

# Sixteenth Annual Symposium on Pancreatic Cancer

In collaboration with the UCLA Agi Hirshberg Center for Pancreatic Diseases

Luskin Conference Center

April 23, 2022

8:30 am – 3:00 pm

## Schedule

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Check-in
9:00 am – 9:20 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks
	Agi Hirshberg, Founder & CEO Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer
	Vay Liang W. Go, MD Chair of the Hirshberg Foundation Scientific University of California, Los Angeles
	O. Joe Hines, MD University of California, Los Angeles
9:20 am – 9:40 am	<a href="#">Pancreatic Cancer Progress Report: Where We Stand</a>
	Mark D. Girgis, MD University of California, Los Angeles
9:40 am – 9:45 am	Q & A

9:45 am – 10:15 am	<a href="#">Pancreatic Cancer Screening and Surveillance in High-Risk Populations</a>
	Marcia (Mimi) Canto, MD, MHS
	Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
10:15 am – 10:25 am	Q & A
10:25 am – 10:40 am	Break
10:40 am – 11:10 am	<a href="#">Nutritional Myths with Pancreatic Cancer</a>
	Zhaoping Li, MD
	University of California, Los Angeles
11:10 am – 11:20 am	Q & A
11:20 am – 11:50 am	<a href="#">Understanding the Gut and Tumor Connection in Pancreatic Cancer</a>
	Vikas Dudeja, MD
	University of Alabama at Birmingham
11:50 am – 12:00 pm	Q & A
12:00 pm – 12:10 pm	Survivor Photo
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<a href="#">Precision Medicine vs. Standard of Care for Pancreatic Cancer</a>
	Dr. Joe Hines, MD & J. Randolph Hecht, MD
	University of California, Los Angeles
1:30 pm – 1:40 pm	Q & A
1:40 pm – 2:00 pm	<a href="#">UC Pancreatic Cancer Consortium: Collaborative Research and Clinical Trials</a>

	Timothy Donahue, MD
	University of California, Los Angeles
2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	Q & A
2:10 pm – 3:00 pm	<a href="#">Panel Discussion: Perspectives from Survivors</a>
	Moderator:
	Judy Fortin
	Executive Director of Communications
	UCLA Health

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## **Symposium Speaker Spotlight: Drs. Joe Hines and Randolph Hecht to discuss Precision Medicine vs. Standard of Care for Treatment**

The Hirshberg Foundation is pleased to announce that Drs. Joe Hines and Randolph Hecht will be joining us at the 16th Annual Symposium on Pancreatic Cancer to present on the different approaches to the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

The current standard-of-care for patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) focuses on chemotherapeutic regimens and pancreatic cancer surgery. This treatment approach uses one standard to determine the course of treatment for all

individuals diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Yet, with the increased availability of next-generation sequencing, doctors can now rapidly and affordably identify genomic alterations in tumors and potentially match them to an ever-growing number of targeted therapies.

Precision medicine has been an emerging approach for disease treatment and prevention that takes into account individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle for each person. This approach allows doctors and researchers to predict more accurately which treatment and prevention strategies will bring the best results, in contrast to a one-size-fits-all approach, with less consideration for the differences between individuals. Thanks to advances in research and technology, doctors and patients are faced with navigating the choice of precision medicine or standard-of-care when it comes to treatment.

Dr. Joe Hines is the Professor and Interim Chair of the UCLA Department of Surgery, Chair of the American Board of Surgery, past President of the American Pancreatic Association, and President of the Society of University Surgeons Foundation. Dr. Hines attended the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, trained in general surgery at UCLA, including two years of research in gastrointestinal physiology, and was then recruited to the UCLA faculty in 1997. While at UCLA he has received the Department Golden Scalpel Award for teaching excellence twelve times and the UCLA School of Medicine Award for Excellence in Education. His research has focused on angiogenesis, cytokines, and pancreatic carcinogenesis, including the role of diet in modulating these processes. He served on the NIH Scientific Review Committee Tumor Progression and Metastasis. Dr. Hines was awarded the American College of Surgeons Traveling Fellowship to Germany in 2005, and was a James IV Traveling Fellow in 2011. He is past-President of the Society of University Surgeons and has

served as the Vice-President of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association, President of the Southern California Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, and was appointed to the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Hines serves on the editorial boards of Surgery, Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, JAMA Surgery, Annals of Surgery, and is an editor of Maignot's Abdominal Operations.

