

18th Annual



PSC PARTNERS
SEEKING A CURE

CONFERENCE

June 2-5, 2022

Speaker Bios

2022 Annual PSC Partners Conference

Mónica Aldarondo, Post-Transplant PSC Patient



Mónica Aldarondo was diagnosed in 2009 with PSC and UC, and she had her transplant in 2017. In 2019, she was diagnosed with recurrent PSC. Aldarondo created the PSC Mami Podcast where she interviews others about the intersection of PSC and parenting. In addition to her own creative projects, she is deeply involved in supporting PSC patients through Pretty Sick Chicks, CPMC AILD support group, mentoring and speaking at advocacy events for PSC and liver health policy. Find her podcast and other projects at laancla.com.

Dennis Black, MD, University of Tennessee Health Science Center



Dr. Dennis Black is a pediatric hepatologist, professor of pediatrics, and professor of physiology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. Additionally, he is vice president for research for Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. His research and clinical interests are neonatal lipid metabolism and pediatric liver disease and transplantation.

Kirsten Muri Boberg, MD, PhD, Norwegian PSC Research Center



Dr. Kirsten Muri Boberg, from the Norwegian PSC Research Center, focuses on clinical care of PSC patients referred for diagnosis, endoscopic therapy, assessment for liver transplantation, and follow-up after transplantation. Her research interest is in cholangiocarcinoma associated with PSC.

Christopher Bowlus, MD, UC Davis School of Medicine



Dr. Chris Bowlus is the Lena Valente professor of medicine and the chief of the division of gastroenterology and hepatology at the University of California Davis School of Medicine. His extensive research is in autoimmune liver diseases, including the immunopathogenesis of PSC. He chairs the Consortium for Autoimmune Liver Disease, with institutions throughout North America.

Meegan Carey, Executive Director, PSC Partners Seeking a Cure



Meegan Carey joined PSC Partners in 2010 and serves as the executive director. As a Colorado native, she has been involved in the Denver philanthropic community for many years. In addition to her work for the organization, she serves as a fund advisor for the Denver Foundation.

Cindy Dunn, Accredited T'ai Chi Chih Instructor



Cindy Dunn began her practice of T'ai Chi Chih in February 2003, and attained her teacher's accreditation in March 2005. She teaches young adults, children, senior citizens, the visually impaired, and more, and she is a frequent T'ai Chi Chih instructor at South Plains College. This will be her sixth year to present T'ai Chi Chih at the PSC Partners Conference.

Michael J. Dunn, O.D.



Dr. Michael Dunn has been practicing holistic vision care and stress management for the past 46 years.

John Eaton, MD, Mayo Clinic



Dr. John Eaton is an associate professor of medicine and transplant hepatologist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. His clinical practice centers around cholestatic liver diseases, chiefly PSC. Dr. Eaton's clinical efforts are focused on seeing patients with PSC, PBC, and cholangiocarcinoma. His research focuses on clinical trials, advanced imaging studies, and improving the understanding of the natural history of PSC and methods to predict key outcomes.

Donna M. Evon, PhD, Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Dr. Donna Evon is a clinical health psychologist who has worked in the field of chronic liver disease for over 20 years. She conducts patient-centered outcomes research and uses quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to understand patient experiences. She has also collaborated with patients as research consultants on several of her projects. Her research has been funded by the NIH, PCORI, and industry.

David Fajgenbaum, MD, MBA, MSc, FCPP, Co-Founder and President, Castleman Disease Collaborative Network



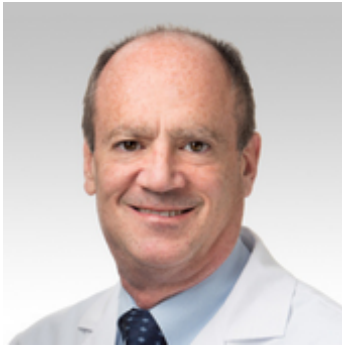
Dr. David Fajgenbaum is an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, founding director of the Center for Cytokine Storm Treatment & Laboratory (CSTL), associate director of patient impact for the Penn Orphan Disease Center, and co-founder/president of the Castleman Disease Collaborative Network (CDCN). He also is the national bestselling author of *Chasing My Cure: A Doctor's Race to Turn Hope Into Action* and a patient battling idiopathic multicentric Castleman disease (iMCD). He is in his longest remission ever thanks to a precision treatment that he identified, which had never been used before for iMCD.

Heather Francis, PhD, Indiana University School of Medicine



Dr. Heather Francis is a professor of medicine and the scientific director of the Indiana Center for Liver Research at the Indiana University School of Medicine. The goal of her laboratory is to investigate the role of cholangiocytes and mast cells during cholestatic liver injury, focusing on PSC, cholangiocarcinoma, and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Richard Green, MD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine



Dr. Richard Green is a professor of medicine and hepatologist at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine with a clinical interest in the medical care of patients with PSC and other cholestatic liver diseases. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms that cause liver disease, applying this knowledge to the development of novel therapies for patients with PSC and other liver disorders.

