



KidneyCancerAssociation®

Virtual Patient Symposium



PROGRAM BOOK · SEPTEMBER 26, 2026



WELCOME

I'm proud to welcome you to the Kidney Cancer Association's 2026 Virtual Patient Symposium!

Whether you are newly diagnosed, living with kidney cancer, supporting a loved one, or seeking to learn more, we hope you will learn, feel encouraged, and find community today. Our program brings together leading specialists and knowledgeable advocates dedicated to improving lives of those impacted by kidney cancer. I encourage you to take advantage of their expertise during the Q&A and discussions!

We also extend our gratitude to the Sponsors, Affiliate Partners, and partner organizations who helped make this symposium a success.

As research continues to advance, staying informed empowers patients and care partners to navigate kidney cancer with confidence and hope. Through education, advocacy, research, and support, we are closer than ever to a better future and, ultimately, a cure for kidney cancer. Thank you for being part of our community. Together, we're unstoppable!

Sincerely,

Gretchen E. Vaughan

President and CEO, Kidney Cancer Association

#UnstoppableTogether

JOIN US

RAISE AWARENESS FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

CHALK YOUR WALK



We're asking kids, artists, and anyone with a heart for kids to chalk up their pavement and share their creations for September. Scan the QR code to learn more.



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH OUR AFFILIATE

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Agenda • Saturday, September 26

TIME (ET)	TOPIC
11:00AM	WELCOME
11:05AM	Kidneys and Kidney Cancer 101 Nirmish Singla, MD, MSc
11:30AM	How Doctors Decide How to Treat Your Cancer Moderator: Miranda Florek, MSN, RN Panelists: Catherine Fahey, MD, PhD; Rebecca Hibbert, MD; Shang-Jui Wang, MD, PhD; Wesley Yip, MD; Debra Zynger, MD, MS
12:20PM	Patient Story Speaker: Dick Cardew Moderator: Annamaria Scaccia
12:35PM	BREAK
12:55PM	Managing Immunotherapy and Targeted Therapy Side Effects Virginia Seery, RN, MSN & Julia Stevens, PharmD, BCOP
1:25PM	Living with Purpose After a Cancer Diagnosis Mari Galle, L.Ac, DACM
1:50PM	Family Story Speakers: Linda Dixon & Tiffany Russell Moderator: Annamaria Scaccia
2:05PM	BREAK
2:25PM	The Future of Kidney Cancer: Identifying Biomarkers Vincent Xu, MD
2:50PM	Using Trusted Resources When Researching Your Diagnosis Sarah Benitez, LCSW, OSW-C
3:15PM	Caregiver Story Speaker: Nicole Albor Moderator: Annamaria Scaccia
3:30PM	How to Communicate Your Kidney Cancer Experiences with Loved Ones Jessica Mann, MSW, LISW-S
3:55PM	CLOSING

This event is being recorded and will be made available on the KCA's YouTube channel soon after the event.

Meet the Provider Speakers



Sarah Benitez, LCSW, OSW-C

Sarah Benitez is a licensed clinical social worker and certified oncology social worker with four years of experience at Moffitt, primarily supporting patients in the GU clinic. She co-created and continues to facilitate an ostomy support group, mentors new employees, serves as a field instructor for MSW interns, and contributes to the social work advisory council. In 2024, Sarah received the Florida Society of Oncology Social Workers' Rising Star Award for her contributions. She recently joined the Kidney Cancer Association Clinical Advisory Board and provides compassionate, high-quality support to patients navigating complex psychosocial challenges.



Catherine Fahey, MD, PhD

Dr. Catherine Fahey is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Oncology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a board-certified medical oncologist specializing in genitourinary cancers. Her clinical and research focus is on developing clinical trials that improve patient outcomes and reduce treatment-related toxicity. She earned her MD and PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology from UNC, completed her internal medicine residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and her oncology fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



Miranda Florek, MSN, RN

Miranda Florek is an Oncology Nurse Coordinator - Urology Surgery at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center



Mari Galle, L.Ac, DACM

Mari Galle, DACM, LAc is an integrative oncology leader, acupuncturist, and nonprofit founder dedicated to improving quality of life for people navigating cancer. She specializes in evidence-informed, whole-person care that addresses the physical, emotional, and psychosocial challenges of treatment and survivorship. As the founder of Moving Beyond Cancer Collaborative, Mari works to expand access to integrative therapies: including acupuncture, massage, mind-body practices, and supportive wellness services, for individuals and families affected by cancer. Through her clinical work and community leadership, she is committed to bridging gaps in care and empowering patients with compassionate, holistic support