Dr. Hecht is a Professor of Clinical Medicine in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA School of Medicine. He holds the Carol and Saul Rosenzweig Chair for Cancer Therapies Development and is the Director of the UCLA Gastrointestinal Oncology Program. Dr. Hecht graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School. He took his internal medicine residency at Northwestern and completed fellowships in gastroenterology research at the University of Chicago, and in gastroenterology and medical oncology at UCLA. Dr. Hecht is an internationally known clinical and translational researcher in the field of gastrointestinal cancers. He has published widely on the molecular biology, early detection, and treatment of gastrointestinal malignancies. He has lead and is currently directing small trials with novel agents as well as large international trials in GI and pancreatic cancers using gene therapy vectors, growth factor inhibitors and new approaches to immunotherapy.

We are fortunate to have Drs. Joe Hines and Randolph Hecht joining us to share more about the future of *Precision Medicine vs. Standard of Care For Treatment* at the 16th Annual Symposium.

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# **Symposium Speaker Spotlight: Dr. Timothy Donahue to discuss UC Pancreatic Cancer Consortium Collaboration**

The Hirshberg Foundation is happy to announce that Dr. Timothy Donahue will be joining us at the 16th Annual Symposium on Pancreatic Cancer to highlight the exciting collaboration efforts of the UC Pancreatic Cancer Consortium.

“The mission of the UC Pancreatic Cancer Consortium (UCPCC) is to unite scientists and clinicians across the UC cancer centers committed to pancreatic cancer research and treatment in a highly collaborative environment that accelerates the progress and impact of our work. Our vision is to improve the lives of persons diagnosed with pancreatic cancer by translating innovative research into improved clinical care.” The five cancer centers include UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, UC Irvine Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center and UC San Francisco Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Timothy Donahue is Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Professor of Surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He also has a joint appointment in the Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology to facilitate his research program. Dr. Donahue is the Surgical Director of the UCLA Agi Hirshberg Center for Pancreatic Diseases. He is a very busy pancreatic surgeon and performs three to four pancreatic surgeries per week. He is genuinely interested in caring for patients with pancreatic cancer and making sure they

receive state-of-the-art care. In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Donahue is the Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health funded research laboratory. His scientific research focuses on developing new drugs and better treatment strategies for patients with pancreatic cancer, collaborating with numerous other researchers across the UCLA campus. He is also dedicated to training the next generation of academic surgeons and serves as the Program Director of the UCLA General Surgery Residency.

Collaboration is the key to improving patient outcomes, and ultimately finding a cure for pancreatic cancer. Dr. Donahue is no stranger to collaboration and we are excited to hear from him on what the future holds with his presentation, *UC Pancreatic Cancer Consortium: Collaboration at Work*.

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## **Symposium Speaker Spotlight: Dr. Zhaoping Li to discuss Nutritional Myths with Pancreatic Cancer**

We're thrilled to announce Dr. Zhaoping Li will return to address the importance of nutrition for pancreatic cancer patients at the 16th Annual Symposium on Pancreatic Cancer.

Dr. Li has been a Hirshberg Foundation seed grant recipient and has presented a number of symposium lectures on the important role nutrition plays for pancreatic cancer patients. She is

consistently requested by our participants as a speaker year after year. She has been our Honorary Medical Chair for the LA Cancer Challenge, presented an in-person Cooking Healthy Class and was the first to join our [Patient & Family Webinar Series](#) with her webinar [How to Eat and Live Well During Coronavirus](#). Dr. Li always has crucial information to share that continues to improve the lives of our patients.

Dr. Li is a Professor of Medicine and the Director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, Chief of the Division of Clinical Nutrition in the Department of Medicine, at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Physician Nutrition Specialist. Dr. Li's primary areas of research are the role of nutrition, phytochemicals, and microbiota in the prevention and treatment of metabolic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and common forms of cancer. She has published over 150 peer-reviewed papers in journals such as JAMA, Annals of Internal Medicine, American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, and Journal of American Dietetic Association.

A very important topic, we are so happy to have Dr. Li joining us to discuss *Nutritional Myths with Pancreatic Cancer* at the 16th Annual Symposium.

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## **Symposium Speaker Spotlight:**



# **Dr. Vikas Dudeja to discuss the Gut and Tumor Connection in Pancreatic Cancer**

The Hirshberg Foundation is excited to announce Dr. Vikas Dudeja will be joining us at the 16th Annual Symposium on Pancreatic Cancer to discuss the potential role the gut plays in pancreas cancers.