Aliya Gulamhusein, MD, University of Toronto



Dr. Aliya Gulamhusein is an assistant professor and clinician investigator in the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Toronto. She is co-lead of the Autoimmune Liver Disease Clinic at the Toronto Centre for Liver Disease, a dedicated program focused on optimizing care for patients with PBC, PSC, and autoimmune hepatitis. Her goals are to improve risk stratification tools in the hopes of moving towards a personalized approach to care for patients with PSC.

Kathy Halloran, PSC Caregiver and Member of PSC Partners Board of Directors



Kathy Halloran's son was diagnosed with PSC in 2017. She and her husband reached out to PSC Partners where they found a supportive, educated, and uplifting group committed to finding a treatment/cure for this frightening diagnosis. She joined the board in hopes of contributing to its mission while helping those affected by PSC.

Joanne Hatchett, RN, FNP, ACHPN, Medical Science Liaison, PSC Partners Seeking a Cure



Joanne Hatchett is the medical science liaison for PSC Partners. Most recently, she was a family nurse practitioner. Hatchett is a strong advocate for advance care planning and patient and family education, and, before accepting the position at PSC Partners, was a member of our Board of Directors. Additionally, she is a PSC caregiver.

Gideon Hirschfield, MB, BChir, PhD, University of Toronto



Dr. Gideon Hirschfield holds the inaugural Lily and Terry Horner chair in Autoimmune Liver Disease at the University of Toronto and is a professor of medicine. As a clinician-scientist, he manages translational and trials-based clinical science with the goal of advancing therapies for patients with inflammatory liver disease, including PSC, that prevent the need for transplantation.

Chantal Housset, MD, PhD, Sorbonne Université, Paris



Dr. Chantal Housset is professor of cell biology at Sorbonne Université, Paris. She is a hepatologist in the reference center for inflammatory biliary diseases and auto-immune hepatitis at Saint-Antoine Hospital, Paris. Additionally, she is the director of a research laboratory on biliary diseases at the Centre de Recherche Saint-Antoine (CRSA), INSERM, Sorbonne Université.

Tom Hemming Karlsen, MD, PhD, Oslo University Hospital



Dr. Tom Hemming Karlsen is a clinical specialist in internal medicine and gastroenterology working in Oslo, Norway. Within the Oslo University Hospital, he is research head of the Division of Surgery, Inflammatory Medicine, and Transplantation, and leader of the Norwegian PSC Research Center at the Department of Transplantation Medicine and Research Institute of Internal Medicine. Clinically, he works as a senior consultant within transplant hepatology at the Section of Gastroenterology at the Department of Transplantation Medicine.

Jesse Kirkpatrick, PhD, Graduate, MIT



Dr. Jesse Kirkpatrick, member of PSC Partners Board of Directors, has been committed to the mission of PSC Partners since 2010, when a family member was diagnosed. As an undergraduate and later as a PhD student at MIT, Dr. Kirkpatrick learned how to apply the principles of engineering to problems relevant to PSC. Now, as a postdoctoral researcher, he is using engineered bile ducts in a dish to shed light on the cause of PSC and identify effective therapies, ultimately planning to become a physician-scientist caring for PSC patients in the clinic while working to better understand, diagnose, and treat PSC.

Joshua Korzenik, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital



Dr. Joshua Korzenik is the director of the Resnek Family Research Center for PSC, the Crohn's and Colitis Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Harvard Medical School, caring for patients with IBD and PSC. His research is focused on developing new therapies for PSC based on a better understanding of PSC and IBD. Additionally, he is the medical co-chair for the 2022 Annual PSC Partners Conference.

Cynthia Levy, MD, University of Miami



Dr. Cynthia Levy is a professor of medicine and the associate director of the Schiff Center for Liver Diseases at the University of Miami. She was awarded the Arthur Hertz Endowed Chair in Liver Diseases. Dr. Levy's clinical research focuses on clinical trial development and conduct for autoimmune and cholestatic liver diseases, including PSC, and the study of porphyrias.

Mercedes Martinez, MD, Columbia University



Dr. Mercedes Martinez is a transplant hepatologist at Columbia University. She works with the PSC Consortium to understand the natural history of PSC in children, the impact of disease recurrence in transplant recipients, and other PSC-related issues. She also collaborated with other PSC experts to update the AASLD guidance for diagnosing and managing patients with PSC and cholangiocarcinoma.

Espen Melum, MD, PhD, Oslo University Hospital



Dr. Espen Melum works as a hepatologist at Oslo University Hospital specifically focusing on PSC and transplant patients. He is also leading the Experimental Hepatology Group at the Norwegian PSC Research Center focusing on basic and translational studies with the aim of understanding the disease process in PSC.

Veronica Miller, PhD, Berkeley Public Health and The Forum for Collaborative Research



Dr. Veronica Miller is an adjunct professor at Berkeley Public Health and executive director of The Forum for Collaborative Research. She is an expert in regulatory science with interest in HIV, liver diseases, and rare diseases. Dr. Miller has been a long-time advocate for the PSC community and was the co-moderator of the Patient-Focused Drug Development Forum that PSC Partners held in 2020.

