

Global Oncology Symposium

Tuesday, May 21 3:00-7:00pm

Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC)

Lecture Hall 1335 & Atrium Lobby



*Ending Cancer as we know it everywhere:
The Role of the NCI Center for Global Health*

Satish Gopal, MD, MPH
Director, Center for Global Health,
National Cancer Institute

Flash Talks | HSLC Lecture Hall 1335

3:15-5:00pm

Topics include survivorship in Brazil, cancer registries in Ethiopia, cancer epidemiology in Scandinavia, and global medical physics research

Keynote | Satish Gopal, MD, MPH

5:15-6:00pm

Networking Reception & Digital Posters | HSLC Atrium Lobby

6:00-7:00pm –Appetizers & beverages will be served

Join us on May 22nd 8-9am
[UW Carbone Grand Rounds](#)

To learn more and
register for FREE:



Hosted by:

UW Carbone Cancer Center

UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Questions? globaloncology@uwcarbone.wisc.edu

<https://cancer.wisc.edu/research/resources/global-oncology/>

Global Oncology Symposium Agenda

Tuesday, May 21 3:00-7:00pm
Health Sciences Learning Center
Lecture Hall 1335 & Atrium Lobby

3:00- 3:15pm Registration & Check-In

Registration table opens at 3:00pm

3:15-6:00pm Presentations/Flash talks & Keynote

All presentations in Lecture Hall 1335

Topic	Speakers
Welcome & Kick-off	Howard Bailey, MD Director, UW Carbone Cancer Center
The UWCCC GO program & the 2024 GO Pilot awards	S. Nabeel Zafar, MD MPH
Flash Talks Session I: Global Cancer Research (moderator: Noelle LoConte)	
Immune health grades and susceptibility to cervical cancer: A path to decrease inequality in sub-Saharan Africa	Robert Striker, MD
The landscape of cancer in Ethiopia: A registry-based analysis	Taylor Jaraczewski, MD, MS
Global medical physics research and scientific innovation	Robert Jeraj, PhD
A novel metric to track cancer mortality disparities worldwide	Kaleem Ahmed MD, MS
Low-cost liquid biopsies to advance cancer diagnosis and management in low- and middle-income countries	Muhammed Murtaza, PhD, MBBS
Characterization of the mutual landscape and identification of biomarkers of four types of cancer in Antioquia, Colombia	Andrés Cardona Ríos, MS, PhD candidate
Intermission Break (5mins)	
Flash Talks Session II: Global Cancer Capacity Building and Education (moderator: Nabeel Zafar)	
Capacity building for cancer nursing in Latin America	Loyda Braithwaite, NP
Cancer treatment capacity building in Nigeria	Adedayo Onitilo, MD
Acobiom & ASCO resource stratified guidelines on HPV and colorectal cancer screening	Noelle LoConte, MD
Science Careers in Oncology Research with Equity (SCORE): A comparative approach of Scandinavian and USA healthcare systems, impacts on cancer research, treatment, and outcomes	Sofia Refetoff, PhD, MS & Katerina Zahed, BS
Cancer survivorship in Brazil	Cibele Barbosa Carroll, MD, PhD, MPH
Intermission Break (5:05-5:15pm)	
5:15 pm: Keynote and Fire side chat	
Ending Cancer as we know it everywhere: The Role of the NCI Center for Global Health	Satish Gopal, MD, MPH, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute

6:00 – 7:00pm Networking Reception

Networking in the Atrium, with light appetizers (GF and V/VG options) and soda/beer/wine

Satish Gopal, MD, MPH, Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute

Keynote Speaker

Ending cancer as we know it everywhere: The Role of the NCI Center for Global Health



