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**ASCI/AAIM/BWF  
Physician-Scientist Pathways  
Annual Workshop**

Sunday, April 27, 2025  
7:00 am-12:00 pm Central  
Swissotel, Chicago

Room: Lucerne

*The Future of Physician-Scientist Training:  
Adapting to a Changing Landscape with Inclusive Excellence*

*This Workshop is generously supported by*

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## ASCI/AAIM/BWF Physician-Scientist Pathways Annual Workshop

Sunday, April 27, 2025, Swissotel, Chicago

Thank you for participating in the 2025 ASCI/AAIM Physician-Scientist Pathways Annual Workshop. Our purpose today is to gather faculty, staff engaged in physician-scientist training at the pre- and post-graduate level, and trainees to share best practices, network, and explore the theme: *The Future of Physician-Scientist Training: Adapting to a Changing Landscape with Inclusive Excellence*.

### Agenda:

**7:00 am – Welcome/Purpose & Survey Results:** Emily Gallagher, MD, PhD

**7:05 am – Keynote Address:** Moderators: Emily Gallagher, MD, PhD & David Mankoff, MD, PhD

### W. Kimryn Rathmell, MD, PhD

17<sup>th</sup> Director of the National Cancer Institute, 2019-2020 President of the American Society for Clinical Investigation

### *Supporting early-career investigators: Accelerating the path to research independence*



W. Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D., M.M.H.C., was sworn in as the 17<sup>th</sup> NCI director on December 18, 2023 and stepped down from that role on January 20, 2025. She previously led the Vanderbilt University Medical Center as physician-in-chief and chair of the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Rathmell is a highly decorated physician-scientist, a recipient of the American Cancer Society Medal of Honor, the 2025 American Society for Clinical Investigation Korsmeyer Award, the 2019 Louisa Nelson Award for Women of Achievement, Vision, and Inspiration, the 2019 Eugene P. Schonfeld Award from the Kidney Cancer Association, and the Paragon Award for Research Excellence from the Doris Duke Foundation. She was a leader of The Cancer Genome Atlas's (TCGA) kidney cancer projects and served as a TCGA analysis working group member across the spectrum of cancers, winning the 2020 American Association for Cancer Research Team Science Award. She has served on the NCI Board of Scientific Advisors, and the Forbeck Foundation Scientific Advisory Board.

Dr. Rathmell has held leadership positions with the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Society for Clinical Investigation, serving as secretary-treasurer and president. As a result of her efforts, Dr. Rathmell has been elected to the Association of American Physicians, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Rathmell's specialty is the research and treatment of complex and hereditary kidney cancers. She also focuses on underlying drivers of kidney cancers using genetic, molecular, and cell biology to develop interventions to improve patients' lives. Dr. Rathmell's research has resulted in more than 300 articles in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *the Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

Dr. Rathmell earned undergraduate degrees in biology and chemistry from the University of Northern Iowa and her Ph.D. in biophysics and M.D. from Stanford University. She completed an internal medicine internship at the University of Chicago and an internal medicine residency, medical oncology fellowship, and postdoctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2022, she completed her Master of Management in Health Care from the Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management.

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8:00 am – Deans' Panel: Moderators: Chris Williams, MD, PhD & Peter Gruber, MD, PhD

### *Leadership Strategies for Training Physician-Scientists*

#### **Panelists:**



As Vanderbilt University Medical Center's (VUMC) CEO and medical school dean since 2009, **Jeffrey Balser, MD** has led health system expansion from two to five regional campuses housing seven hospitals and nearly 2000 licensed beds. With over 40,000 employees, annual operating income has grown from \$2 to over \$8 billion, while visits at over 200 ambulatory locations now approach 3.5 million from communities nationwide. VUMC houses the nation's largest volume heart transplant program and is third largest for all solid organs; the Mid-South's largest NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center; and the Southeast's highest ranked children's hospital. As one of the nation's largest and most distinguished academic medical centers providing training to over 1200 physicians in over 200 specialties, the medical school is ranked #5 in the 2024 *Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research* rankings of NIH funding. The nation's academic leader in health information technology and precision medicine, VUMC hosts the Data and Research Support Center for NIH's "All of Us" program gathering DNA from one million Americans.

