

Masonic Cancer Alliance Annual Member Meeting
March 31, 2023
Presenter & Panelist Bios

Kathy Benich, MBA

Ms. Benich is a co-survivor of her husband John's colon cancer. After John died, Kathy joined the Living with Loss support group at Gilda's Club Kansas City and has since become a member of the Board of Directors. The skills and friendships that she has developed allow her to channel her energy in giving back to make the process better for future cancer patients. She joined Patient and Investigator Voices Organizing Together (PIVOT), KU Cancer Center's patient research advocacy group, to bring the voice of the patient to cancer researchers. Her passion for improving the patient experience was the impetus to return to school. She is currently working on a master's in public health at the University of Kansas Medical Center to supplement her Master of Business Administration. She has 30 years of experience in project management, implementing Human Capital Management systems in hospitals. She recently moved to a smaller company to be able to "wear many hats" and extend her passion for the employee experience to the patient experience, helping providers with strategies that improve access and put the patient first.

Steven L. Black, MBA

Mr. Black is the director of Cancer Services, Southwest Kansas City Market for Olathe Health. With more than 30 years of experience in cancer administration, Mr. Black has provided leadership at academic medical centers, community hospitals, and consulting organizations. He is a champion for developing patient-centered care models for the cancer patient and caregivers. He is the co-chair of the Quality Research & Review Committee at Olathe Health, which coordinates all of The University of Kansas Cancer Center's clinical trials offered through the Masonic Cancer Alliance.

Kyle R. Brownback, MD, FCCP

Dr. Brownback is an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Dr. Brownback has been practicing at The University of Kansas Health System since 2013. His practice involves the management of patients with pulmonary complications of the treatment of malignancies. Dr. Brownback received his medical degree at the University of Kansas, followed by a residency in Internal Medicine at Brown University, and then subsequently completed a fellowship in Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Kansas.

Kristen Burkett, APP

Ms. Burkett is an advanced practice nurse practitioner at The University of Kansas Health System. She started in oncology as a registered nurse in 2006. She received her master's in nursing in 2013 and has since worked as a nurse practitioner in oncology, specializing in melanoma.

Gary C. Doolittle, MD

Dr. Doolittle is the Capitol Federal Masonic Professor of Medicine in the Division of Oncology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, where he is also medical director of the Masonic Cancer Alliance, vice-chair of education in the Department of Internal Medicine and assistant dean for the Office of Medical Education. Dr. Doolittle has been a faculty member in the Division of Clinical Oncology at KU for 30 years. He has a subspecialty interest in the treatment of malignant melanoma. He has written journal articles, books, and book chapters on a range of oncology topics, with a major emphasis on telemedicine in cancer care delivery. Dr. Doolittle serves as the contact primary investigator for The University of Kansas Cancer Center/Masonic Cancer Alliance Minority Underserved Rural National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) grant and serves as co-investigator for the recently awarded Early Therapeutics Cancer Trials Network Grant. Both grants were written to extend cancer clinical trials to the rural sector in the state of Kansas and western Missouri. Dr. Doolittle earned his medical degree from the University of Kansas Medical Center, where he also completed a residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology.

Jeffrey M. Geitz, MD

Dr. Geitz received both his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Kansas. Following medical school graduation in 2006, he completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita and a fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at St. Louis University. Dr. Geitz currently practices Hematology and Oncology at Tammy Walker Cancer Center in Salina. In 2017 he was recognized by Salina medical students as Phase 2 teacher of the year. Dr. Geitz is board certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Medical Oncology and is a clinical assistant professor of medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Shelbie Gibbs, PharmD, BCOP

Dr. Gibbs graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy in 2016 from Union University College of Pharmacy in Jackson, Tennessee. She completed PGY1 pharmacy residency at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans and PGY2 oncology pharmacy residency at The University of Kansas Health System. Dr. Gibbs has worked at The University of Kansas Health System as a clinical oncology pharmacist since 2017. She works primarily in the melanoma oncology clinic, the breast oncology clinic, inpatient oncology, and reimbursement services.

