals being tested for SARS CoV2. Funded by the Maryland Department of Health Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control, Dr. Khanna has developed an Electronic Health Record clinician decision support solution in Epic electronic health records to electronically connect the Maryland Tobacco Quit Line to reach the 154 practices in the University of Maryland Medical System that serve 3,912,403 Maryland residents. Dr. Khanna leads the C3I COVID-Smoking initiative to participate in the NCI COVID-Smoking registry to elucidate the association of COVID-19 with tobacco; the registry will include data from 21 participating cancer centers and 170,000 patients. Dr. Khanna is a member of the Board of the Maryland Tobacco Resource Center, and a Member of the CRISP Health Information Exchange Reporting and Analytics Committee. Dr. Khanna's interests are in clinical translational research to translate research into community programs and specifically in the systems change in primary care. Dr. Khanna is a breast cancer survivor diagnosed in 2009.

Loretta Woodward Veney

Loretta Woodward Veney is a motivational speaker and trainer who has delivered more than 300 speeches and presentations on dementia and caregiving since 2014, and she offers a wealth of information, encouragement and humor to her audiences. Throughout her life, Loretta, who is the author of *Being My Mom's Mom* (2nd edition 2019), *Colors Flowing from My Mind* (2019) and *Refreshment for the Caregiver's Spirit* (2nd edition 2020), has chronicled family events through journals, photos, and videos, seeking to capture every moment. Her documentation came in very handy in 2006 after her beloved mother Doris became the first female in the family to suffer from dementia. Loretta began learning everything about the disease, becoming a fierce advocate for her Mom in the process. Loretta and her Mom have been featured in articles in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Psychology Today*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *AARP Caregiver Stories*, as well as a PBS special entitled *Alzheimer's the Caregiver's Perspective*. In 2019, Loretta was selected as Trailblazer of the Year by Johns Hopkins Medicine.