



Health Equity Committee (HEC)



Edith A. Perez, MD

Chair, SU2C Health Equity Committee
Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Jacksonville, FL

Edith A. Perez, MD, is a cancer specialist and an internationally known translational researcher. Her roles extend nationally, including group vice chair of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology and other positions within the American Association for Cancer Research, the American

Society of Clinical Oncology and the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Perez has authored more than 700 research articles in journals, books and abstracts and is invited frequently to lecture at national and international meetings. Dr. Perez serves on the editorial boards of multiple academic journals.

Dr. Perez' areas of focus include developing a wide range of clinical trials exploring targeted therapeutic agents for the treatment and prevention of breast cancer. Dr. Perez is leading studies to evaluate the role of genetic biomarkers in the development, aggressiveness and therapeutic efficacy of therapies for breast cancer.

Dr. Perez's goal is to enhance the understanding of biological markers and pathways that drive breast cancer growth and development, as well as speed up access to personalized therapies. This joint commitment reinforces the pursuit to advance cancer genomics and improve patient care.

Dr. Perez received her medical degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, and her BS in Biology from University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras.



John D. Carpten, PhD

Institute of Translational Genomics,
Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA

John D. Carpten, PhD, is an internationally recognized expert in genome science, and possesses unique training in multiple disciplines including germline genetics for disease risk and predisposition, somatic cancer genomics, health disparities research, cell biology, functional genomics, and precision medicine.

Dr. Carpten earned his Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 1994 with a focus on human genetics. He then went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH, Bethesda, in Cancer Genetics, where he was later promoted to the tenure track in 2000. Then in 2003, Dr. Carpten accepted a position to become Division Director, Division of Integrated Cancer Genomics, at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), Phoenix, AZ. Later, in 2012 he was promoted to the position of Deputy Director of Basic Research for TGen. In 2016 he was recruited by the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, to build and chair a new Department and Institute of Translational Genomics.

Dr. Carpten's primary research program centers around the development and application of cutting edge genomic technologies and bioinformatics analysis in search of germ-line and somatic alterations that are associated with cancer risk and tumor characteristics, respectively. A major focus of Dr. Carpten's research has been related to prostate cancer genetics. He was a lead author on the first genome wide scan for hereditary prostate cancer genes (Science. 1996 Nov 22;274(5291):1371-4.), and the identification of HOXB13 as the first true hereditary prostate cancer gene (New England Journal of Medicine. 2012 Jan 12;366(2):141-9.). His group has also discovered a number of single nucleotide polymorphisms, which confer increased risk of developing prostate cancer (Journal of the National Cancer Institute. 2007 Dec 19;99(24):1836-44.). Furthermore, he has played a critical role in prostate cancer cell biology studies (Nat Genet. 2004 Sep;36(9):979-83.), and prostate cancer tumor genome profiling studies (Genome Res. 2011 Jan;21(1):47-55.).

Dr. Carpten has also been an early pioneer in the understanding the role of biology in disparate cancer incidence and mortality rates seen among underrepresented populations. Through his leadership, the African American Hereditary Prostate Cancer Study (AAHPC) Network was conceived. This study has become a model for genetic linkage studies in underrepresented

populations and led to the first genome wide scan for prostate cancer susceptibility genes in African Americans (Prostate. 2007 Jan 1;67(1):22-31.).

Dr. Carpten has received research funding awards from various sources to support his research including NIH, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, and a number of pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Carpten has co-authored over 160 publications in scientific journals that include Science, Nature, Nature Genetics, Genome Research, Cancer Research, Molecular Cancer Research, Cancer Cell, and the New England Journal of Medicine.



Elizabeth Jaffee, MD

Deputy Director, The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins

Team Leader, SU2C – Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Cancer Dream Team
Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth Jaffee, MD, is an international leader in the development of immune based therapies for pancreatic and breast cancers. In 1981, she graduated magna cum laude from Brandeis University before receiving her medical degree from New York Medical College. From 1985-1988 she completed her medical residency at Presbyterian-University Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, and subsequently received a National Institutes of Health Research Training Grant as a research fellow and principal investigator at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Jaffee came to the Johns Hopkins University in 1989 as Senior Clinical Oncology Fellow. In 1992, she joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of Oncology.

