

24th Annual Women's Health and Cancer Conference Speakers

Shahid Ahmed, MBBS

Dr. Ahmed is an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology Oncology at the UVM Larner College of Medicine.



Agnes Balla, MD



Dr. Balla is an Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, UVM Medical Center, with expertise in Breast Pathology, Genitourinary Pathology and Surgical Pathology.

Lucian Benway, CPT, ETS

Lucian joined UVM Medical Center's Oncology & Hematology Rehabilitation program, Steps to Wellness in 2018 as a rehabilitation exercise trainer. Lucian holds certifications as a Personal Trainer, Exercise Therapy Specialist, Group Fitness Instructor, and Emergency Medical Technician. Before joining the Steps to Wellness team, Lucian worked as a lead trainer and group fitness instructor at Vermont area fitness studios/gyms. Lucian has a deep-seated interest in fitness and believes that evidence-based approaches to exercise are the foundation to physical and emotional rehabilitation, performance, and longevity.



Stephen H. Berns, MD

Dr. Berns is an Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Division of Palliative Medicine, Larner College of Medicine.

Amy D. Candon, PT

Amy Candon is in private practice at Pelvic Health: a physical therapy specialty practice with focus on pelvic floor dysfunction and the many diagnoses associated with this including, but not limited to pelvic pain, incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, pregnancy and postpartum related musculo-skeletal issues, vulvodynia/vulvar vestibulitis, vaginismus, and constipation.



Rachel Adams Greenup, MD, MPH, FACS



Rachel Greenup, MD, MPH, is an Associate Professor of Surgery (Oncology) and Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology. She provides coordinated, state-of-the-art care to patients with benign and malignant diseases of the breast as part of The Breast Center at Smilow Cancer Hospital.

She earned her undergraduate degrees in Zoology and Psychology at the University of Wisconsin, where she also completed a Master of Public Health. She received her medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin where she also completed her General Surgery residency, and went on to complete a fellowship as part of The Massachusetts General Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital Breast Surgery Fellowship.

Prior to joining Yale, Dr. Greenup was an Associate Professor of Surgery and Population Health Sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine and Duke Cancer Institute. There she founded the Duke Breast Cancer Outcomes Research Group, and Core Faculty for the Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy. In 2016, she received the National Institutes of Health Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Award to evaluate how financial costs and burden relate to preference-sensitive decisions for breast cancer surgery. In 2017, she was named the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Breast Surgeons Health Policy Scholar.

Her research focuses on aligning patient-centered care with high-quality, lower cost treatment. She serves on several national committees, including the Alliance in Clinical Oncology Ethics and Value Committees, the American College of Surgeons Cancer Care Delivery Task Force, the American Society of Breast Surgeons Legislative Committee, and the Editorial Board for the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*.

Mark Levine, MD, Commissioner of Health, State of Vermont

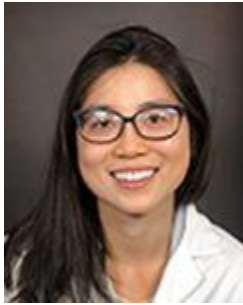
Dr. Mark Levine was appointed commissioner of health by Governor Phil Scott and began service on March 6, 2017. Prior to his appointment he was a Professor of Medicine at the University of Vermont, and most recently the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Designated Institutional Official at the College of Medicine and the UVM Medical Center. He also served as the Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Medicine. Dr. Levine obtained his B.A. in Biology from the University of Connecticut and received his M.D. degree from the University of Rochester. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency and a Chief Resident year at the University of Vermont and a fellowship in general internal medicine at the University of North Carolina, which emphasized clinical epidemiology, research training, teaching, and administration of educational programs.



Dr. Levine has gained a reputation as an outstanding teacher and educational program innovator, receiving teaching awards from the medical school and the Department of Medicine. He maintains his faculty appointment and continues to actively teach.

Prior to becoming Commissioner, he actively practiced general internal medicine with special interests in solving complex diagnostic dilemmas, health promotion/ disease prevention, screening and clinical nutrition. This provided him with personal perspective on the challenges our healthcare system holds for physicians as well as patients. At the nexus of Dr. Levine's clinical, education, public health and advocacy efforts is his heightened interest in improving health at the population level through health policy directed at fostering a culture of health. As Health Commissioner, Dr. Levine takes great pride in leading the Department of Health's efforts to fulfill its mission – *To protect and promote the best health for all Vermonters* and is honored to represent its vision of *Healthy Vermonters living in healthy communities*.

Puyao C. Li, MD



Puyao Li, MD is a radiation oncologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center, and assistant professor at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont.

Dr. Li's clinical focus is on the treatment of breast, gynecologic and metastatic cancers. She emphasizes a compassionate, individualized, and evidence-based approach in treating patients with cancer.

Dr. Li received her BS from Yale University and her MD from Harvard Medical School. She completed residency training in the Harvard Radiation Oncology Program, a joint program between Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Her research interests include understanding causes for and reducing side effects of cancer treatments and improving and individualizing radiation therapy for patients.

Amy Littlefield, ND

Dr Amy Littlefield is a physician in private practice who consults with local oncology programs. Her training in Naturopathic and Classical Chinese Medicine, combined with an integrative medicine hospital-based residency, refined her dedication to patient centered medicine that is truly integrative in focus. She consults with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont on care quality issues and sits on the board of medical examiners for the American Association of Naturopathic Oncology. Dr Littlefield works collaboratively with her patients and applies evidence-informed integrative strategies in coordination with oncology providers so that treatment addresses each patients' individual needs without compromising the goals of conventional care.



Cindy Noyes, MD



Dr. Noyes is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Infectious Disease, University of Vermont Medical Center.

