

2026 President-Elect (& 2027 President) Candidates

One Seat Open



Lawrence Boise, PhD

Professor & Vice Chair for Faculty
Development & Promotions
Dept of Hematology and Medical
Oncology
Emory University School of Medicine
Associate Director for CRTEC
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory U



Kathleen O'Connor, PhD

Professor of Molecular and Cellular
Biochemistry
Associate Director of Cancer
Education and Mentoring
Markey Cancer Center,
University of Kentucky



Rebecca B. Riggins, PhD

Professor of Oncology
Associate Director for CRTEC
Georgetown Lombardi
Comprehensive Cancer Center



Lalita Shevde-Samant, PhD

Professor of Pathology
University of Alabama at Birmingham
(UAB)
Associate Director for CRTEC
UAB O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer
Center

**Lawrence Boise, PhD**

- Intrinsic and extrinsic factors that influence myeloma cell survival and response to therapy.
- I am AD for Education and Training at the Winship Cancer Institute. I am the contact PI on a T32 and have served in leadership roles in 4 graduate programs.
- I am on the CABTRAC Director's Board (since 2022) and serve as an NCI liaison and on the CRTEC committee. I have attended 5 of the last 6 retreats and have participated in speed mentoring, F and K award panels and CRTEC panels.
- I am committed to the mission of CABTRAC and bring leadership experience in cancer education and career development for all levels of learners.

**Kathleen O'Connor, PhD**

- I study how integrins influence cell motility/invasion, epigenetics, DNA repair and therapeutic outcome in TNBC.
- I served as Associate Director of Cancer Education and Mentoring since 2010 where I grew our cancer education and training environment from the ground up. I direct five training programs and serve on EABs for other NCI-designated cancer centers.
- I have attended the last 8 CABTRAC meetings, served on multiple discussion panels, organized faculty development sessions, worked with other CABTRAC members to advocate for our trainees.
- I bring the perspectives of a smaller cancer center and understand how to effectively build cancer education and mentoring programs. I love the collegiality and mission of CABTRAC and want the opportunity to continue to serve CABTRAC.

Rebecca Riggins, PhD

- Orphan and ligand-regulated nuclear receptor signaling in cancer.
- Internal Advisor for Georgetown pre- and post-doc T32s; External Advisor for Yale and Northwestern T32s; PI of American Cancer Society institutional grants for early career faculty and undergraduates.
- First attended CABTRAC in 2007 as a trainee, and all CABTRAC retreats since 2019; Panelist or co-lead for CABTRAC sessions since 2023; CABTRAC Board since January 2024.
- My leadership of pre- and postdoctoral training initiatives and CRTEC brings a unique viewpoint that integrates our increasingly diverse membership. Twenty five (25) of my 33 trainees identify as women, 15 of 33 as minoritized scientists, and they have thrived in diverse research-intensive careers, from industry and health policy roles to academic faculty.

Lalita Shevde Samant, PhD

- Director, Cancer Biology PhD Theme
- PI/CoPI, NCI R25, American Cancer Society grants, multiple CCSG Reviews
- CABTRAC Board Member 2021-2026; CABTRAC member since ~2011, attended most meetings since then participating in poster judging poster, speed mentoring, panel discussant
- I would like to expand the footprint for CABTRAC in cancer education and career pathways via two action items: 1) defining a set of uniform CRTEC metrics ; and 2) creating a body of early career researchers representing graduate and postdoctoral trainees in basic/translational cancer biology/treatment/population sciences to develop leadership and professional skills in a structured setting.