Since her arrival at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Jaffee has become a renowned oncology researcher and co-director of both the Cancer Immunology Program and the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program. She also established Cell Processing and Gene Therapy cGMP Facility. She is the first recipient of the Dana and Albert “Cubby” Broccoli Professorship in Oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, and also holds a professorship in Pathology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 2015, Dr. Jaffee was appointed deputy director of the Kimmel Cancer Center. Dr. Jaffee is also the co-director of the Skip Viragh Center for Pancreas Cancer Clinical Research and Patient Care. In 2007, she was appointed deputy director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, and has also served as chair of the Clinical Research Committee at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Dr. Jaffee’s research is focused on the development of novel vaccine approaches that overcome immune tolerance to cancers, and she currently holds six vaccine patents. Dr. Jaffee has completed multiple studies testing an allogeneic tumor vaccine in patients with pancreatic cancer who were eligible for complete surgical resection of their tumors, but whose cancers are still expected to recur at rates as high as 80% one year following surgery. Dr. Jaffee's first study demonstrated the safety of the vaccine and identified a dose that appears to demonstrate immune activation associated with improved disease-free survival in this patient population. These trials have also allowed Dr. Jaffee to develop both genomic and proteomic methods for identifying new pathways and biomarkers associated with the development and progression of pancreatic cancers. As an example, Dr. Jaffee recently identified the protein Annexin A2 that

appears to be overexpressed in pancreatic cancers. Her group has shown that this protein changes location in the pancreatic cancer cell when compared with normal pancreatic tissue cells. This change in location gives the cancer cell the ability to spread from the pancreas to the liver and other organs. In animal models, Dr. Jaffee has shown that the inhibition of this new protein's expression results in the prevention of pancreatic cancer spread. She is currently developing a therapy that targets this protein and plans on testing this in patients in the future.

In addition to many JHU administrative committee appointments, her professional society memberships include the Board of Directors for the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Society for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Association of Immunologists, and the Society of Immunotherapy for Cancer. Dr. Jaffee also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Philadelphia, and on the External Advisory Boards of both the Seattle Cancer Consortium Breast SPORE and the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Head and Neck Cancer SPORE.

Dr. Jaffee currently serves on the National Cancer Advisory Board and on the NCI NExT SEP Committee, is chair of the AACR Cancer Immunology Working Group (CImm) Steering Committee, is a member of the Cancer Vaccine Collaborative (CVC), and has served as a co-organizer for the AACR Special Conference on Cancer Immunology in 2010 and 2012. Dr. Jaffee has also served as a member of the NCI Board of Scientific Counselors and the RAID NCI Program Oversight Committee. She is co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Panel for Vice President Joe Biden's National Cancer Moonshot Initiative. In addition, she is on the scientific advisory council for the Cancer Research Institute and Team Leader for the Stand Up To Cancer Pancreatic Dream Team research project: Transforming Pancreatic Cancer from Death Sentence to Treatable Disease.



Guillermina (Gigi) Lozano, PhD

Chair, Department of Genetics, Division of Basic Science
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

Guillermina (Gigi) Lozano, PhD is a geneticist recognized for her studies of the p53 tumor suppressor pathway, from characterizing p53 as a transcriptional activator to characterizing the physiological importance of Mdm2 and Mdm4 proteins as inhibitors of p53, and the consequences of p53 mutations on tumor development. Lozano was born in East Chicago, Indiana before moving to Texas with her family where she completed undergraduate studies in Biology and Mathematics at Pan American University (now known as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley). She completed graduate studies at Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and a post doctoral fellowship at Princeton University. She was hired as an Instructor at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 1987 and rose through the ranks to her current position as chair of the department of Genetics. She was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She received the Minorities in Cancer Research Jane Cooke Wright Lectureship, and Women in Cancer Research Charlotte Friend Lectureship awards both from the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. Lozano is also the recipient of distinguished alumni awards from both her undergraduate and graduate alma maters. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine.