An engineering graduate of Tulane and 1990 MD/PhD graduate of Vanderbilt, Dr. Balser trained in anesthesiology, cardiac anesthesiology and critical care at Johns Hopkins. There he led an NIH-funded research program aimed at genetic causes of cardiac rhythm disorders. Returning to VUMC as Associate Dean in 1998, he was anesthesiology chairman from 2001-2004 and chief research officer from 2004-2009. In 2015-16, Dr. Balser led the \$1.2B public debt issuance and historic restructuring with Vanderbilt University to make VUMC a legally and financially independent, not-for-profit corporation. As President and CEO, he is a director at VUMC as well as at CVS Health, chairing its Medical Affairs & Technology committee. Elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2008, he served as a governing council member from 2018 until June of 2024.



**Nancy J. Brown, MD** is the Jean and David W. Wallace Dean of Yale School of Medicine and the C.N.H. Long Professor of Internal Medicine. Prior to assuming the role of dean at Yale in 2020, Dr. Brown served for nine years as the Chair of the Department of Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she established herself as a national leader in the development of infrastructure to promote the career success of physician-scientists. She founded the Vanderbilt Master of Science in Clinical Investigation program in 2000, served as Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Scientist Development at Vanderbilt from 2006 to 2010, and as Director of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology from 2009 to 2010.

Dr. Brown's NIH-funded research focuses on cardiovascular pharmacology and vascular biology in humans. She is particularly interested in understanding the mechanisms of anti-hypertensive and anti-diabetic drugs that are peptidase inhibitors, including the angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitors, and neprilysin inhibitors. Her group has elucidated not only how these drugs decrease inflammation, enhance fibrinolysis (the breakdown of blood clots), and improve glucose homeostasis, but also how they interact with one another and sometimes cause side effects. This understanding leads to optimizing outcomes in patients with hypertension and diabetes.

Dr. Brown received her AB in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale and her MD from Harvard Medical School. She completed her clinical training in internal medicine and a fellowship in clinical pharmacology at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Brown is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is a Master of the American College of Physicians and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. She has served on the National Advisory Research Resources Council and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council of the National Institutes of Health, as well as the visiting committee for Harvard Medical School. Dr. Brown currently serves on the Board of Directors of Keystone Symposia. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Alnylam Pharmaceuticals.

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### Deans' Panel (continued)



**John M. Carethers, MD** became the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences at UC San Diego in January 2023, overseeing UC San Diego Health along with the School of Medicine, School of Public Health and School of Pharmaceutical Sciences to integrate, grow, and expand the missions of clinical excellence, education, discovery, and community engagement. He obtained his MD from Wayne State, followed by residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Michigan. He served as Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan from 2009 through 2022.

Dr. Carethers is a trained gastroenterologist and physician-scientist who focuses his research in the area of hereditary colon cancer genetics and colon cancer disparities publishing over 250 manuscripts and book chapters. He has been continuously funded by the NIH for nearly 30 years. His work has focused on DNA mismatch repair function that drives post-replicative repair of DNA. He served as Senior Associate Editor for Gastroenterology, completed a 2-year appointment on the National Commission for Digestive Diseases, and currently serves on the NIDDK Advisory Council. He is the immediate past President of the American Gastroenterological Association, past President of the Association of American Physicians, and is currently on the Board of Directors of AACR. He is a member of the US National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



**Jonathan A. Epstein, MD** was named Executive Vice President of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System and Dean of the Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine on March 1, 2025. Together these two entities make up Penn Medicine, an \$11.9B enterprise dedicated to excellence in the related missions of medical education, biomedical research, and patient care.

As the William Wikoff Smith Professor and, most recently, as the Executive Vice Dean and Chief Scientific Officer, Dr. Epstein has played a pivotal role in shaping the Penn Medicine's trajectory as a national and international leader in discovery science and clinical research. He has also served as Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer for the health system since February 2021. From 2006 to 2015, he served as chair of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology and Scientific Director of the Penn Cardiovascular Institute. He played an instrumental role as a founding co-director of the Penn Institute for Regenerative Medicine in 2007.