Satish Gopal, M.D., M.P.H. was appointed Director of the Center for Global Health (CGH) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2020. In this role, he oversees the development of initiatives and collaborations with other NCI and NIH partners, NCI-designated cancer centers, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to support cancer research, promote science-based cancer control, and build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries. Before coming to NCI, Dr. Gopal was the Cancer Program Director for the University of North Carolina collaboration with the Malawi Ministry of Health. Dr. Gopal earned his medical degree from the Duke University School of Medicine in 2001. He completed training in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Michigan, lived and worked in Tanzania from 2007 to 2009, then returned to the United States to pursue medical oncology and infectious disease training at the University of North Carolina. He lived with his family in Malawi from 2012 to 2019, when he was the only medical oncologist in the country and treated public sector cancer patients at the national teaching hospital alongside Malawian colleagues. He returned frequently to provide clinical service in the North Carolina Cancer Hospital. As an extramural physician-scientist, his NIH-funded research program focused on epidemiologic, clinical, and translational studies of lymphoma and HIV-associated malignancies in Africa and he oversaw a multidisciplinary cancer research portfolio which sought to address many of the commonest cancers in the region, including cervical, breast, and esophageal cancer. This program generated some of the first published studies in Africa to describe detailed molecular profiles for specific cancer types, characterize several unique lymphoproliferative disorders, report clinical trials of targeted cancer therapy, perform economic evaluations of cancer treatment, and integrate patient-reported outcome measurements. He has authored more than 130 publications in journals such as NEJM, JAMA, Lancet, and Nature Medicine among others, and mentored more than 30 early-career U.S. and African pre- and post-doctoral cancer researchers, many of whom hold academic positions in global oncology at NCI-designated cancer centers, African academic institutions, and other international organizations. He has spoken widely and provided leadership and expertise on various working groups, review committees, and boards. He previously served as the Associate Chair for African International Sites for the NCI AIDS Malignancy Consortium (AMC) with oversight responsibility for the network's African clinical trials. He currently serves as the U.S. representative on the Scientific Council for the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Syed Nabeel Zafar, MD, MPH, FACS FSSO, Director, Global Oncology Program at the UWCCC

The UWCCC program for Global Oncology, introducing the day and the 2024 Global Oncology Pilot awards



Syed Nabeel Zafar MBBS MPH is an Assistant Professor of Surgery within the division of Surgical Oncology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and is visiting faculty within the department of Surgery at Aga Khan University. He is the director of the UW Carbone Cancer Center's program in Global Oncology. Dr. Zafar completed his medical training from the Aga Khan University, an MPH from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health followed by a general surgery residency at Howard University, and fellowships in Advanced GI Minimally Invasive Surgery at the University of Maryland, and Complex General Surgical Oncology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr Zafar is certified by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery and Complex General Surgical Oncology, as well by the American Board of

Medical Quality. His clinical practice is in gastrointestinal cancers including gastric, hepatopancreatic biliary, and peritoneal surface malignancies with a focus on minimally invasive/Robotic approaches. Dr. Zafar conducts health services research and research on global oncology/global surgery. He analyzes large datasets to study outcomes after cancer surgery, as well as disparities in outcomes after surgical care. His research involved big data analytics and machine learning approaches to improve outcomes after cancer surgery. His research focuses on improving cancer care delivery and cancer surgery in low-and middle-income countries. His current research is funded by internal grants and the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Zafar has published over 105 scientific articles, 8 book chapters and has presented his work in over 40 local, national and international meetings. He is an active member of several professional societies including the Association of Academic Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Oncology, the American College of Surgeons, and the Association of Global Academic Surgeons, and the

American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Kaleem Ahmed, MD, MS

A Novel Metric to Track Cancer Mortality Disparities Worldwide



Dr. Kaleem Ahmed is a research fellow working under the mentorship of Dr. Syed Nabeel Zafar in the Wisconsin Surgical Outcomes Research (WiSOR) group in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Ahmed has a background in quantitative methods, surgical outcomes research, and machine learning. He completed his medical degree at the Aga Khan University in Pakistan and then went on to complete his Masters in Artificial Intelligence at Northwestern University in Chicago. He has worked on and published multiple papers focusing on surgical outcomes for pancreatic cancer, barriers to surgical research in LMICs, and global cancer care. His current interests are in applying deep learning methodologies on clinical and genomic data to improve our understanding of the disparities in outcomes in surgical oncology in low- and middle-income countries. Dr. Ahmed is currently working in the Zafar lab on building a novel electronic health record-based multicenter pancreatic cancer registry, and on identifying new metrics for global cancer control prioritization. He will be presenting work from the Zafar lab on “Global Disparities in Cancer Mortality: A Novel Metric for Prioritizing Cancer Control Efforts”.