2026 Board Director 3-yr Term Candidates



Scott M. Dehm, PhD

Professor of Laboratory
Medicine and Pathology
University of Minnesota



Steven Kridel, PhD

Chair, Department of
Cancer Biology
Wake Forest
University School of
Medicine



Kay Oyajobi, PhD

Professor, Cell System &
Anatomy and UT
Distinguished Teaching
Professor, Member,
Mays Cancer Center
(MCC) UT San Antonio
Health Science Center



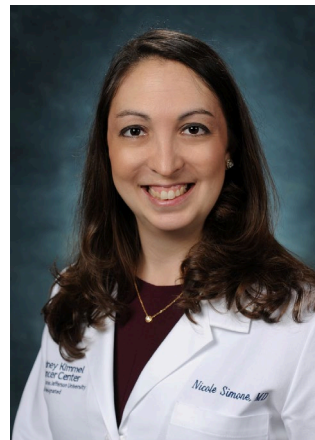
Lisa Harlan-Williams, PhD

Associate Professor of Education,
Department of Cell Biology &
Physiology; Associate Director for
Education
University of Kansas Cancer Center
University of Kansas Medical Center



Julie Rhoades, PhD

Professor in the Dept of
Medicine at Vanderbilt
University Medical Center
Department of Hematology
Oncology.



Nicole Simone, MD

Professor and Vice
Chair of Radiation
Oncology
Thomas Jefferson
University



Inna Smalley, PhD

Assistant Member,
Metabolism and Physiology
Moffitt Cancer Center

Two Seats Open



Scott M. Dehm, PhD

- Specializes in prostate cancer research, with a focus on transcriptional regulation, cancer genomics, and therapeutic targeting.
- Directs the Molecular, Genetic, and Cellular Targets of Cancer (TCTP) T32 Training Program and is former Director of Graduate Studies for the Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics Graduate Program at UMN.
- Attended two CABTRAC retreats, serving as a poster judge at both retreats and as a mentor for the speed mentoring session.
- Dr. Dehm would advocate for: 1) increased funding for cancer research training; 2) enhanced faculty training in mentorship, and 3) aligning postdoctoral training with diverse careers in cancer research. He is motivated by the opportunity to support CABTRAC's mission to elevate the quality and reach of cancer research training nationwide.



Steven Kridel PhD

- Dr. Kridel is an expert in cancer fatty acid and lipid metabolism with interest in identifying drug candidates in the pathway.
- Dr. Kridel is the Chair of Cancer Biology and Assistant Director for CRTEC. Former Cancer Biology PhD Program Director and PI of Cancer Biology T32. Currently leads 2 K-12 programs (5th grade and HS); Co-PI of an NCI R25 summer program, Co-PI of and ACS summer internship program, PI of an ACS postbac program. Member of 2025 ACS Postbac Symposium planning committee. Former NCI-I full member.
- I attend CABTRAC regularly; speed mentoring and K99/R00 award panels recently.
- My combined experience provides me with the tools and motivation to contribute as a CABTRAC board member in a meaningful way. Occupying the title that Dr. Torti founded also motivates me for this duty.



Lisa Harlan-Williams, PhD

- Discipline: Cancer biology and education, with research focused on BRCA1 in cellular metabolism and breast cancer.
- Roles: Leads cancer education and training initiatives at KUCC, including K12 Paul Calabresi program and Accelerate Cancer Education; serves on institutional training committees.
- CABTRAC Participation: Attended three retreats; presented in four sessions; engaged in speed mentoring; judged posters; assisted with Kansas City event planning.
- Motivation: Committed to developing future cancer researchers; bring experience in program leadership, collaboration, and strategic planning to strengthen CABTRAC's mission.



