

2026 Elections *for 2027 seats*



2027 President-Elect

Three 2027-2029 Directors

2027 President-Elect (& 2028 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



Steven Kridel, PhD

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

Assistant Director - Basic Science Training, CRTEC
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center



Larry Boise, PhD

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** Intrinsic and extrinsic factors that influence myeloma cell survival and response to therapy.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** I am AD for Education and Training at the Winship Cancer Institute. I am the contact PI on a predoctoral T32 and the program director for the Cancer Biology graduate program at Emory. I also lead an ACS-funded summer undergraduate program. I have significant experience reviewing NCI K99/R00, T32 and R25 awards.
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** I am on the CABTRAC Director's Board (since 2022) and serve as an NCI liaison and on the CRTEC committee. I have attended 6 of the last 7 retreats and have participated in speed mentoring, F and K award panels and CRTEC panels
- **Vision for CABTRAC:** I am committed to the mission of CABTRAC and bring leadership experience in cancer education and career development for all levels of learners.



Steve Kridel, PhD

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** Expert in cancer fatty acid and lipid metabolism with interest in identifying drug candidates in the pathway.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** 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.
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** Serves as board director since January 2026. Attends CABTRAC regularly, including speed mentoring and K99/R00 award panels.
- **Vision for CABTRAC:** 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.

2027 Board Director Candidates

Three seats open



Andrew C. Dudley, PhD

Harrison Distinguished Teaching Professor of Microbiology,
Immunology & Cancer Biology
University of Virginia
UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center



Josh Neman, PhD

Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, Physiology & Neuroscience
Chair, Cancer Biology & Genomics Doctoral Program,
Scientific Director, Brain Tumor Center,
Co-Leader, Neuro-Oncology Disease Affinity Group,
Director, Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination,
Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center,
Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California



Babatunde O. Oyajobi, MD, PhD, MBA

Professor, Cell System & Anatomy
UT Distinguished Teaching Professor;
Member, NCI-designated Mays Cancer Center
UT San Antonio Health Science Center

Yuliya Pylayeva-Gupta, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Genetics
Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Co-Leader, Immunology Program
Co-Director, CCBTP T32
Co-Chair, Lineberger Faculty Search Committee
Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Rebecca B. Riggins, PhD

Professor of Oncology
Associate Director of Education and Training
Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
Georgetown University Medical Center



Mukund Seshadri, DDS, PhD

Senior Vice President and Dean, Office of Cancer Education and Training
Chair, Department of Oral Oncology
Director, Faculty Development and Mentoring Program
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center



Benjamin A. Toll, PhD, ABPP

Oliver and Jennie Donaldson Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
Professor and Vice Chair of Public Health Sciences
Associate Director, Education and Training
Co-Director, Lung Cancer Screening Program
Director, MUSC Health Tobacco Treatment Program
Medical University of South Carolina





Drew Dudley, PhD

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** The Dudley lab studies the tumor-associated vasculature in the context of tumor immune surveillance and responses to cancer immunotherapies.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** He is currently MPI on the long-standing (50 yrs!) Cancer Biology T32 at UVA. He has served on 46 PhD thesis committees and graduated five PhD students from his lab. Three which were awarded an F31 or F30 from the NCI. He is course director of Fundamentals in Cancer Biology at UVA, where he also lectures. Beginning in 2019, he was a standing member on the panel reviewing NCI Career Development Awards (K-series), where he served as Chairperson for three years. He has also served ad hoc on numerous national and international study panels, was a panel member for the site reviews of the NCI Cancer Genetics Program and the Laboratory of Cellular Oncology.
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** Retreat attendee since 2019.
- **What I bring to the Board:** I'd like to contribute to the future of cancer research training beyond my own institution. As a cancer researcher and leader of our NCI-supported T32 program, I have seen firsthand how thoughtful mentorship, interdisciplinary training, and a strong scientific community can shape the careers of young investigators. CABTRAC provides a unique forum for sharing successful approaches and addressing common challenges across institutions. I welcome the opportunity to bring my experience and perspective to the Board, and to learn from other program leaders to strengthen the pipeline of creative, rigorous, and collaborative cancer research.



Josh Neman, PhD

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** Josh is a cancer neuroscientist studying how the nervous system drives adult and pediatric brain tumors and metastasis.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** At USC, Josh chairs the Cancer Biology and Genomics PhD program, directs Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination (CRTEC) at Norris, and is Associate Director of the USC/CHLA R25 Summer Oncology Research Fellowship.
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** Josh has attended 3 CABTRAC retreats; he was slated to present last year on "From Bench to Boardroom—Navigating Academic and Non-Traditional Pathways" but b/c of health reasons could not make it, and served on the organizing committee for the 2025 Annual Retreat in Richmond.
- **What I bring to the Board:** Josh brings a dual academic-industry perspective, also serving as Chief Clinical Officer of a brain tumor biotechnology company, and prior board service with Susan G. Komen LA County. He is motivated to help CABTRAC strengthen industry exposure and career development for trainees.