John Whyte, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer
WebMD
Washington, DC

John Whyte, MD, MPH, is a popular physician and writer who has been communicating to the public about health issues for nearly two decades. Whyte is the Chief Medical Officer, WebMD. In this role, Whyte leads efforts to develop and expand strategic partnerships that create meaningful change around important and timely public health issues. Prior to WebMD, Whyte served as the director of professional affairs and stakeholder engagement at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Whyte worked with health care professionals, patients, and patient advocates, providing them with a focal point for advocacy, enhanced two-way communication, and collaboration, assisting them in navigating the FDA on issues concerning drug development, review, and drug safety. He also developed numerous initiatives to address diversity in clinical trials.

Prior to this, Whyte worked for nearly a decade as the chief medical expert and vice president, health and medical education, at Discovery Channel, the leading nonfiction television network. In this role, Whyte developed, designed, and delivered educational programming that appealed to both a medical and lay audience. This included television shows as well as online content that won over 50 awards including numerous Tellys, CINE Golden Eagle, and Freddies.

Whyte is a board-certified internist. He completed an internal medicine residency at Duke University Medical Center as well as earned a Master of Public Health in health policy and management at Harvard University School of Public Health. Prior to arriving in Washington, Whyte was a health services research fellow at Stanford and attending physician in the department of medicine. He has written extensively in the medical and lay press.

He continues to see patients in Washington, DC, and Maryland.



Raymond M. Williams, JD

National Diversity and Inclusion Partner
DLA Piper
Philadelphia, PA

Raymond M. Williams, JD focuses his practice on complex litigation, with an emphasis on Food and Drug Administration matters.

Williams is a member of the Litigation Practice Group as well as the Life Sciences and Media, Sport & Entertainment Sectors within the firm. He also serves on the firm's Policy Committee and Associate Evaluation and Compensation Committee.

Williams has first-chair jury trial experience as well as extensive pre-trial litigation experience. On both the local and national levels, he has successfully defended matters which included allegations of wrongful death, blindness and cancer, among many issues. His extensive litigation experience includes handling multidistrict litigations, mass tort state coordinated proceedings, class actions and punitive damage claims.

Williams has performed internal assessments regarding risks associated with product liability and proposed acquisition of companies. He has consulted on access to foreign markets for various companies subject to FDA regulations and has shepherded various matters related to data privacy issues. Williams has interviewed hundreds of corporate employees related to his handling of various litigations, risk assessments, investigations and monitorships, including sports related issues. As a former little league, college and National Football League player, Williams provides a unique understanding and perspective to any sports related issue.

Williams is a frequent presenter and participates in numerous speaking panels regarding numerous legal issues including pharmaceutical, sport and diversity topics, to name a few. He is a frequent contributor to litigation journals and industry publications, including American Bar Association publications. Williams has appeared as a panelist on the *Law Journal* and *American Law Journal* TV programs.

Prior to attending law school, for one season Williams played professional football in the National Football League as a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers.



Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD

Incoming Executive Director, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN

Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD is the incoming Executive Director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, and the former director of the Office of Cancer Health Equity and Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at the Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center. Winkfield specializes in the use of radiation therapy in the treatment of hematologic malignancies (lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma, bone marrow transplantation) and breast cancer. She received her MD and PhD degrees at Duke University through participation in the Medical Scientist Training Program sponsored by the NIH and completed her training in the Harvard Radiation Oncology Program. She is a national expert in community engagement. Her research is focused on the design and implementation of programming to reduce sociocultural and economic barriers that contribute to disparate health outcomes for racial/ethnic minorities and underserved populations. Her goal is to empower the community with knowledge and encourage policymakers to invest in initiatives designed to eliminate inequities in the health care delivery system.