Rebecca Hibbert, MD

Dr. Hibbert is a board-certified radiologist and Associate Professor of radiology at Mayo Clinic specializing in abdominal imaging and image-guided procedures. She trained in diagnostic radiology at the University of Ottawa and completed a fellowship in cross-sectional imaging and non-vascular interventions at Mayo Clinic. Her practice includes advanced US, CT, and MRI imaging, as well as image-guided biopsies and percutaneous tumor ablation. Her research interests include interventional oncology, medical education, and simulation-based training.



Jessica Mann, MSW, LISW-S

Jessica Mann is an experienced clinical social worker based in Columbus, Ohio, with over seven years of oncology social work experience. She is dedicated to providing compassionate, client-centered support to patients and families navigating serious and chronic health conditions. Known for her clinical expertise, advocacy, and collaborative approach, Jessica works closely with interdisciplinary teams to help individuals and families access resources, stability, and support during challenging times.

Meet the Provider Speakers



Virginia Seery, RN, MSN

Virginia Seery, RN, MSN, is a member of the KCA's Clinical Advisory Board and sees patients at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts.



Nirmish Singla, MD, MSc

Dr. Nirmish Singla is an Associate Professor of Urology and Oncology at Johns Hopkins University and serves as Director of Translational Research in Genitourinary Oncology and Director of the Kidney Cancer Program. A fellowship-trained urologic oncologist, he specializes in the surgical treatment of kidney and other genitourinary cancers, with expertise in both open and minimally invasive techniques. Dr. Singla leads a multidisciplinary translational research laboratory focused on advancing new treatments for urologic cancers. He has authored more than 300 publications and is internationally recognized for his contributions to kidney cancer research, clinical trials, and patient care.



Julia Stevens, PharmD, BCOP

Julia Stevens, PharmD, BCOP is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Oncology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. She collaborates with the medical oncology team to care for patients with kidney cancer. Her primary clinical responsibilities include educating patients and caregivers, monitoring and supporting those on oral therapies, minimizing the financial toxicity of treatment, and providing drug information and treatment recommendations to her providers. Dr. Stevens joined the Kidney Cancer Association Clinical Advisory Board in March 2023.



Shang-Jui Wang, MD, PhD

Shang-Jui Wang, MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC) – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. He specializes in genitourinary (GU) malignancies, with a specific focus on prostate, bladder, and kidney cancers. He also serves as Director of the OSU GU Radiation Oncology Service and Co-Leader of the OSU GU Clinical Research Program. He received his MD/PhD dual degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed his residency training at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson.



Vincent Xu, MD

Dr. Xu received his MD from Harvard Medical School in 2014. He completed residency training in internal medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, followed by fellowship training in hematology and medical oncology also at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Xu joined the Lank Center for Genitourinary Oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in 2020. In addition to caring for patients, Dr. Xu also conducts clinical research seeking to improve the treatment and outcomes of patients with genitourinary cancers.



Wesley Yip, MD

Wesley Yip is a urologic oncologist and surgeon scientist at City of Hope with a focus in kidney cancer.



Debra Zynger, MD, MS

Debra Zynger, MD, MS, is a board-certified pathologist and Director of Urologic Pathology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. She specializes in urologic and breast surgical pathology, with expertise in cancers and other diseases of the prostate, bladder, kidney, testis, penis, adrenal gland, and breast. She completed her residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Northwestern University and her Urologic Pathology Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Zynger has been an attending physician at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center since 2009.

Meet the Patient & Caregiver Speakers



Dick Cardew
Patient Advocate



Linda Dixon
Patient Advocate



Nicole Albor
Caregiver Advocate

Tiffany Russell
Caregiver Advocate

Meet the Patient Moderator



Annamaria Scaccia
Patient Advocate
Member of KCA's Patient & Caregiver
Advisory Council

Who is the KCA?

The Kidney Cancer Association was founded in 1990 by Eugene P. Schonfeld and a small group of patients and doctors in Chicago, Illinois, and has grown into an international non-profit organization. The KCA promotes scientific advances through two annual research symposia and a robust grant program, participates in legislative advocacy, and seeks to be a source of education and resources for patients, caregivers, and anyone impacted by kidney cancer.