Dr. Epstein has served as a respected member of distinguished organizations, including the Philadelphia College of Physicians, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association of Physicians, and the National Academy of Medicine. He also served as President of both the Interurban Clinical Club and the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Dr. Epstein has directed a highly impactful research program throughout his 27-year tenure at Penn and he is widely recognized for contributions to the understanding of congenital heart disease, heart failure, stem cell biology and epigenetics. His most recent advances involve utilizing modified mRNA delivered with targeted lipid nanoparticles to engineer immune cells within the body to fight heart disease, cancer and other disorders.

**9:15 am – Open Mic – Q&A Moderator: Jatin Vyas, MD, PhD**

**10:00 am – Break/Group Photo**

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**10:15 am – Breakout Sessions** | Interactive dialogue on pertinent strategies

Moderators: Tiffany Scharschmidt, MD & Don Rockey, MD

**1A.** Institutional funding and programs to support physician-scientist careers

Moderators: Nathan Schoettler, MD & Patrick Hu, MD, PhD, Scribe: Holger Eltzhig, MD, PhD

**1B.** Institutional funding and programs to support physician-scientist careers

Moderators: Monica Kraft, MD & Keith Choate, MD, PhD, Scribe: Jatin Vyas, MD, PhD

**3.** Bolstering physician-scientist mentorship and research training pathways through institutional and board-level support

Moderators: Kyu Rhee, MD, PhD & David Mankoff, MD, PhD, Scribe: Peter Gruber, MD, PhD

**4.** Early career physician-scientists: examining key financial challenges in the transition to independence

Moderators: Dan Cook, MD, PhD & Ashley Steed, MD, PhD, Scribe: Charles Emala, MD, MS

**11:00 am – Curated Quick Shots**

Moderators: Ashley Steed, MD, PhD & Kyu Rhee, MD, PhD

- Gary Koretzky, MD, PhD, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Professor Emeritus, Microbiology and Immunology, Cornell University | Professor Emeritus of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine: The Physician-Scientist: Looking Back, Looking Forward (in-person)
- Alexandra Nelson MD, PhD, Director, University of California, San Francisco Physician-Scientist Career Development Program: Supporting the Career Development of Physician-Scientist-Parents (virtual)
- Jennifer Kwan, MD, PhD & Evan Noch, MD, PhD, co-Founders of the American Junior Investigators Association: Overview of the American Junior Investigator Association (AJIA) (in-person)
- Chris D. Kontos, MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Duke Sports Sciences Institute; Professor of Pharmacology & Cancer Biology, Professor of Cell Biology, Director, Medical Scientist Training Program, Duke University Medical Center: Insights from the AAMC's Physician-Scientist Training and Career Development Home Project (in-person)

**11:20 am – Breakout Session Report Out**

**11:55 am – Closing Remarks:** Chris Williams, MD, PhD

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### ***Workshop Planning Committee***

#### *Committee Chairs:*

Emily Gallagher, MD, PhD, Mount Sinai  
Peter J. Gruber, MD, PhD, Yale School of Medicine  
Ashley Steed, MD, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis  
Christopher S. Williams, MD, PhD, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

#### *Committee Members:*

Olujimi Ajjola, MD, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles  
Rebecca M. Baron, MD, Harvard Medical School, Brigham & Women's Hospital  
Paige Cooper Byas, PhD, Burroughs Wellcome Fund  
Keith Choate, MD, PhD, Yale School of Medicine  
Daniel P. Cook, MD, PhD, University of Iowa  
Holger K. Eltzschig, MD, PhD, McGovern Medical School, University of Texas  
Charles W. Emala, MS, MD, Columbia University  
Patrick J. Hu, MD, PhD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
David Mankoff, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania  
Christopher Pittenger, MD, PhD, Yale School of Medicine  
Kyu Rhee, MD, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine  
Don C. Rockey, MD, Medical University of South Carolina  
Tiffany C. Scharschmidt, MD, University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine  
Jatin Vyas, MD, PhD, Columbia University

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