Lumanity | Cancer Progress

Cancer Progress

35+ YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC
DISCUSSIONS AND CONNECTIONS



LIVE EVENT

8:15 AM - 8:00 PM

APRIL 9, 2026

NEW YORK GENOME CENTER

101 6TH AVE, NEW YORK, NY 10013

#CANCERPROGRESS

35+ Years of Scientific Discussions & Connections

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Cancer Progress started in 1989 with the goal of facilitating discussions of scientific progress in Oncology from a development, regulatory, clinical, commercial and investment lens. Cancer Progress features provocative, informative panel discussions with pivotal topics, frank discussions, vigorous debates, and audience engagement to enable meaningful connections and meetings with innovators, developers, and investors.

We are thrilled to announce that on April 9, 2026, Cancer Progress returns as a live, in-person event in the heart of New York City! This streamlined, one-day conference promises a focused and impactful experience. Attendees can expect unparalleled insights, in-depth issue coverage, and exceptional networking opportunities. The conference's enduring success and value are driven by the expertise and reputation of its distinguished speaking faculty.

In addition to delivering high-quality content and connections, this year's Cancer Progress will make a lasting impact beyond the conference walls. All proceeds from ticket sales and sponsorships will be directed to support cancer research through dedicated charitable partner, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation.

By joining us, you're not only advancing your professional network and knowledge, but also directly contributing to the fight against cancer.

DAMON RUNYON
CANCER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

At the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, we fund high-risk, high-reward cancer research. We identify and enable young scientists who are brilliant, brave and bold enough to go where others haven't. Since 1946, Damon Runyon has funded over 4,000+ scientists with an investment of over $490 million.

Speakers & Moderators



Franscesca Barone, MD, PhD
CSO
Candel Therapeutics



Jeffrey Bockman, PhD
EVP, Oncology
Lumanity



Dennis Chang, PhD
SVP, Strategy Consulting
Lumanity



Michael Parisi, MBA
Chief Client Officer
Lumanity



Denise Reinke, MBA
Co-Chair, Sarcoma Patient Advocate Global Network



Ed Saltzman
Senior Strategic Advisor
Lumanity



Brigid DeCoursey Bondoc
Partner
Morrison Foerster



Kapil Dhingra, MD
Managing Member
KAPital Consulting



Daina Graybosch, PhD
Sr. Managing Director, Biotech Analyst, immuno-Oncology
Leerink Partners



Alex Snyder, MD
SVP, Translational Medicine & Discovery, Oncology
Merck



Meredith Sondler-Bazar
Managing Director, Healthcare Investment Banking
Ladenburg Thalmann & Co.



Zhen Su, MD MBA
CEO
Marengo Therapeutics



Joe Guidi, PhD
VP, Worldwide Head of Immunology, Medical Affairs
Bristol Myers Squibb



Amy Han
Vice President, Global Commercialization, Genmab



Axel Hoos, MD, PhD
CEO & Founder
Stealth Biotech



Leon 'Jun' Tang
Founder
InScienceWeTrust
BioAdvisory



John Westwood
SVP, Strategy Consulting
Lumanity



Angela Wheeler
President, Insight USA and Patient CoE Lead
Lumanity



Matthew Huddleston
EVP, Chief Commercial Officer
Enable Injections



Anil Kapur
Board Member, Nurix Therapeutics and Verastem Inc.



Yung S. Lie, PhD
President and CEO, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation



Maren Winnick, MBA
Senior Managing Director
Evercore



Alicia Zhou, PhD
CEO
Cancer Research Institute



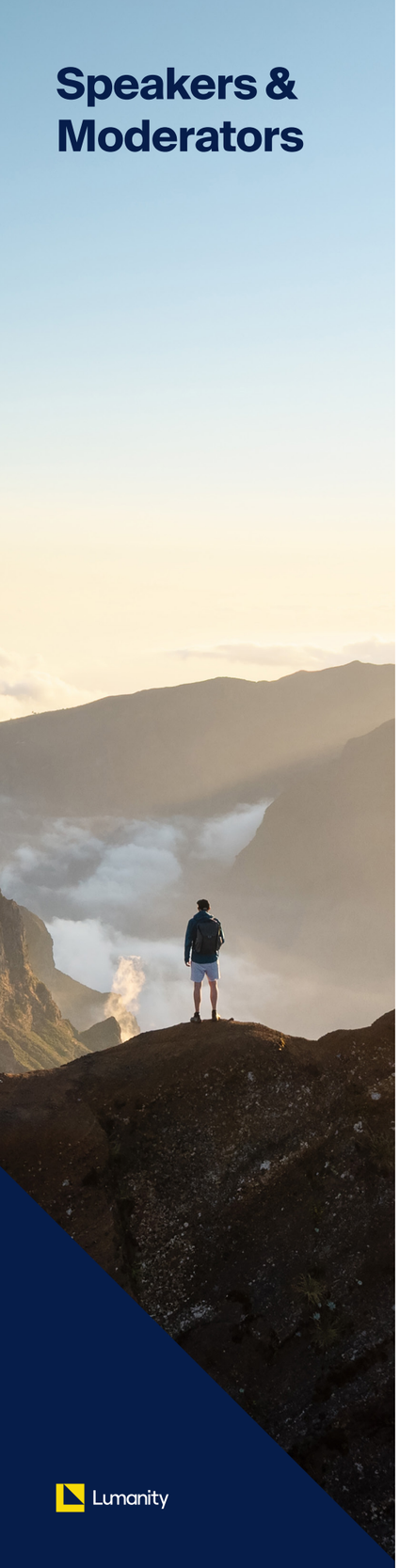
Andres McAllister, MD, PhD
CMO
BioInvent



Ebonie Michelle, MPH
Founder & CEO
Prowl The LAB
Lived Experience Expert

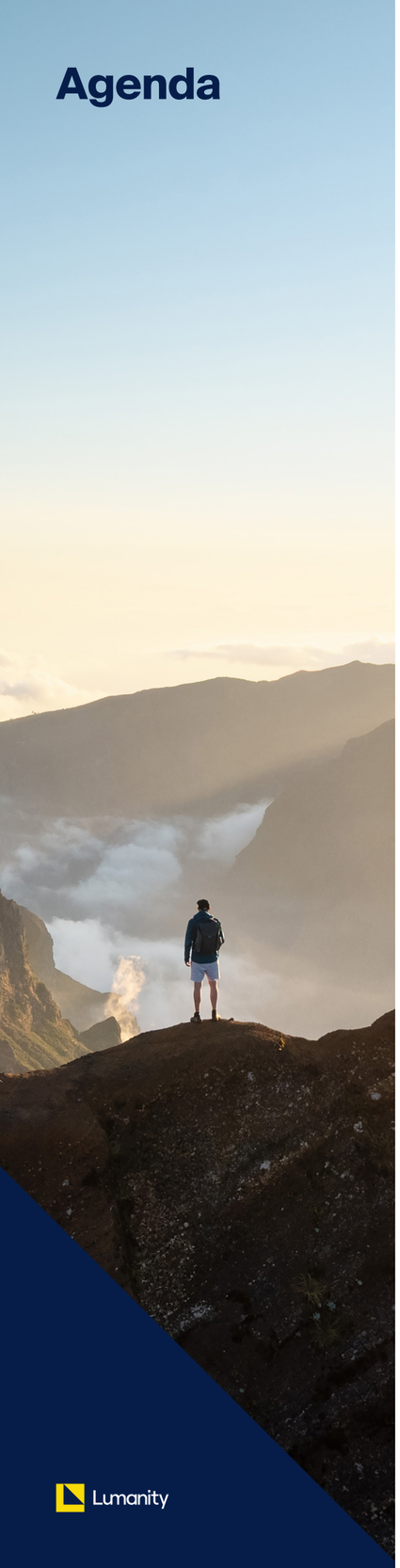


Barry Nelson
Patient Advocate
Lived Experience Expert



Lumanity

Agenda



8:15 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration and Morning Networking

Attendees check in at registration table, and enjoy light morning refreshments with coffee and tea.