OUR MISSION

is to be a global community dedicated to serving and empowering patients and caregivers, and leading change through advocacy, research, and education.

OUR VISION

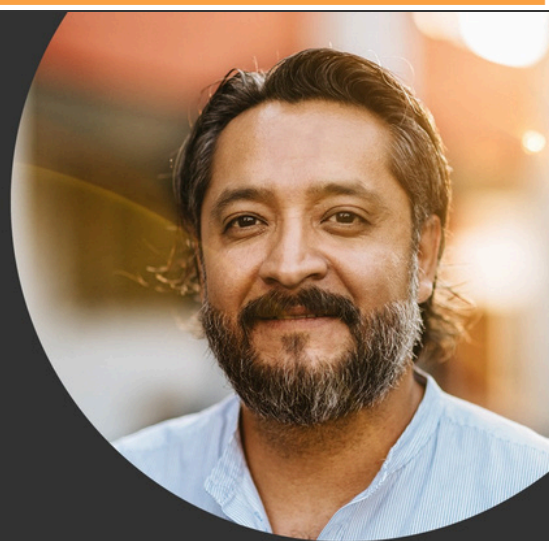
is to be the universal leader in finding the cure for kidney cancer.



The VPS presentations will be recorded and made available at:
kidneycancer.org/patient-education-events



because
CANCER IS OUR CAUSE



Thank you to the Kidney Cancer Association for your dedication to serving and empowering patients and caregivers, and leading change through advocacy, research and education.

These KCA educational tools can be used throughout your kidney cancer experience to make your diagnosis and treatment easier to understand. Scan each QR code to learn more.



Educational Events

Stay up to date about kidney cancer by registering for a virtual or in-person educational event. Events are added throughout the year so check the calendar often!



Clinical Trials Finder

The KCA's Clinical Trials Finder can help you find clinical trials you may be eligible for. Be sure to talk with your doctor about any clinical trials you find using the tool.



Treatment Center Finder

To receive the best care possible, finding a doctor is the most important task. The KCA's Treatment Center Finder can help you find doctors nearby, in your region, or across the country. Types of doctors included in the Finder are:

→ Urologists and surgeons

→ Medical oncologists



Personalized Nutrition Help

Personalized 24/7 nutrition guidance is available at your fingertips with Ina,® the Intelligent Nutrition Assistant. Some topics include:

→ Nutrition tips/recipes/needs

→ Symptom management



Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Team

Take an active role by asking questions when you meet with your cancer care team. Times when you may want to ask questions include:

→ At diagnosis

→ Deciding on a treatment plan

→ During treatment

→ After treatment



Common Questions About Kidney Cancer

Hear from kidney cancer experts answering common questions asked by patients and caregivers. Some topics include

→ Types of kidney cancer

→ Psychosocial support

→ Clinical trials

→ Treatment options

→ Side effect management



Don't face kidney cancer alone—these KCA initiatives connect you to resources and support.



Virtual Support Groups

Join one of the KCA's monthly virtual support groups as we learn from and lift each other up through conversations and shared experiences.

- Patient Perspectives is open to patients
- Caregiver Connections is open to caregivers, friends, and family members



One-on-One Help from the KCA's Patient Liaison

Contact the KCA's Patient Liaison to learn more about support services, financial assistance, and many more resources.



Kidney Cancer Unfiltered Podcast

A collection of raw, intimate conversations between individuals touched by kidney cancer. Kidney Cancer Unfiltered is available everywhere you listen to podcasts.



Care Packs

Designed and assembled specifically to provide comfort to those navigating a kidney cancer diagnosis based on recommendations from the kidney cancer community. Request yours today!

- Patient Care Packs
- Caregiver Care Packs



Peer Mentoring

The KCA offers peer mentoring to the kidney cancer community. Share your experiences one-on-one with another patient, caregiver, or family member affected by kidney cancer.



Online Support Communities

Find others in the kidney cancer community by joining the KCA's online support communities. Ask questions and give support to others who can learn from you.