Loyda Braithwaite, MSN, RN, AGPCNP-BC, AOCNP, ACHPN, Global Oncology Program

Capacity building for cancer nursing in Latin America



Loyda Braithwaite is an Oncology Nurse Practitioner with over 18 years of nursing experience who has dedicated her career to cancer care. She specializes in the management of patients with solid malignancies and is currently a nurse practitioner at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center. She obtained a BSN from University of Panama and a Master’s in Nursing with Oncology Specialty from Loyola University Chicago. She is certified as an Advanced Oncology as well as Hospice & Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner. Ms. Braithwaite is passionate about cancer care in minority populations. This has led to several opportunities for international collaboration with the nursing community as well as volunteering activities to improve nursing education and building capacity in developing countries. Ms. Braithwaite is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), the Latin American Society of Oncology Nursing (SLEO), the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC), the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Global Oncology group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Cibele Barbosa Carroll, MD, PhD, MPH, Global Oncology Program

Cancer survivorship in Brazil



Dr. Carroll is a scientist working for the Survivorship Research Program and Cancer Health Disparities Initiative (CHDI). She supports research on cancer survivorship, cancer health outcomes, health services research, and disparities in oncology. Dr. Carroll worked as a GI surgical oncologist for the Brazilian National Cancer Institute (INCA) between 2009 and 2018, focusing on colorectal and pancreatic cancer surgery. She is a member of the Brazilian Society of Surgical Oncology and collaborates with colleagues to understand the current state of cancer survivorship in Brazil, develop quality improvement projects (esophageal cancer care pathway in Espírito Santo state), and improve communities’ health literacy (translation, cultural adaption, and validation of UK Cancer Awareness Measure in Minas Gerais state).

Taylor Jaraczewski, MD, MS

The Landscape of Cancer in Ethiopia: A registry-based analysis



Dr. Jaraczewski is originally from Gurnee, Illinois and holds a bachelor's and master's degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He went on to attain his medical degree at Loyola University of Chicago. Currently a General Surgery Resident at the Medical College of Wisconsin, he holds the position as the Inaugural Global Surgery Research Fellow at MCW and the second American College of Surgeons H.O.P.E fellow. He is also a candidate member of the AAS Global Affairs Committee. Taylor has focused his career on improving access to safe surgical care for people who live in impoverished and under-resourced areas both domestic and abroad. His current research focuses on data systems optimization in Hawassa, Ethiopia. After completing residency, he plans to pursue a fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology and dedicate his work to improving cancer and surgical care for the underserved using bidirectional partnerships and machine learning. In addition to his professional life, Taylor takes great pride in his family, consisting of his wife, Angie, and their two children, Wesley, and Jillian.

Robert Jeraj, PhD, Global Oncology Program

Global medical physics research and scientific innovation



Dr. Jeraj is a Professor of Medical Physics, Human Oncology, Radiology, and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is also the Director of the Wisconsin Oncology Network of Imaging eXcellence (WONIX), a regional clinical trial network emphasizing imaging and molecular biomarkers. Additionally, Dr. Jeraj is a Professor at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, leading a medical physics research group. He founded the Topical Group on Medical Physics within the American Physics Society and chairs the Working Group on the Future of Medical Physics Research and Academic Training at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. Dr. Jeraj is an active member of ECOG-ACRIN, CAMPEP, and has authored over 170 papers, textbooks, and book chapters. He frequently lectures on molecular imaging and medical physics applications in oncology. Dr. Jeraj is deeply involved in global health initiatives, leading AAPM's efforts in research, education, mentorship, and clinical trials, particularly focusing on early-career researchers in global health.

Noelle LoConte, MD, Global Oncology Program

Acobiom & ASCO resource stratified guidelines on HPV and colorectal cancer screening



Noelle LoConte, MD, is a UW Health medical oncologist and an associate professor in the Division of Hematology, Medical Oncology and Palliative Care within the Department of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She cares for adult patients with gastrointestinal (GI) tumors. Dr. LoConte's research interests focus on cancer prevention and control with a particular interest in cancer disparities. She is the principal investigator on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded project that aims to increase colorectal cancer screening in Wisconsin and has led many clinical trials of new chemotherapies for gastrointestinal cancers, from Phase I through Phase III studies.

Muhammed Murtaza, PhD, MBBS, Global Oncology Program

Low-cost liquid biopsies to advance cancer diagnosis and management in low- and middle-income countries



Dr. Murtaza is an Associate Professor within the Department of Surgery and Associate Director of the Center for Human Genomics and Precision Medicine. Prior to joining us at UW Madison in 2020, Murtaza was a faculty member at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGEN). Funded by multiple grants from the NCI and research foundations, Dr. Murtaza's research is focused on leveraging genomics and computational biology to bridge diagnostic gaps and improve outcomes for cancer patients. More recently, the lab is focused on developing new strategies for improving access to circulating tumor DNA analysis for early detection and monitoring response to treatment for patients in lower-income settings. Murtaza

holds a PhD from Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute at the University of Cambridge and an MBBS from Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan.

