



Prostate Cancer Foundation
Young Investigator Forum

2026

PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION

YOUNG INVESTIGATOR FORUM

Held in conjunction with the 33rd Annual PCF Scientific Retreat

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Omni La Costa Resort · Carlsbad, California

Curing Together™

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

Young Investigator Forum

Omni La Costa Resort · Carlsbad, California

AT A GLANCE

Sessions · Poinsettia 2 & 3 · All times U.S. PDT

6:30 AM	Registration Poinsettia Foyer
6:45 AM - 7:45 AM	Breakfast Poinsettia 1
8:00 AM - 8:10 AM	Welcome & Introduction
8:10 AM - 9:10 AM	Session 1: The Zen of Grant Writing 2: Judgement Day
9:10 AM - 9:50 AM	Session 2: From Bench to Dark Side: Navigating the Transition
9:50 AM - 10:30 AM	Session 3: Navigating a Career in Clinical Research: A Statistical Perspective
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Session 4: Introduction to High Achieving PCF Young Investigators
11:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Group Photo
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Lunch Orchid Terrace
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Session 5: Big Data and Community Research Resources
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Session 6: Company Building 101: Transforming Academic Breakthroughs into Medicines
3:15 PM - 5:30 PM	Session 7: PCF Young Investigator Speed Networking 13.0 Poinsettia 1
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Young Investigator Reception Orchid Terrace
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Young Investigator Dinner Orchid Terrace
8:00 PM	Meeting Adjourned

LOCATIONS

Poinsettia Foyer

Registration

Poinsettia 1

Breakfast & Speed Networking (Session 7)

Poinsettia 2 & 3

Sessions 1-6

Orchid Terrace

Lunch, Reception & Dinner

6:30 AM	Registration	Poinsettia Foyer
6:45 AM - 7:45 AM	Breakfast	Poinsettia 1
7:45 AM - 8:00 AM	Move to Session 1	Poinsettia 2 & 3
8:00 AM - 8:10 AM	Welcome & Introduction Andrea Miyahira, PhD · Prostate Cancer Foundation Phillip Koo, MD · Prostate Cancer Foundation	

SESSION 1

8:10 AM - 9:10 AM

The Zen of Grant Writing 2: Judgement Day**Joshua Lang, MD**

University of Wisconsin

Introduced by Andrea Miyahira, PhD | Prostate Cancer Foundation

8:50 AM - 9:10 AM Discussion

8:10 AM - 8:50 AM

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY**

Joshua Lang, MD, is a medical oncologist and Professor at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center. He serves as the Associate Director of Translational Research, Director of the Circulating Biomarker Core, and Director of the Physician Scientist Training Program. He serves as a representative on the NCCN Prostate Cancer Guidelines committee. His laboratory is focused on defining resistance biology in advanced prostate cancer for novel diagnostic and therapy development. His laboratory and clinical research programs are funded by the Prostate Cancer Foundation, NIH, and many others.

SESSION 2

9:10 AM - 9:50 AM

From Bench to Dark Side: Navigating the Transition**Charles Drake, MD, PhD**

Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Introduced by Andrea Miyahira, PhD | Prostate Cancer Foundation

9:40 AM - 9:50 AM Discussion

9:10 AM - 9:40 AM

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY**

Charles (Chuck) Drake, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP, leads prostate cancer and cross-cancer immuno-oncology at Johnson and Johnson, discovering novel agents and advancing them into the clinic. Previously, he directed GU oncology at Columbia's Herbert Irving Cancer Center and held a tenured professorship at Johns Hopkins, where his lab discovered LAG-3, licensed to Bristol Myers Squibb as Relatlimab. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed works and remains board-certified in medical oncology, seeing GU patients at Columbia.

SESSION 3

9:50 AM - 10:30 AM

Navigating a Career in Clinical Research: A Statistical Perspective

Susan Halabi, PhD

Duke University

Introduced by Andrea Miyahira, PhD | Prostate Cancer Foundation

10:20 AM - 10:30 AM Discussion

9:50 AM - 10:20 AM



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Susan Halabi is the James B. Duke Distinguished Professor of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics and Co-Chief of the Division of Biostatistics at Duke University. Her research focuses on the design and analysis of oncology clinical trials, prognostic/predictive modeling, and surrogate endpoints. She has authored more than 330 peer-reviewed publications and co-edited two books on oncology clinical trials. She is a Fellow of the Society for Clinical Trials (SCT), the American Statistical Association, and ASCO and a past president of SCT.