“We are just beginning to fully understand the complexities of the relationship between the microbiome and cancer,” said Dudeja. “Our lab, and other researchers across the nation, will continue to dig into these complexities in order to better understand how we can control and cure cancers.”

Dr. Dudeja currently serves as an Associate Professor as well as the Division Director of surgical oncology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Department of Surgery.

Dr. Dudeja completed his bachelor of medicine and surgery at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, India. He also received his master of surgery from AIIMS in 2005. Dr. Dudeja spent the next 3 years doing research on the pathogenesis of pancreatic cancer and developing novel therapies against this aggressive disease. Afterwards he received residency training in general surgery at the University of Minnesota from 2008-2013. Following his residency, Dr. Dudeja completed a complex general surgical oncology fellowship and hepato-pancreato-biliary fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center from 2013-15. Dr. Dudeja is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

On the research front, Dr. Dudeja’s laboratory focuses on

deciphering the biology of the tumor microenvironment in pancreatic cancer and the interaction of gut microbiome with anti-cancer immune response. Elucidation of the mechanism and determinants of tumor recurrence is another key area studied in his laboratory. His research efforts are funded by grants from National Institute of Health (NIH), Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense and Society Grants. His work has been published in high impact journals like Gastroenterology, GUT, Clinical Cancer Research and Nature Reviews in Gastroenterology and Hepatology. He serves on the editorial board of Gastroenterology and routinely reviews manuscripts submitted to many journals including Pancreatology, eBiomedicine, Communication Biology, Annals of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Dudeja's clinical interests include taking care of patients with pancreatic cancer, pancreatic cyst, hepatobiliary malignancies including cholangiocarcinoma, kaltskin tumor, colorectal cancer liver metastases, and benign disease like bile duct injury and chronic pancreatitis.

The complex relationship between cancer and the microbiome is such an important piece of the puzzle and we are honored to have Dr. Dudeja present *Understanding the Gut and Tumor Connection in Pancreatic Cancer*.

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**Symposium Speaker Spotlight:  
Dr. Marcia Canto to discuss**

# **Pancreatic Cancer Screening and Surveillance in High-Risk Individuals**

The Hirshberg Foundation is honored to announce that Dr. Canto will discuss screening and surveillance in individuals with a high-risk for pancreatic cancer at the 16th Annual Symposium on Pancreatic Cancer.

While participating in a pancreatic cancer screening program is not appropriate for everyone, it is an important consideration for individuals with known high-risk factors. For those with particular risk factors, including family history and certain genetic syndromes that increase susceptibility to pancreas cancer, it may be appropriate to participate in a research screening program. Surveillance may also be clinically recommended in instances such as a new diagnosis of a pancreas cyst or lesion. Many experts believe that individuals with a greater than fivefold risk of developing pancreatic cancer should undergo regular early detection tests to survey their pancreas. Regular surveillance uses medical imaging and endoscopic techniques to detect precancerous lesions or early pancreatic cancer that can be surgically removed. Screening and surveillance of high-risk individuals is a topic important to our pancreatic cancer community and we are happy to have an expert in the field present more information.

Marcia (Mimi) Canto, M.D., M.H.S. is a Professor of Medicine and Oncology at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is also the Director of Clinical Research at the Johns Hopkins Division of Gastroenterology. Dr. Canto received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the Philippines in Manila

in 1981 (summa cum laude). She received her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1985 from the University of the Philippines and completed her training in Internal Medicine from State University of New York Sciences Center in Brooklyn, Brooklyn, New York.

Dr. Canto completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Gastroenterology-Hepatology at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and received a Master of Health Science in Clinical Epidemiology from The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. Dr. Canto came back to Johns Hopkins after advanced endoscopic training at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. Her primary clinical and research interests include endoscopy, particularly the use of endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) in detecting early pancreatic cancer and its precursors. She has shown that endoscopic ultrasound can be used to detect asymptomatic precancerous lesions in patients with a family history of pancreatic cancer, downstage pancreatic cancer screen-detected pancreatic cancer, and improve survival.

A subject that we are excited to learn more about from one of the top experts in this field, we welcome Dr. Canto to educate us on *Pancreatic Cancer Screening and Surveillance in High-Risk Individuals*.