Adedayo Onitilo, MD, Global Oncology Program

Cancer care capacity building in Nigeria



Dr. Onitilo is board certified in internal medicine, hematology, medical oncology and hospice and palliative medicine. He earned his medical degree at Ogun State University in Nigeria. He did his residency at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons – Harlem Hospital in New York. Dr. Onitilo completed a fellowship in oncology/ hematology and earned a Master of Science degree in clinical research at the Medical University of South Carolina. He earned a doctorate degree in epidemiology from The University of Queensland, Australia. Dr. Onitilo is a member of the Wisconsin chapter of the American Cancer Society and Wisconsin Cancer Council steering committee. For several years, Dr Onitilo's has been working to build cancer care capacity in Nigeria.

Sofia Refetoff, PhD, MS

Science Careers in Oncology Research with Equity (SCORE): A comparative approach to Scandinavian and USA healthcare systems, impacts on cancer research, treatment, and outcomes



Dr. Refetoff came UW Madison to research the hormonal influences on male parental behavior in cotton-top tamarin monkeys and common marmosets (at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center). After her family was impacted by cancer, she dedicated her science background to building educational programming for young scientists interested in cancer research and in improving the lives of cancer patients. Dr. Refetoff is the Content Director and Coordinator of the Science Careers in Oncology Research with Equity (SCORE), an undergraduate cancer research program at the UW Carbone Cancer Center. Dr. Refetoff is also Outreach Manager for the Pancreas Cancer Task Force, Adjunct Biology Faculty and Faculty Research Mentor at Madison College.

Andrés Cardona Ríos, MS, PhD candidate, Basic Biomedical Sciences

Characterization of the mutational landscape and identification of biomarkers of four types of cancer in Antioquia, Colombia



Andrés Cardona Ríos, a biologist with a master's degree in Basic Biomedical Sciences, is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in the same field. He completed his undergraduate and master's studies at the University of Antioquia in Colombia. Throughout his professional career, Andrés has acquired extensive experience with various molecular techniques and has actively participated in numerous research projects involving next-generation sequencing. Currently, Andrés is focused on cancer research, aiming to delineate the mutational landscape and identify genetic biomarkers through next-generation sequencing of four types of solid tumors. This research is being conducted at the University Nacional de Colombia as part of the Colombia-Wisconsin One Health Consortium. Previously, Andrés served as the coordinator of the sequencing unit at the same institution. Through his ongoing research endeavors, Andrés seeks to generate new knowledge about cancer in the Colombian population, ultimately contributing to future improvements in the quality of life for cancer patients.

Robert Striker, MD, PhD

Immune health grades and susceptibility to cervical cancer: A path to decrease inequality in sub-Saharan Africa



Dr. Striker is an infectious disease physician scientist with over two decades of experience treating and monitoring immunocompromised patients particularly in regard to virally associated cancers such as hepatocellular cancer related to hepatitis B and C, and anal cancer related to Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Work by Dr Striker and collaborators have shown simple immune markers, particularly the CD4/CD8 ratio and recently described immune health grades can predict both infectious and cancer outcomes, including tuberculosis in Ethiopia, and anal cancer in multiple cohorts. One application of these concepts that could be particularly impactful is to use these biomarkers to focus cervical cancer screening efforts in both women Living with HIV and women wo HIV. While cervical cancer could be almost eliminated in many parts of the world, the shared geography of HIV and HPV in sub-Saharan Africa combined with the extremely limited resources makes cervical cancer a leading cause of premature death for women in Africa. Dr Striker is also helping to pioneer point of care testing that again could dramatically improve care access in Uganda and similar places.

Katerina Zahed, BS

Science Careers in Oncology Research with Equity (SCORE): A comparative approach to Scandinavian and USA healthcare systems, impacts on cancer research, treatment, and outcomes



Katerina Zahed is a recent graduate from Tulane University. She earned her BS in Neuroscience with a minor in philosophy this May with plans to continue to medical school. She presented some of her undergraduate lab work at the 2024 Academic Surgical Congress in February, with her talk: *SLC16S14 Presents Novel Therapeutic Vulnerability in Fibrolamellar Carcinoma*. She participated in the DIS Copenhagen Study Abroad Program during the Fall semester of 2023, where she studied Cognitive Consciousness of Neuroscience and acted as class representative for the Complexities of Cancer clinical cancer biology course.