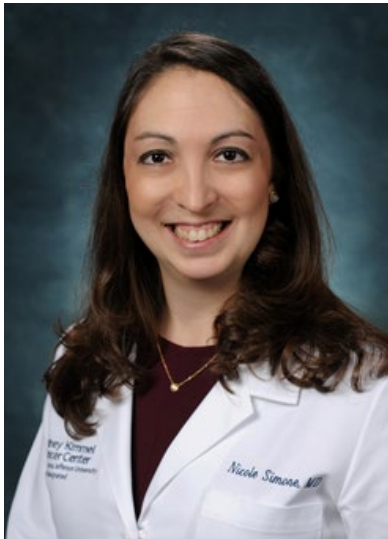
Kay Oyajobi, PhD

- Cancer biologist with expertise in multiple myeloma biology.
- Member, MCC Training & Education Advisory Cmtee; Co-Program Director (PD) NCI T32 (2012-2023); PI/PD, CPRIT Research Training Award (2012-2022); former member Ext Advisory Cmtee, NCI T32s at Vanderbilt and UVa; Training Study Section Full Member: NCI-F (2009-2013), NIGMS TWD-A (2021-2025). Very active in training, serving in various graduate program leadership roles from 2009-2023: Leader, Cancer Biology Track, IMGp; inaugural Leader, CB Discipline, IBMS; Chair, COGS, CSB PhD Prgm
- Attended Retreats since 2014 (except 2021, 2024); CABTRAC Board of Directors (2017-2020)
- Passionate about training as well as research education; served as PI on NIH training grants: postdoctoral (K12 IRACDA), predoctoral (T32 IMSD), postbac (R25 PREP and R25/T32 Bridges-to-Doctorate). I have also directed a F grant writing workshop since 2021.



Julie Rhoades, PhD

- Tumor interactions with the bone and bone marrow microenvironment, with a focus on how tumor cells induce bone destruction and immune suppression within the tumor-bone marrow microenvironment.
- PI of the Vanderbilt Microenvironmental Influences in Cancer Training Program (NCI T32) since 2022, after serving as associate director 2017-2022. She regularly reviews F-awards and NCI R01s and has served as on the Cancer and Bone Society board since 2015.
- CABTRAC board of directors 2023-2025 and co-chair of the Committee on Enhancing Training Engagement (formally the Diversity Committee) since 2021. She attended CABTRAC in 2017 and from 2019-2025 and was part of the onsite organizing team for the virtual symposium in 2020 and the Nashville retreat in 2021.
- She hopes to continue her role in CABTRAC to learn and share vital skills for supporting the education and training needs of faculty, administrators, and trainees to develop strategies to provide the best training and support for all cancer researchers.



Nicole Simone, MD

- My expertise in improving radiation response via metabolic reprogramming of tumors to improve cancer outcomes in the clinic and lab
- I am the Associate Director for CRTEC at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center and am the Co-PI of the Cancer Biology T32.
- At CABTRAC, I am the Co-Curriculum Chair and helped create the two sessions this year on AI including a training workshop and a panel on use of AI. At the board meeting this year, a team was created to work on cancer training advocacy which I have joined
- I hope to serve on the Board to help strengthen the national voice for cancer research training, expand advocacy efforts, and ensure continuity for the next generation of scientists.



Inna Smalley, PhD

- Melanoma researcher specializing in CNS/leptomeningeal metastases
- Associate Director, Moffitt Cancer PhD Program; mentors trainees at all levels; Involved in CRTEC at Moffitt for 7+ years, including global initiatives like Chan Zuckerberg Initiative-funded training course in Latin America
- This is my first year at CABTRAC (only just heard about it but eager to get involved), but I signed up for as many service activities as I could (speed mentoring, K99 panel). Not part of CABTRAC board but serve on the board for leptomeningeal cancer foundation.
- First-generation Ukrainian immigrant from NIH-defined disadvantaged background; brings vital perspectives on supporting underrepresented trainees via innovative recruitment and inclusive training environments to diversify cancer workforce

2026 Board Director 2–yr Term Candidates

One Seat Open



**Ifeanyi "Beverly" Chukwudozie,
PhD(c), MBA, MPH**

Administrative Director, Cancer
Research Training and Education
Coordination (CRTEC)

University of Illinois Cancer Center
University of Illinois Chicago



Kellee Gauthier, MPH

Senior Director of Education,
Training, and Growth

The Ohio State University
James Comprehensive Cancer
Center



Rashieda Jonine Hatcher, PhD

Program Manager of CRTEC

Dan L Duncan Comprehensive
Cancer Center
Baylor College of Medicine



Amanda Purdy, PhD

Associate Chief
Academic Officer

Fox Chase Cancer
Center



Stevie Warner, MA, MHR

Administrative Director, Cancer
Research Training and Education
Coordination (CRTEC)

OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center



Ifeanyi "Beverly" Chukwudozie, PhD(c), MBA, MPH

- Beverly is the CRTEC Administrative Director and leads strategic efforts to develop, implement, and evaluate cancer research education programs.
- She has 17 years of experience in advancing cancer and health disparities research, administration, and workforce development. She was the lead administrator for federally funded cancer training programs (U54, P20, P50, & P60). She has served on 7 national and state-level advisory boards, such as the AACR CRTEC AD Steering Committee.
- She is an active CABTRAC participant since 2021; attended 5 retreats, given three presentations. She has also served on the CABTRAC CRTEC Retreat Planning Committee, leading to a Nature Cancer publication.
- She brings deep experience in designing cancer workforce development programs to help shape national strategies for cancer biology education and support the next generation of cancer researchers.

Kellee Gauthier, MPH

- For the past 6 years, Kellee has served as the administrative lead of CRTEC at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC).
- Her key accomplishments include establishing a new department from the beginning, developing and evaluating programming for trainees at all career levels, facilitating a team to develop a platform to track training and mentoring activities, managing staff to execute departmental initiatives, and designing an onboarding program.
- She has attended 4–5 CABTRAC meetings, presented posters in 2024 and 2025 conferences, and led a breakout in 2025.
- Kellee will bring extensive experience in program development, implementation, and evaluation. Her superpower lies in launching new initiatives, programs, and departments through facilitation and leadership, especially in new areas. She is driven by the opportunity to help guide CABTRAC in “creating future cancer researchers.”



Rashieda Jonine Hatcher, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine

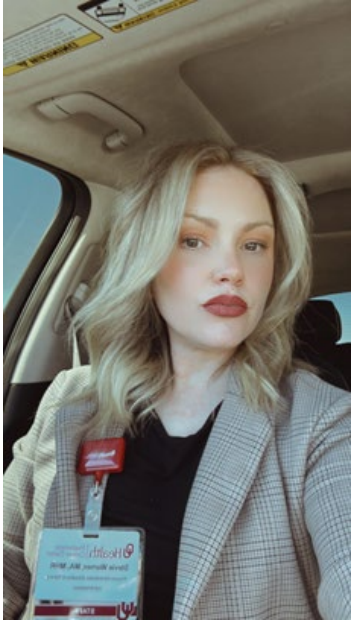


- Specialty: (Research) Cell cycle checkpoint disruptors in breast cancer and medulloblastomas; and (Programmatic) Trainee development, curriculum support, COE engagement and K-12 Outreach.
- Program Manager of CRTEC at the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Attended CABTRAC since 2020. Previously participated as a poster judge and panelist; recently participating on the trainee programs planning committee.
- I am deeply committed to mentoring and training the next generation of scientists. Through structured trainee development programs, workshops, and individualized mentorship, I have guided students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career investigators in building research skills, pursuing independent funding, and fostering collaborative, team-based science. My approach emphasizes critical thinking, scientific integrity, and professional growth within the biomedical research environment.



Amanda Purdy, PhD

- Cell biologist specializing in natural killer cell signaling.
- PI of multiple training programs, including the R25-funded Empower Fellowship; leads experiential and didactic programming that strengthens communication, leadership, mentorship, and science literacy, with a focus on supporting underserved STEM populations.
- Engaged CABTRAC member since 2019; retreat presenter and organizing committee member contributing to sessions on R25 strategies and CRTEC site visits.
- With a strong national network (NPA, GCC, GREAT) and a proven record of building impactful programs that develop junior scientists, I will bring a strategic, collaborative, and outcomes-driven approach to strengthening cancer research training.



Stevie Warner, MA, MHR

- Stevie Warner offers over 10 years of experience in cancer research training and education program management.
- At the OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center, Stevie serves as Administrative Director for the CRTEC Core and is an active member of the Cancer Administrators Network (CAN).
- Stevie has attended CABTRAC annually since 2019; co-hosted the 2024 CABTRAC in Kansas City; and continues to contribute feedback and consultation for future CABTRAC meetings.
- In addition to training program oversight, Stevie brings 10+ years of expertise in event planning and management, including workshops, seminars, symposiums, and national and international conferences.