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Opening Remarks



Jeffrey Bockman, PhD
EVP, Oncology
Lumanity



John Westwood
SVP, Strategy Consulting
Lumanity

9:15 AM - 10:35 AM

Patient-Centric Innovations: Transforming Cancer Care

Cancer care is shifting from one-size-fits-all approaches toward strategies tailored to each patient's biology, needs, and values. Advances such as genomic testing, biomarker-driven treatments, and adaptive trial designs are enabling earlier detection, more precise therapies, and holistic support. In this session, patients and caregivers share firsthand how these innovations are reshaping the cancer journey — and influencing research priorities, care delivery, and technology adoption to improve quality of life.

What we will cover:

- How precision diagnostics and targeted therapies are transforming patient outcomes
- The role of patient and caregiver voices in guiding research and care models
- Opportunities and challenges in delivering truly personalized oncology care



Ebonie Michelle, MPH
Founder & CEO
Prowl The LAB
Lived Experience Expert



Barry Nelson
Patient Advocate
Lived Experience Expert



Angela Wheeler
President, Insight US
Lumanity

10:35 AM - 10:50 AM

Coffee Break

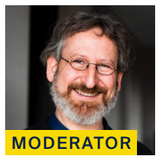
10:50 AM - 12:10 PM

Driving First & Best-in-Class Innovation: Balancing Technical and Commercial Risk Early in Oncology

Early-stage oncology biotech has been rocked by a "perfect storm" of over-hyped platforms, crowded spaces, and insufficient focus on commercial and competitive risk. While bright spots exist in areas like ADCs and RLTs, many promising approaches have stalled or vanished. This session examines how early commercial thinking can sharpen scientific strategy, set clinically and commercially meaningful thresholds for the TPPs, and strengthen value propositions for funders and partners. By weighing technical risk against market opportunity, we explore how to position programs as true first-in-class or best-in-class contenders in a competitive oncology landscape.

What we will cover:

- How to think about best-in-class vs. first-in-class positioning in future markets
- How to balance technical and commercial risk in early oncology programs
- What funders, partners, and the market expect from biotech innovation in oncology



Jeffrey Bockman, PhD
EVP, Oncology
Lumanity



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Managing Member
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Amy Han
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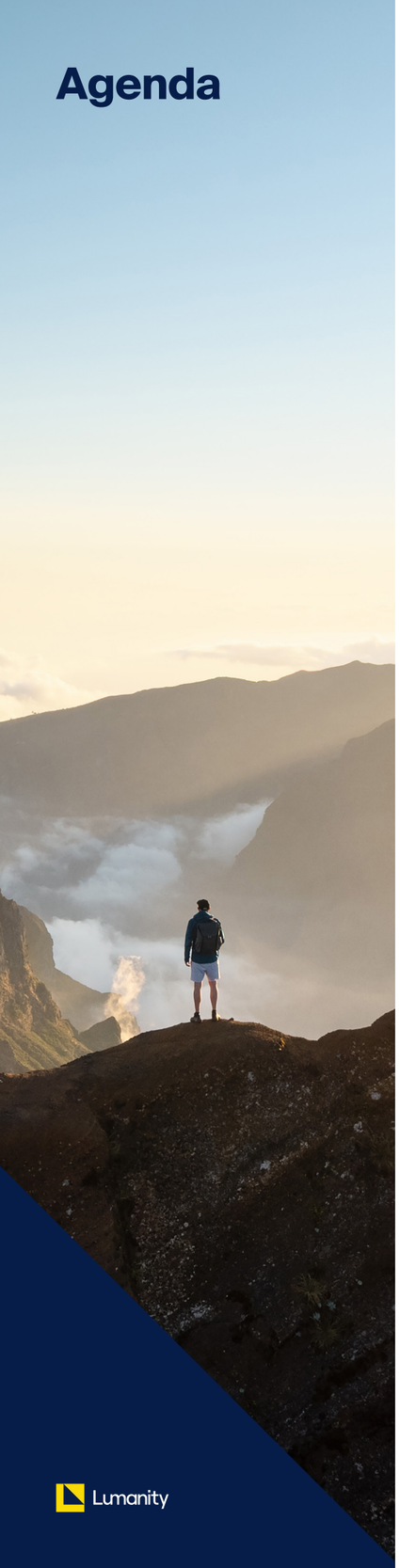