SESSION 4

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Introduction to High Achieving PCF Young Investigators

Moderator: Andrea Miyahira, PhD | Prostate Cancer Foundation

10:30 AM - 10:40 AM**Decoding T Cell Immunotherapy by Profiling Complex Tumor-T Cell Interactions**

Zhiyuan Mao, PhD · University of California, Los Angeles

10:40 AM - 10:45 AM*Discussion***10:45 AM - 10:55 AM****Tumor-Innervating Nerves Define Neuroimmune Niches in Prostate Cancer**

Ece Eksi, PhD · Oregon Health & Science University

10:55 AM - 11:00 AM*Discussion***11:00 AM - 11:10 AM****Elucidating Cellular Drivers of Resistance to Neoadjuvant Intensified Hormonal Therapy**

William Chen · University of California, San Francisco

11:10 AM - 11:15 AM*Discussion***11:15 AM - 11:25 AM****Challenging Paradigms in Biochemically Recurrent Prostate Cancer**

Melissa Abel, MD · National Cancer Institute

11:25 AM - 11:30 AM*Discussion***11:30 AM - 11:45 AM****Group Photo****11:45 AM - 12:45 PM****Lunch**

Orchid Terrace

12:45 PM - 1:00 PM**Move to Session 5**

Poinsettia 2 & 3

SESSION 5

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Big Data and Community Research Resources

1:00 PM - 1:10 PM**IRONMAN: A Novel International Registry of Advanced Prostate Cancer**

Lorelei Mucci, ScD · Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

1:10 PM - 1:15 PM*Discussion***1:15 PM - 1:25 PM****PSMA Progress & RWD**

Joel Greshock, MSc · Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

1:25 PM - 1:30 PM*Discussion*

SESSION 6

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Company Building 101: Transforming Academic Breakthroughs into Medicines

1:30 PM - 1:35 PM	Introduction and Announcement of New YI Program Andrea Miyahira, PhD · Prostate Cancer Foundation
1:35 PM - 1:45 PM	From Academic Research to Entrepreneurship: A Young Investigator's Journey Cherie Au, PhD · Weill Cornell Medicine
1:45 PM - 1:55 PM	When Discovery Becomes a Drug: Lessons from Building a Biotech from Academia Evi Giannakakou, PhD · Weill Cornell Medicine
1:55 PM - 2:05 PM	There and Back Again: A PSMA Tale Michael Groaning, PhD · Soricimed Biopharma
2:05 PM - 2:15 PM	A Practical Guide to Translating academic Insights into Investable Biotech Ventures Ahmed Alkhateeb, PhD · Reverb Therapeutics
2:15 PM - 3:00 PM	Panel Discussion

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM Move to Session 7

Poinsettia 1

SESSION 7

3:15 PM - 5:30 PM

PCF Young Investigator Speed Networking 13.0

Moderators: Christopher Gaffney, MD | Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Blaise Kimmel, PhD | Ohio State University; Nour Shobaki, PhD | University of Pennsylvania

Location: Poinsettia 1. | The purpose of the speed networking session is to foster a sense of community among young investigators. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know your fellow researchers in a relaxed and informal setting. We hope that your discussions will spark some exciting ideas and collaborations!

3:15 PM - 3:35 PM	Introduction
3:35 PM - 4:00 PM	Speed Networking Group 1
4:00 PM - 4:25 PM	Speed Networking Group 2
4:25 PM - 4:50 PM	Speed Networking Group 3
4:50 PM - 5:15 PM	Speed Networking Group 4
5:15 PM - 5:30 PM	Conclusion

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Young Investigator Reception

Orchid Terrace

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Young Investigator Dinner

Orchid Terrace

8:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

Program Committee

Andrea Miyahira, PhD

Phillip Koo, MD

Ahmed Alkhateeb, PhD

Cherie Au, PhD

Christopher Gaffney, MD

Evi Giannakakou, PhD

Blaise Kimmel, PhD

Joshua Lang, MD

Nour Shobaki, PhD

Prostate Cancer Foundation

Prostate Cancer Foundation

Reverb Therapeutics

Weill Cornell Medicine

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Weill Cornell Medicine

Ohio State University

University of Wisconsin

University of Pennsylvania

Program Supporters

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