Roy A. Jensen, MD

Dr. Jensen was appointed director of The University of Kansas Cancer Center in 2004. Since that time, he has recruited a world-class leadership team. With his guidance and a broad-based university, community, and regional effort, The University of Kansas Cancer Center achieved National Cancer Institute (NCI) comprehensive designation in July 2022. It is the NCI's most elite level of designation. The cancer center is currently one of only 53 NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers across the country. Dr. Jensen also serves as vice chancellor of KU Cancer Center. He is currently a professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, professor of Cancer Biology, and the William R. Jewell, MD Distinguished Kansas Masonic Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Prior to his appointment at KU, Dr. Jensen was a member of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center and a faculty member in Pathology, Cell Biology, and Cancer Biology for 13 years. Dr. Jensen graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and remained there to complete a residency in Anatomic Pathology and a Surgical Pathology fellowship. Following his clinical training, he accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the NCI. After joining the faculty at Vanderbilt, Dr. Jensen's research interests focused on understanding the function of BRCA1 and BRCA2 and their role in breast neoplasia and in the characterization of premalignant breast disease at both the morphologic and molecular levels. He currently has over 150 scientific publications and has lectured widely on the clinical and molecular aspects of breast cancer pathology. In 2013, Dr. Jensen was elected to the Board of Directors for the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) and served as the president of AACI from 2018-2020. Dr. Jensen was chair of NCI's Subcommittee A from 2018-2020 and also served on the Director's Working Group for the Board of Scientific Advisors to the NCI.

Kim Jones

Ms. Jones is a salon owner, nail technician, and an active member of PIVOT. Cancer has been a part of her life since she was a young girl. Three of her grandparents died of cancer, including her grandmother, who died by suicide while undergoing chemotherapy treatment. For nine years she supported a friend with ovarian cancer; then Ms. Jones was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2012. She later launched Sisters Living Beyond the Ribbon, an organization to help others in their fight. Being involved in PIVOT has given her knowledge about cancer research that she enjoys taking back to her community.

Jordyn Koehn, MS, CGC

Ms. Koehn grew up in Kansas City and got her bachelor's degrees from the University of Kansas in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology as well as Psychology in 2018. She then went to complete her master's degree in Genetic Counseling from Case Western Reserve University in 2021, where she found her passion for cancer genetics. After graduation, Ms. Koehn joined The University of Kansas Cancer Center's genetic counseling team where she counsels patients with a personal and/or family history of cancer. More recently, she has joined the KC CARE Genetic Services team to provide free genetic counseling and testing for individuals in the community that are under insured or non-insured. She is excited to be expanding her role as a genetic counselor within her community and helping reach populations that may not otherwise have access to genetic counseling.

Hope Krebill, MSW, BSN, RN

Ms. Krebill is executive director of the Masonic Cancer Alliance and assistant director of outreach for KU Cancer Center. She serves on the executive committee for the Missouri Cancer Consortium and the steering committee for the Kansas Cancer Partnership. She also serves on the National Lung Cancer Roundtable State Initiative Workgroup. Ms. Krebill served for two years as chair of the Immunize Kansas Coalition, a statewide collaboration to improve human papillomavirus vaccination. She has extensive experience collaborating with community partners to develop and deliver evidence-based public health interventions that address regional cancer health disparities, with over 25 years of combined experience in cancer control, research, program management, and evaluation of programs in populations that are underserved.

Simon Craddock Lee, PhD, MPH

Dr. Lee is chair of the Department of Population Health and Sosland Family Professor in Preventive Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Previously, Dr. Lee achieved the rank of professor with tenure at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center where he served as program leader for Population Science and Cancer Control research for Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and associate director for community and collaboration in the Center for Translational Medicine. A medical anthropologist, Dr. Lee's science focuses on optimizing cancer healthcare delivery, especially through partnerships with urban and rural clinic settings caring for under insured and uninsured communities. He has been involved in the NCI National Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) as a member of the central institutional review board, an active study co-investigator, and steering committee member planning trials to address health-related social needs among patients with cancer.

Gary Meyer, DVM, MPH

Dr. Meyer received his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from Kansas State University; his Master of Public Health degree from The Johns Hopkins University; and all but dissertation studies towards a Doctor of Philosophy in toxicology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He and his wife, Vickie, became caregivers when their youngest daughter, Rebecca, was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia at the age of 35 months; Rebecca is now 37 years old. In 2019, Dr. Meyer was diagnosed with metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the throat and neck.

Lauren Nye, MD

Dr. Nye specializes in the management of the continuum of breast cancer – from breast cancer prevention to treatment of breast cancer to improving survivorship. She sees patients in her High-Risk Breast Clinic at The University of Kansas Cancer Center who are at an increased risk for breast cancer and sees patients in her Breast Oncology Clinic who have a diagnosis of breast cancer. She has a special interest in the management of breast cancer diagnosed during pregnancy. Dr. Nye's areas of research include breast cancer prevention and survivorship with current projects focusing on prevention in young women at high-risk for breast cancer who are still considering pregnancy, for postmenopausal women who are experiencing hot flashes, and weight loss interventions in women at high-risk, women who are genetic mutation carriers, and breast cancer survivors.