Leon 'Jun' Tang
Founder
InScienceWeTrust
BioAdvisory

12:10 PM - 1:15 PM

Lunch and Networking

Agenda



1:15 PM - 2:35 PM

Beyond the Mainstream: Addressing Neglected Tumor Types

Rare and aggressive cancers such as glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) and sarcoma often receive less funding, research, and attention than more common malignancies. Despite potential fast-to-market opportunities, progress is slowed by limited scientific understanding, poor diagnostics, and few effective treatments. This session examines barriers, lessons from once-overlooked cancers, and strategies to bring these tumor types to the forefront of oncology innovation.

What we will cover:

- Key factors hindering research and drug development for GBM, sarcoma, and similar tumors
- Lessons from cancers once considered “neglected”
- Top priorities to accelerate progress and improve patient outcomes



Francesca Barone, MD, PhD
CSO
Candel Therapeutics



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Michael Parisi, MBA
Chief Client Officer
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Denise Reinke, MBA
Co-Chair, Sarcoma Patient Advocate Global Network

2:35 PM - 3:55 PM

Raising the Bar: How Biotech Can Meet the Challenge

The US early-stage biotech sector faces unprecedented challenges: venture capital funding has dropped sharply since its 2021 peak, IPOs and acquisitions have slowed, NIH funding cuts threaten the research pipeline, and global competition, especially from China, is intensifying. For oncology-focused biotechs, survival will require bold adaptation, from diversifying funding sources to rethinking operating models. But the goal is not just to endure — it’s to continue delivering transformative innovations for cancer patients. This session explores practical strategies to help early biotechs thrive in a constrained and competitive landscape.

What we will cover:

- Innovative funding models for capital-constrained environments
- New operating approaches to maximize efficiency and impact
- Partnership opportunities to accelerate discovery and development



Kapil Dhingra
Managing Member
KAPital Consulting LLC



Daina Graybosch, PhD
Sr. Managing Director, Biotech Analyst, immuno-Oncology
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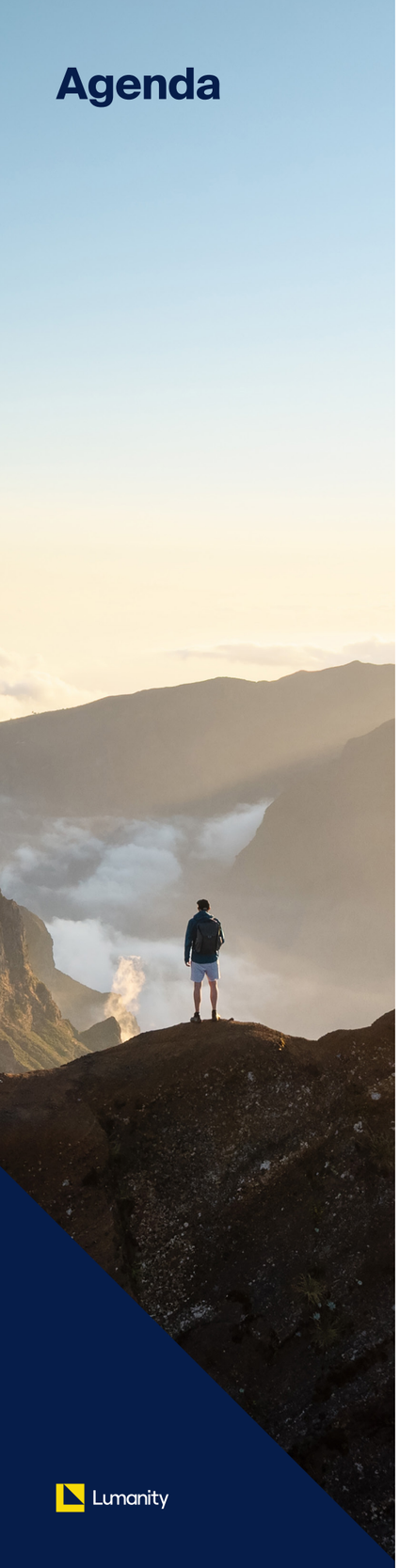
Meredith Sondler-Bazar
Managing Director, Healthcare Investment Banking
Ladenburg Thalmann & Co.



