



2024 Nominations & Elections

President-Elect 2025



Janet V. Cross, PhD
Associate Dean for Graduate and Medical
Scientist Programs
Harrison Distinguished Associate Professor of
Medical Education and Pathology
University of Virginia School of Medicine

Janet has been an active & engaged member of the CABTRAC community for a decade, during which grad and postdoc training has undergone tectonic changes. As a leader in grad education, she is passionate about adapting to these changes and aims to keep the CABTRAC community at the forefront of these efforts.

Her science is in Cancer cell signaling and tumor immunology.

She is a member of the Executive Committee for our T32 Cancer Training Program, spearheading diversity recruiting and retention; serve as an instructor in the cancer biology courses; collaborated with a colleague to write a successful NCI R25 for summer programs; serves on the EAB for Hampton University U-RISE and have served on the NCI F09 fellowship study section.

Janet attended CABTRAC every year for the past 10 years and have been a member of the Board for the past 3 years. She served as Chair of Enhancing Diversity Committee from 2017-2024 during which she organized annual sessions on diversity recruiting and retention, trainee resiliency, etc. In 2024, she co-founded the new Committee on Improving Mentor-Mentee Relationships, which will debut programming at the 2024 retreat.



Jon Houtman, PhD
Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Microbiology
and Immunology, University of Iowa Associate Director for
CRTEC at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jon has experience in both CRTEC components and in pathway programs for trainees. This experience gives him an in depth understanding of cancer biology training at all levels. He also has an understanding of how CABTRAC fits in the broader landscape of cancer biology training across the nation.

Jon's research focuses on the role of immune cells in cancer progression and treatment.

Jon is the PI for pathway grants, including a R25 YES grant and ACS DICR grants for undergraduates and post-bac fellows. He serves(d) on several cancer center EABs and on the NCI review panels for F and K awards.

Jon has attended the last 6 CABTRAC retreats and presented or co-presented at 5 retreats. He currently serves on the CABTRAC Board.

VP and Treasurer 2025-2030



Danny R. Welch, PhD
Professor of Cancer Biology
The University of Kansas Medical Center
Associate Director for Education
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Dan currently serves as CABTRAC's Vice-President & Treasurer and is running for re-election.

Dan is motivated by learning from others' wisdom and experience and sharing of best practices. He developed and led graduate programs in cancer biology at Penn State, UAB, and KUMC.

In addition to being the treasurer for the Metastasis Society for X years, he was previously a standing member NCI Subcommittee – F and multiple T32, K- and F-award reviews for NIH and is a member of external advisory boards for multiple T32 and Cancer Center Support Grants.

Attending CABTRAC for more than 15 years, Dan has served CABTRAC in many capacities including President (2016), President-Elect (2015), VP & Secretary (2012), VP & Treasurer (2011), as well as leading/co-leading many annual retreat programs.

Candidates for

Board Director 2025-2027 (2/8)



Lawrence Boise, PhD

Professor and R. Randall Rollins Chair in Oncology, Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology
Emory University School of Medicine
Associate Director for Education and Training
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University



Scott M. Dehm, PhD

Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
University of Minnesota

Candidates for

Board Director 2025-2027 (4/8)



Paul Grippo, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine
University of Illinois Chicago



Steven Kridel, PhD
Chair, Department of Cancer Biology, Wake Forest University School of Medicine / Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center
Assistant Director for CRTEC at AHWFBCCC

Candidates for

Board Director 2025-2027 (6/8)



Zeynep Madak Erdogan, PhD

Sylvia D Stroup Scholar of Nutrition and Cancer
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
Associate Director of Educational and Training Programs, Cancer Center at Illinois
Associate Dean of the Graduate College



Rajagopal Ramesh, Ph.D., DBA, AIMBE

Professor, Department of Pathology
Associate Director for Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination
Co-Director, Nanomedicine Program
Chair, Fellowship Training and Mentoring Program
Director, Small Animal Imaging Core
Jim and Christy Everest Endowed Chair in Cancer Developmental Therapeutics
Presbyterian Health Foundation Presidential Professor
Oklahoma TSET Cancer Research Scholar
OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences, Oklahoma City, OK

Candidates for

Board Director 2025-2027 (8/8)



Melanie Rutkowski, PhD
Associate Professor
University of Virginia



Benjamin Toll, PhD
Professor and Vice Chair of Public Health Sciences
Associate Director of Education and Training
Associate Director for the ACS Institutional Research Grant
Director of Curriculum Development for the NCI K12 Calabresi
MUSC Hollings Cancer Center