Ruth-Anne Pai, PhD, Director of Research Strategy, PSC Partners Seeking a Cure



Dr. Ruth-Anne Pai is the director of research strategy at PSC Partners Seeking a Cure. Dr. Pai joined PSC Partners after completing her PhD in immunology at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a passionate advocate for those living with PSC and strives to center the patient voice in all PSC Partners research initiatives.

Joel Pekow, MD, University of Chicago



Dr. Joel Pekow is an associate professor of medicine at the University of Chicago. He is a gastroenterologist with expertise in inflammatory bowel disease and is investigating mechanisms of colon cancer development in patients with IBD and PSC.

Cyriel Ponsioen, MD, PhD, Amsterdam University Medical Center



Dr. Cyriel Ponsioen is professor of gastroenterology & hepatology at the Amsterdam University Medical Centers in the Netherlands. His areas of research are primary sclerosing cholangitis and inflammatory bowel disease. In the past 15 years, he has led the prospective EpiPSC2 registry in the Netherlands containing almost 1,400 patients, which is currently being expanded into the International PSC Registry, encompassing more than 3,000 patients. He also focuses on biliary endoscopy. Furthermore, he leads a research line on microbiota in ulcerative colitis.

Daniel Pratt, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital



Dr. Dan Pratt is assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and director of the Autoimmune and Cholestatic Liver Center at Mass General Hospital. Dr. Pratt's particular area of clinical interest is autoimmune and cholestatic liver disease, including PSC, and he is the head of the PSC Registry at Mass General Hospital. Additionally, he is the medical co-chair for the 2022 Annual PSC Partners Conference.

Bryce Reeve, PhD, Duke University School of Medicine



Dr. Bryce Reeve is a professor of population health sciences at Duke University School of Medicine where he serves as director of the Center for Health Measurement. Trained in psychometric methods, Dr. Reeve's work focuses on assessing the impact of disease and treatments on the lives of patients and their caregivers. This includes the development of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) using both qualitative and quantitative methods, and the integration of patient-centered data in research and healthcare delivery settings to inform decision-making.

Amanda Ricciuto, MD, PhD, SickKids Hospital, Toronto



Dr. Amanda Ricciuto is a staff gastroenterologist, assistant professor, and clinician-investigator at SickKids Hospital in Toronto. She is a clinical and translational researcher with an interest in pediatric PSC, including the intersection between PSC and inflammatory bowel disease.

Ricky and Don Safer, Co-Founders, PSC Partners Seeking a Cure



Ricky and Don Safer founded PSC Partners Seeking a Cure after Ricky's PSC diagnosis in 2005. Ricky is the volunteer CEO of the nonprofit. Both Ricky and Don continue to be passionate about finding a cure for PSC and making life better for all PSC patients and caregivers.

Christoph Schramm, Professor, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany



Dr. Christoph Schramm is senior consultant for hepatology and gastroenterology at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany. He is director of the Martin Zeitz Center for Rare Diseases and holds a foundation chair for rare diseases. Professor Schramm has a long standing interest in clinical and basic science of autoimmune liver diseases with a focus on PSC and mechanisms of immune regulation in the liver.

Mario Strazzabosco MD, PhD, Yale School of Medicine



Dr. Mario Strazzabosco, Yale School of Medicine, studies the biology and pathobiology of biliary epithelial cells cholangiocytes, the target of cholangiopathies, including PSC. His group studies how the biliary epithelium reacts to damage, how it repairs, and how pathologic repair leads to fibrosis. He also studies how the interactions between these cells drives the growth and aggressivity of cholangiocarcinoma, a feared complication of PSC.

Michael Trauner, Professor, Medical University of Vienna



Dr. Michael Trauner is with the Medical University of Vienna and University Hospital, Vienna. Dr. Trauner's main research interests are the molecular mechanisms of bile acid transport and signaling in cholestatic and fatty liver diseases, the mechanisms of cell injury in cholestatic and fatty liver disease, and the development of novel pharmacologic treatments for cholestatic and fatty liver diseases.

Julianne Vasichek, PSC Patient and Head Coach, St. Scholastica Women's Hockey Team



Since 2021, Julianne Vasichek has been the head coach of the College of St. Scholastica Women's Hockey Team, where she was previously an assistant coach. She has a Master's Degree in Education and is a certified strength and conditioning specialist. Vasichek was diagnosed with PSC in 2008 and received her transplant in 2015.

Mary Vyas, President, PSC Partners Seeking a Cure Canada



Mary Vyas is president of PSC Partners Canada. She has volunteered and led the Canadian affiliate since 2015. Vyas is a parent of a PSC patient who was diagnosed as a teen.

Kidist K. Yimam, MD, California Pacific Medical Center



Dr. Kidist K. Yimam is a transplant hepatologist and the medical director of the California Pacific Medical Center's Autoimmune Liver Disease Program. She is a principal investigator for multiple clinical trials for PSC. Additionally, she is the founder of Cal Pacific's autoimmune patient support group, interested in addressing patients' quality of life, and actively engaged in healthcare equality efforts.