Patricia O'Brien, MD

Founder of the Women's Health and Cancer Conference, Dr. O'Brien provides lymphedema consultations at the UVM Cancer Center at the UVM Medical Center. She works with the Steps to Wellness program, Oncology Rehabilitation seeing any patients that want to participate in exercise and wellness programs at any stage in their disease journey. She serves as an advisor for the Women's Health and Cancer Conference and has also volunteered with many local nonprofits. Dr. O'Brien is a breast cancer survivor who has participated in multiple national cancer research studies, including those at the UVM Cancer Center. She is interested in the long-term medical needs of cancer survivors.



Electra D. Paskett, PhD



Electra D. Paskett, Ph.D., became the Marion N. Rowley Professor of Cancer Research at The Ohio State University in 2002. She is the Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control in the College of Medicine, a professor in the Division of Epidemiology in the College of Public Health and the Associate Director for Population Sciences and Community Outreach and Co-Program Leader of the Cancer Control Program in the Comprehensive Cancer Center of the Ohio State University (OSU). She is also Founding Director of the Center for Cancer Health Equity at the James Cancer Hospital, and immediate past-Chair of the Cancer Control and Health Outcomes Committee of Cancer and Leukemia Group B. She received her doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Washington. Dr. Paskett's almost 400 peer-reviewed publications show-case her work in intervention research directed at cancer prevention, early detection and survivorship issues. Her studies use multi-level interventions in transdisciplinary teams with community-based participatory research to identify and intervene on factors causing disparities among underserved populations such as social and ethnic minority groups and rural/underserved populations. Dr. Paskett successfully competed for an NCI-funded P50, Center for Population Health and Health Disparities, to examine why rates of cervical cancer are high in Appalachia Ohio and is the Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) of a large cervical cancer prevention program project in Appalachian regions of four states. She was the Principal Investigator of the Ohio Patient Navigator Research Program. She also has received funding from the Breast Cancer Research Foundation since 2001. She continues to work with the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) and is one of the multiple PI's of the WHI Cancer Survivor Cohort. Recently, she received funding for a UG3 that is looking at improving colorectal cancer screening through implementation science. Most recently, Dr. Paskett is a MPI of the RADx-UP Initiative Large Network proposal, RADx-UP Ohio, which leverages the vast community partnership networks of the Ohio Center for Clinical and Translational Science Award and the OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center to identify reasons for and intervene to reduce disparities in COVID-19 education, testing, contact tracing, follow-up and treatment among minority, underserved and vulnerable populations in Ohio. Dr. Paskett was elected as a Fellow to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2004. She is a past-President of the

American Society of Preventive Oncology, past Deputy Editor of the journal *Cancer, Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, and current Section Editor of the journal, *Cancer*. She is Director of the Cancer Control program in Alliance. She also has numerous awards such as the American Society of Preventive Oncology Distinguished Achievement Award, The Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology Jimmie Holland Award, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Distinguished Lecture Award on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities and the AACR Team Science Award for her long-standing role in the WHI. In 2016, she was appointed by President Obama as a member of the National Cancer Institute's National Cancer Advisory Board, and in 2020 she was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine as a member of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health.

Rebecca Reynolds, BS, CES/CPT

Rebecca joined UVM Medical Center as a rehabilitation exercise trainer for the Oncology & Hematology Rehabilitation program, Steps to Wellness in 2012. She holds certifications as a Personal Trainer (CPT), Group Fitness Instructor and Cancer Exercise Specialist (CES), allowing higher levels of knowledge and specialized skills to provide survivors safe and effective exercise programming. Rebecca acknowledges the gift of group exercise and looks forward to the opportunity to continue training, supporting and encouraging our community members as they rediscover their own physical and mental strengths.



Michelle Sowden, DO



Dr. Sowden is the Clinical Director of Surgical Oncology at the UVM Medical Center, and is an Associate Professor at the Larner College of Medicine at UVM. She holds multiple leadership positions, including leading the breast Transdisciplinary Team at UVMMC. With a clinical focus on breast cancer, her specialty is the surgical treatment of both benign and malignant breast conditions, including procedures such as oncoplastic breast conservation, and nipple sparing mastectomy. She is a member of the UVM

Cancer Center.

Mary A. Stanley, MD

Mary Stanley is a breast surgeon now in private practice in South Burlington. She specializes in the surgical care of all breast diseases. Mary has lived in the Burlington area with her family since 1998.



Erin M. Tsai, MD



Dr. Erin Tsai is a Diagnostic Radiologist at the UVM Medical Center with a clinical interest in breast cancer, breast imaging and intervention, and gynecologic cancer.

James Ulager, MD

Dr. Ulager is an Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Larner College of Medicine.

Elizabeth Watson, MD, MPH



Dr. Elizabeth Watson is a radiologist at the University of Vermont Medical Center and assistant professor at the Larner College of Medicine at UVM in Burlington, VT. She specializes in breast cancer, breast disease, mammography, breast ultrasound, breast MRI, and high-risk breast cancer screenings.

Dr. Watson values the chance to use her expertise and experience to diagnose breast cancers and benign breast diseases using a multitude of imaging procedures while offering reassurance to her patients. She considers it a privilege to help patients through some of their most difficult moments and strives to ensure that all of her patients receive the highest quality of care.

Marie E. Wood, MD

Dr. Wood is the Director of the Familial Cancer Program at the UVM Medical Center, a Professor at the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, and the associated director for Cancer Control and Population Health Sciences program at the UVM Cancer Center. She is the founder and principal investigator of the High Risk Breast Program (HRBP) which was established in 2003 as a clinical program with a research focus on women with a moderate to high risk for developing breast cancer.