- KCA's Facebook Group
- Smart Patients



Support and Empower • Educate • Research • Advocate

f **@** **in** @KIDNEYCANCERASSOCIATION **X** @KIDNEYCANCER

kidneycancer.org | office@kidneycancer.org | #unstoppabletogether

Pursuing breakthrough science for those who have cancer—and so others may never face it.

We're working to invent a world where cancer isn't just treated, but cured—or even where some types are prevented from happening in the first place. It is why we work with urgency to move us closer towards our goal of bringing life to more people with cancer. For more information visit www.merck.com/research/oncology.



Kidney Cancer Virtual Support Groups

The Kidney Cancer Association hosts peer-led meetings for anyone affected by kidney cancer. Join our community as we learn and lift each other through conversation, shared experiences, guest speakers, resource sharing, and friendship making.

CAREGIVER CONNECTIONS

Last **Tuesday** of each month
6PM CT / 7PM ET

PATIENT PERSPECTIVES

Last **Wednesday** of each
month **7 PM CT/8 PM ET**



Scan QR Code to learn more or visit
kidneycancer.org/get-support/support-groups



Listen to *Kidney Cancer Unfiltered*

The Kidney Cancer Association presents our patient and caregiver podcast: *Kidney Cancer Unfiltered*. Find it on all major podcast platforms and download each episode!



**SCAN OR CLICK HERE
TO GET STARTED**

Have you been diagnosed with kidney cancer? You are not alone.

We understand that a kidney cancer diagnosis can feel daunting, but you don't have to face it on your own. Visit kidneycancer.org/newly-diagnosed to find information about your diagnosis, supportive and educational resources, and a variety of ways to build your community as you begin to navigate your journey with hope and confidence.



Scan QR code to
receive educational
literature



CREATING HOPE THROUGH INNOVATION

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.EISAI.COM/US

At Eisai, everything we do is guided by a simple principle: patients and their families come first. We spend time with them. We listen and we learn about their lives, their desires and their greatest needs. **We call this human health care or hhc**, giving first thoughts to patients and their families and helping increase the benefits health care provides.

Our hhc mission is what drives us to discover innovative solutions and therapies that help address unmet needs within the communities that we seek to serve.

Eisai is proud to support the Kidney Cancer Association.

hhc
human health care

700
DONORS

21
TEAMS

2026
**KCA
CHALLENGE**
81K STRONG

200
FUNDRAISERS

9
REGIONAL
CHALLENGES



\$170,000

RAISED
\$81K AVEO MATCH

Our 2026 KCA Challenge: 81K Strong set a goal to raise \$81,000 in honor of the 81,000 people expected to get a kidney cancer diagnosis this year.

From March to June, participants raised \$170,000 — more than double our goal!

Thank you for supporting kidney cancer research!
With thanks to AVEO for matching your gifts.

Join us again in 2027 for our next challenge.
Sign up for our monthly newsletter for updates on participating and how to create your own regional challenge!



**Get the Unstoppable
Together Newsletter**

Your experience could be just what someone needs to hear.



SHARE TO INSPIRE

Because your story can help inspire another.

If you or someone you love is being treated with OPDIVO Qvantig® (nivolumab and hyaluronidase-nvhy), OPDIVO® (nivolumab), or OPDIVO® + YERVOY® (ipilimumab), consider sharing your journey and treatment experience with us.



Call us toll-free at 1-855-436-5866
or visit SharetoInspire.com.

OPDIVO Qvantig™
nivolumab + hyaluronidase-nvhy
SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION | 120 mg + 2,000 units / mL

OPDIVO®
(nivolumab)
INJECTION FOR INTRAVENOUS USE 10 mg/mL

OPDIVO®
(nivolumab)
INJECTION FOR INTRAVENOUS USE 10 mg/mL

OPDIVO® + YERVOY®
(nivolumab) (ipilimumab)
Injection for intravenous use 5 mg/mL

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We value your feedback.