Maren Winnick, MBA
Senior Managing Director
Evercore

3:55 PM - 4:10 PM

Coffee Break



Agenda

4:10 PM - 5:30 PM

Beyond “Next-gen”: How Should We Engineer Future Breakthroughs?

Incremental advances in oncology drug development often fail to match the transformative impact of past breakthroughs like Gleevec or Keytruda. Replicating prior successes can be limiting when biology and vulnerabilities differ across cancer types. Major leaps forward will require fresh strategies that rethink how we engage with cancer biology — exploring novel targets, new therapeutic paradigms, and unconventional approaches to both targeted therapy and immuno-oncology. This session will challenge attendees to look beyond “next-generation” iterations and envision the innovations that could define the future of cancer treatment.

What we will cover:

- Why past breakthroughs may not be replicable across different cancer types
- Alternative approaches to tumor-intrinsic targeted therapy
- New strategies for advancing cancer immunotherapy



MODERATOR

Dennis Chang, PhD
SVP, Strategy Consulting
Lumanity



Joe Guidi, PhD
VP, Worldwide Head of Immunology, Medical Affairs
Bristol Myers Squibb



Axel Hoos, MD, PhD
CEO & Founder
Stealth Biotech



Zhen Su, MD MBA
CEO
Marengo Therapeutics



Alicia Zhou, PhD
CEO
Cancer Research Institute

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Closing Remarks



Yung S. Lie, PhD
President and CEO,
Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation



Jeffrey Bockman, PhD
EVP, Oncology
Lumanity

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Reception and Networking

Jimmy SOHO, 15 Thompson St, New York, NY 10013

Lumanity

Strategy Consulting

We blend essential cross-functional scientific, clinical, regulatory, and commercial perspectives to help our clients navigate the web of complex decisions and position their assets and organizations for success.

Commercialization

Navigate the complexity of commercialization with confidence. We work across therapeutic areas and throughout the product lifecycle to develop strategic solutions, evaluate opportunities, and transform ideas into action.

- Opportunity identification and market assessment
- Indication prioritization and sequencing
- Target product profile and value proposition development
- Brand and competitive strategy
- Portfolio and BD&L strategy

Medical Affairs

Strengthen your engagement and communication with stakeholders, including investors, trial sites, and patients. With our guidance, we can solidify your scientific story, build advocacy, and accelerate trial enrollment.

- Scientific narrative development
- Key thought leader (KTL) identification and advocacy development strategy
- Competitive analysis and unmet need assessment
- Patient enrollment strategy and execution
- Trial site analysis and validation
- Data and evidence gap analysis

Clinical & Regulatory

Accelerate your path to market with our expert-driven, integrated solutions. We leverage deep clinical, regulatory, and compliance expertise to streamline the development of your innovative assets.

- Asset selection and strategic planning
- Integrated development planning
- Clinical development and regulatory strategy
- Health authority meetings, submissions, and interactions
- Claim maximization
- Expert scientific, regulatory, and development guidance and representation
- Development optimization and disruption

Stay connected with Cancer Progress!

Subscribe to our Cancer Progress Newsletter – recapping the most thought-provoking discussions, bold ideas, and collaborations that are already shaping the future of oncology.

Thank you to our 2026 Sponsors

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DAMON RUNYON
CANCER RESEARCH
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Want to be a part of the conversation?
Reach out **contact@lumanity.com**