



Current and Future Directions in Neuro-Oncology

A Young Investigators Forum

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2021



VIRTUAL EVENT

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COURSE DIRECTOR



Gelareh Zadeh, MD, PhD, FRCS(C), FAANS

Gelareh Zadeh, MD, PhD, FRCS(C), is an associate professor in the Department of Surgery at University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada. She is a neurosurgeon-scientist at Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network (UHN). She was most recently appointed as the Wilkins Family Chair in Brain Tumor Research. Her clinical practice focuses on skull base neuro-oncology, with a dedicated general brain tumor clinic and many multidisciplinary clinics that she has established and is actively involved with, such as skull base, pituitary, brain metastases, gamma knife, and neurofibromatosis clinic. She is actively involved with and is dedicated to the goal of advancing surgical clinical trials.

Her research laboratory is focused on studying the molecular mechanisms of glioma angiogenesis and molecular regulators of tumor metabolism. Specifically investigating the role of bone marrow–derived cells in supporting tumor vasculature in gliomas and how differentiation into macrophage and microglia population plays a role in escape mechanisms of evading antiangiogenic therapy. A second focus of the laboratory, on tumor metabolism, explores the interplay between altered metabolism in response to antiangiogenic therapy. She also has a translational program, dedicated to establishing the genomic landscape of meningiomas and schwannomas. Her laboratory is funded through peer-reviewed grants from a number of agencies such as Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Terry Fox New Investigator grant, Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, Cancer Research Society, BrainChild, and others.

She is a scientist at Labatts Brain Tumor Research at Sick Kids Research Institute and Macfeeters-Hamilton Neuro-Oncology Centre at Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto. She is active in many local, national, and international committees in the field of neuro-oncology. She is the director of the UHN brain tumor bank and codirector of the University of Toronto Brain Tumor Bank. Together with Dr Vera Bril she is the codirector of the UHN Elizabeth Raab Neurofibromatosis Program. She is the chair of academic affairs for the Division of Neurosurgery at University of Toronto. She has served as the scientific cochair of Society of Neuro-Oncology for two years (2014 and 2015), she is currently the secretary/treasurer of Society of Neuro-Oncology (2016 & 17) and chair of the Neuro-Oncology Committee at the World Federation of Neurological Surgeons (2013-17). She is the cochair and founder of the consortium on meningiomas, in collaboration with Society of Neuro-Oncology.

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Milan G. Chheda, MD

Milan G. Chheda, MD, is a neurologist and neuro-oncologist at Washington University School of Medicine and Siteman Cancer Center in St Louis, Missouri, United States. He treats patients with primary brain tumors and neurologic complications of cancer. His laboratory focuses on (1) discovering and characterizing the mechanisms driving the glioblastoma stem cell (GSC) state in the context of the tumor microenvironment and (2) developing GSC-targeting therapies.



Joseph F. Costello, PhD

Joseph F. Costello, PhD, is a professor of neurosurgery at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and holds the Karen Osney Brownstein Endowed Chair in Neuro-Oncology. Dr Costello is the Basic Science principal investigator of the UCSF Brain Tumor SPORE, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-supported Training Program in Translational Brain Tumor Research at UCSF, and served as the director of the UCSF-based NIH Roadmap Epigenome Mapping Center. He has substantial experience in teaching, mentoring, and scientific leadership. Examples of his activities include serving as mentor/co-mentor for undergraduate and medical student trainees, trainees at the PhD and postdoc level funded through F31, F32, and F99/K00 from NIH, medical residents on the Holman Pathway, NIH R25, and junior faculty who have received K08, K23 and R01 awards. The Costello laboratory is composed of cell, molecular, and computational biologists working alongside clinician-scientists from neurosurgery, neuropathology, and radiation oncology. Our goal is to understand the full evolutionary history of human brain tumors, from the first mutation through cellular immortality, clonal selection and tumor recurrence. Current projects incorporate magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-guided tumor biopsies and treatment data with longitudinal genomics to allow the reconstruction of tumor evolution in the context of the human tumor in vivo. We recently discovered the multimeric factor, GABP, which is recruited by the mutation to activate TERT and immortalize brain cells, allowing them to maintain telomeres, proliferate indefinitely, and evolve into tumors. We are pursuing studies of the role of GABP in tumor immortality and approaches to therapeutically target it to reverse immortality.



Gavin P. Dunn, MD, PhD

Gavin P. Dunn, MD, PhD, is a neurosurgeon-scientist at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri, United States. He is an associate professor of neurological surgery, neurology, and pathology/immunology, and neurological surgery residency program director. He is a faculty member in the Department of Neurological Surgery with an appointment in the Department of Pathology and Immunology at Washington University and is a member of Andrew M. and Jane M. Bursky Center for Human Immunology and Immunotherapy programs. He oversees a research program focused on the immunobiology of malignant glioma with the goal of translational and clinical trial efforts in the treatment of this disease.

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Jennifer Moliterno Gunel, MD, FAANS

Jennifer Moliterno Gunel, MD, FAANS, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, United States, and went on to receive her medical degree from the College of Medicine, graduating with honors in research. She completed her internship and residency training in neurosurgery at Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut, United States, where she served as chief resident. While at Yale, Dr Moliterno developed an interest in neuro-oncology and devoted her research efforts to implementing clinical trials for patients with brain tumors at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. Following graduation from residency, Dr Moliterno completed a one-year clinical fellowship in neurosurgical oncology specializing in surgery for brain and spinal cord tumors at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, also in New York City. While her clinical interest is in the surgical management of all types of benign and malignant brain tumors (gliomas, glioblastomas, meningiomas, etc), her particular expertise is in performing specialized surgeries for complex tumors located in highly functioning brain (ie, speech and motor) areas. In addition, Dr Moliterno surgically treats tumors of the skull base, such as vestibular schwannomas or acoustic neuromas, as well as other nononcologic conditions, including trigeminal neuralgia and hemifacial spasm. She is also credentialed for performing gamma knife radiosurgery. Her current research interest is translational and focused on the development of personalized and precise oncologic care.



Eudocia Q. Lee, MD, MPH

Eudocia Q. Lee, MD, MPH, is a neuro-oncologist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, United States. She is the director of clinical research in the Center for Neuro-Oncology at Dana-Farber, co-chair of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) Young Investigator Committee, and associate director of the Massachusetts General Hospital/Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center neuro-oncology fellowship program. She is currently leading an international collaborative effort between SNO, Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology (RANO), and other partners to increase accrual to brain tumor clinical trials and make trials more accessible for patients.