Scan the code to take the survey or visit
[SurveyMonkey.com/r/ VPS_2026](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VPS_2026)



PEAK-1 **NOW ENROLLING**

A Phase 3 trial investigating a potential new

**HIF-2 α inhibitor in combination with standard
therapy versus standard therapy alone**

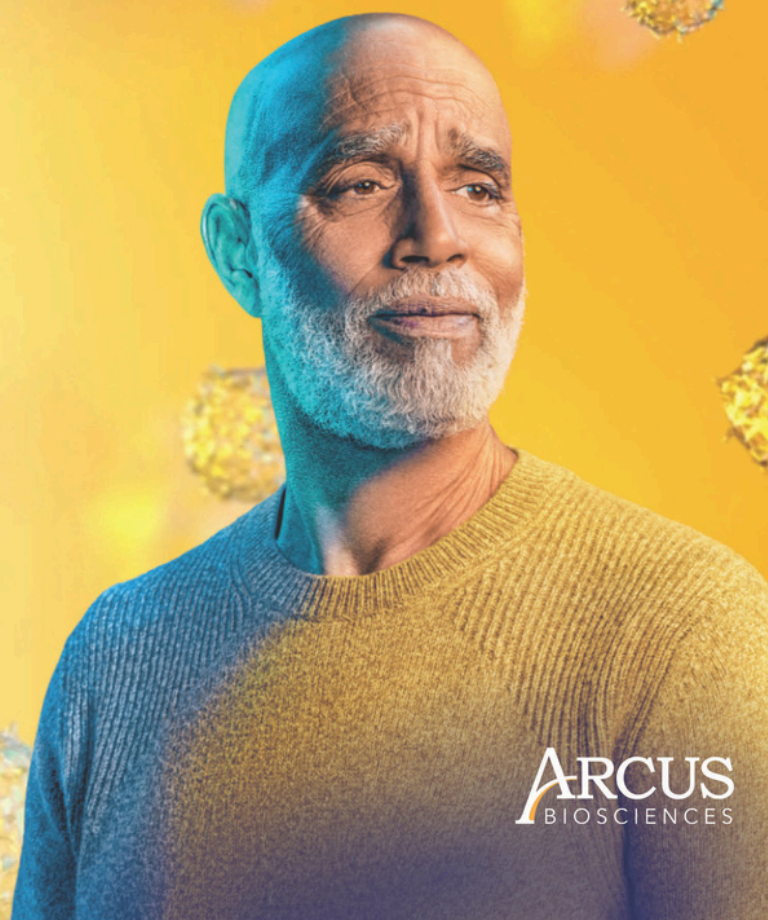
for people with advanced clear cell renal cell
carcinoma whose cancer progressed after
treatment with immunotherapy

Pre-screen and
see if you qualify
www.peak1.info



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Advocacy Partner and Affiliate Organizations

The KCA partners with various advocacy groups throughout the year to help elevate the voices of cancer patients, caregivers, and family members. Through our partnerships, we work together to learn from other organizations and amplify our shared desires and concerns.

KCA Affiliate Partners are like-minded organizations that strive to serve the kidney cancer community and work together toward a cure. The KCA's "Unstoppable Together" tagline reflects our commitment to our affiliates and the importance of our collaboration.



To learn more, visit kidneycancer.org/affiliates_partners_sponsors

4TH ANGEL MENTORING PROGRAM

AMERICAN BRAIN TUMOR ASSOCIATION

CANCER AND CAREERS

CANCER TODAY MAGAZINE/AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

CAREGIVER ACTION NETWORK

CHRIS "CJ" JOHNSON FOUNDATION*

CHROMOPHOBIC AND ONCOCYTIC TUMOR ALLIANCE (COA)*

ELEPHANTS AND TEA

ELEVATE CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY *

EPIC EXPERIENCES

HLRCC FOUNDATION*

IMERMAN ANGELS

JOEY'S WINGS*

JUDY NICHOLSON KIDNEY CANCER FOUNDATION*

MAN UP TO CANCER

PATIENT EMPOWERMENT NETWORK (PEN)

PICKLES GROUP

STUPID CANCER

TRIAGE CANCER

WILMS CANCER FOUNDATION*

*KCA Affiliate Partners

Thank you to the KCA committees for volunteering their time and expertise.

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Provides patients and caregivers in all stages of their illness with accurate information in a manner that supports multiple learning modalities including written, audio, and visual.

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Provides strategic guidance to the KCA in the planning of its medical education activities as well as supervision of the content of its patient education programs and literature.

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Serves as the voice of the patient and provides the vital link between the patient community and the Kidney Cancer Association.



KidneyCancerAssociation®

The Kidney Cancer Association is a global community dedicated to serving and empowering patients and caregivers, and leading change through advocacy, research, and education in order to be the universal leader in finding a cure for kidney cancer.

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