Kay Oyajobi, MD, PhD, MBA

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** Cancer biologist with expertise in multiple myeloma biology.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** Member, Training and Education Adv Cmtee; Co-Prgm Dir NCI T32 (2012-2023); PI/PD, CPRIT Research Training Award (2012-2022); previous Ext Adv Cmtee, NCI T32s at Vanderbilt U and UVa; Training Study Section Full Memb: NCI-F (2009-2013), NIGMS TWD-A (2021-2025), Ad-hoc memb, various NIH Training Grants SEPs reviewing K mechanisms (including NCI K99/K08/K01 apps as recent as June 2026) Grad prgm leadership 2009-2023 including: Cancer Biology Track, IMGP; CB Discipline, IBMS PhD Program; Chair, COGS, CSB PhD Program (including CB Track)
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** Attended all CABTRAC retreats since 2014 (except 2021, 2024); member, CABTRAC Board of Directors (2017-2020).
- **What I bring to the Board:** Passionate about mentoring and training as well as research education. Served as PI on other NIH training grants: postdoctoral (K12 IRACDA), predoctoral (T32 IMSD), postbac (R25 PREP and R25/T32 Bridges-to-Doctorate). Also directed a successful F grant writing workshop at MCC since 2020. I hope to share my experiences and insights with CABTRAC members.



Yuliya Pylayeva-Gupta, PhD

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** Yuliya is a nationally recognized cancer researcher with an NCI-funded program focused on cancer immunology, tumor–immune interactions, and therapeutic resistance, with particular expertise in pancreatic cancer and immunotherapy.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** At UNC Lineberger, Yuliya co-directs the Cancer Cell Biology T32 program and is Co-Leader of the Immunology Program. She has extensive experience in trainee mentoring, curriculum and workshop development, recruitment, and creating opportunities for scientific and career development. She is also an NCI study section member and has mentored multiple trainees through successful NIH F31 applications.
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** Yuliya has been an active participant in CABTRAC for the past three years.
- **What she brings to the Board:** A broad experience in cancer research training, mentorship, and program leadership, along with a perspective spanning basic, translational, and clinical cancer research. She is particularly motivated to help strengthen cancer research training and prepare the next generation of the cancer research workforce.



Rebecca Riggins, PhD

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** Orphan and ligand-regulated nuclear receptor signaling in cancer.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** 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.
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** First attended CABTRAC in 2007 as a trainee, and all CABTRAC retreats since 2019; Panelist or co-lead for retreat sessions since 2023; CABTRAC Board since 2024.
- **What I bring to the Board:** I love the collaborative spirit of CABTRAC, and view serving this community as a way to “pay forward” the mentorship and sponsorship from which I have benefited



Mukund Seshadri, DDS, PhD

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** Head and neck cancer, Radiology/AI.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** As Dean, I am responsible for the oversight of our MS and PhD program in Cancer Sciences PI of NCI R25 (Research Experience), Associate Program Director - University at Buffalo MSTP >20 years of experience in cancer education and mentoring. Oversee our junior faculty development and mentoring program Served/serve as a mentor to 21 graduate students (10 PhD, 11 MS), 16 clinical trainees, 48 undergraduate and high school interns. Peer-review experience including R01, P01, and fellowship (T/K/F) panels. Serve on the EAB of UC Davis and UICC
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** Attended last 3 retreats, participated in panel discussion on R25
- **What I bring to the Board:** Passionate about training the next-generation of scientists and clinician-scientists. As a board member, I hope to amplify the mission and vision of CABTRAC through advocacy, collaboration and partnerships.



Ben Toll, PhD, ABPP

- **Scientific or professional discipline or field:** Dr. Toll is a world leader in cancer prevention through cessation of tobacco products.
- **Role(s) in Cancer Biology training:** Associate Director of Education and Training for the MUSC HCC, Associate Director for the ACS Institutional Research Grant (providing pilot grants to faculty), and Director of Curriculum Development for the NCI K12 Calabresi. He worked with leadership to create a Master's in Cancer Biology and several advanced degree and certificate programs with local partner institutions in South Carolina.
- **Participation at CABTRAC:** Dr. Toll has attended CABTRAC retreats since becoming AD of CRTEC in 2021, presented at several of those retreats. He has recently been working to increase synergy between AACR leadership and CABTRAC, and plans to work with AACR and CABTRAC on multiple national education and training initiatives.
- **What I bring to the Board:** Dr. Toll is passionate about mentoring and training for all trainee levels. He Chairs the Faculty Engagement and Advancement Team at MUSC HCC, in which he is highly involved in advancement and retention of cancer center faculty (cancer biology, population science, and physician scientists). Dr. Toll Chairs the Steering Committee for the AACR Cancer Centers Alliance (CCA) - Cancer Research Training Education Coordination (CRTEC) - Associate Director (AD) Steering Committee (CCA-CRTEC-AD).

Voting Instructions

**Ballots will be emailed on Wednesday, October 7 at 11am ET
to the person on record as the main CABTRAC contact person at each member institution**

Retreat attendees are encouraged to confer with the main contact person on votes to be cast

Votes will be cast online at cabtrac.org

Only one ballot per member institution will be accepted

The voting portal will be up until 12pm noon PT on Friday, October 9

Results will be announced on Saturday, October 10 via mass email and at cabtrac.org