

# The Expert Panel



Barbara L. Andersen, PhD

*Professor of Psychology*  
COPH-Health Behavioral & Health Professor  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Ohio State University

Dr. Barbara Andersen is a clinical psychologist and an expert in the biobehavioral aspects of cancer and their implications for disease progression. She leads the Stress and Immunity Breast Cancer Project, a program of research on a psychological intervention to reduce stress and improve quality of life, health behaviors, and adherence for patients with breast cancer. Dr. Andersen also focuses on the development of interventions for patients at high risk for psychological or behavioral morbidities or premature cancer death. She has over 150 publications and her research has been funded continuously since 1983. In addition, she remains active in teaching and service to the profession. She has taught psychometrics, practicum, and behavioral medicine courses; mentors pre and postdoctoral trainees and junior faculty; and has chaired grant review panels for private foundations and NIH.



Christian Nelson, PhD

*Clinical Psychologist*  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Dr. Christian Nelson is a clinical psychologist with expertise in treating men with prostate cancer and other genitourinary malignancies. As the psychological liaison to Memorial Sloan Kettering's genitourinary and sexual medicine services, he provides short- and long-term counseling services to patients struggling with cancer-related issues. Dr. Nelson also works with the Center's 65+ Program, providing psychological support for patients who are 65 and older, and he co-facilitates a support group for patients dealing with the combined issues of cancer and aging. Dr. Nelson's research focuses on ways to assist older cancer patients in coping with the combined issues of aging and cancer. Specifically, he has worked to develop a new measure of depression for older adults with cancer and has developed and tested psychotherapy interventions to help men improve sexual functioning following prostate and rectal cancer treatments.



Nayana Kamath, MD  
*Medical Internist*  
Strong Memorial Hospital

Dr. Kamath graduated Summa Cum Laude from Auburn University earning a Bachelors in Science Degree in Molecular Biology in 2005. She was also awarded the University Honors Scholar distinction for publishing an honors thesis on her undergraduate research in cell signal transduction pathways. While attending South Alabama College of Medicine, Dr. Kamath participated in breast cancer research. Her research interests continued through her residency and fellowship and were related to cognitive impairment and quality of life issues for older patients receiving chemotherapy. She currently practices Medical Oncology in a private practice setting providing care to several areas in upstate NY.



Lisa Furst, LMSW, MPH  
*Director of Public Education*  
Center for Policy, Advocacy and Education  
Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of NY

Lisa works to engage and inform a diverse group of professionals and the general public about mental health, mental illness, and treatment through training and technical assistance programming that promotes knowledge development and skills-building. Lisa can speak to the needs of a number of populations, including youth, adults, older adults and people affected by disasters. Lisa is the co-author of *Depressed Older Adults: Education and Screening* (Springer Publications) and has co-authored pieces for *Aging Well*, *Today's Geriatric Medicine*, and the *Journal of Case Management* and has been featured in print, television and radio media.



Beverly Canin

*Board Member/Patient Advocate*  
NYS Health Research Science Board  
Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG)

Beverly Canin, member of the Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG), has been a patient advocate since her diagnosis of breast cancer in 2000. On the board of directors of several grass-roots breast cancer organizations, she also served on the NCI-NIEHS committee which produced the report “Prioritizing Prevention” and is currently a member of the NYS Health Research Science Board. She has served on numerous breast cancer research peer review panels and currently collaborates as patient advocate on cancer research projects at several institutions. She has presented twice at the American Society of Clinical Oncologists (ASCO) Annual Meeting.



Lorraine Griggs

*Caregiver/Member*  
Stakeholders for Care in Oncology and  
Research for the Elderly - Board

Lorraine Griggs witnessed the daily stresses of caring for loved ones for more than 9 years. It began when her mother was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer in 2006. One month after her mother passed, her father was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Lorraine along with her sisters were his primary caregivers until he passed in 2013. During the same time, October 2009, Lorraine’s husband of 52 years was diagnosed with Stage 3 esophageal cancer. He received chemotherapy and radiation followed by major surgery to remove most of his esophagus and part of his stomach. Even though he was cancer free for 5 years, he continued being hospitalized for more surgeries and complications until he passed in December, 2015.

Since September of 2013 Lorraine has been a member of SCOREboard -- Stakeholders for Care in Oncology and Research for the Elderly, centered at the University of Rochester Wilmot Cancer Center, where she shares her experiences as a caregiver.

# Other Key Members

Jacqueline Berman, PhD

*Director of Research*  
NYC Department of Research