

STUDY LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES

Clara MacKay, CEO, World Ovarian Cancer Coalition

CEO of the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, Clara MacKay has over 20 years of experience in cancer advocacy, including senior level positions in UK organizations covering ovarian, pancreatic, bowel, prostate and breast cancer. Clara was a founding member of the [World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition](#) and Chair of [Cancer 52](#)– a network of nearly 100 cancer groups representing the interests of rare and less common cancers. In 2015 she was appointed to an Independent Cancer Taskforce established by NHS England to develop a five-year strategy for cancer services. After 25 years in the UK, Clara returned to her native Nova Scotia, Canada in 2016. In addition to her role with the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, Clara the Chair of the national Canadian charity [Craig's Cause Pancreatic Cancer Society](#).

Clara has a BA in Politics and History from Mount Saint Vincent University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Carleton University.

Mary Eiken, CEO, International Gynecologic Cancer Society

Mary Eiken has been a senior association executive for over 25 years with experience in the field of association management with the majority of time in gynecologic oncology both in the United States as well as Internationally. In April 2016 Mary became the first CEO of the International Gynecologic Oncology Society (IGCS). Her expertise in governance, policy, strategic planning, and volunteer leader engagement has brought incredible opportunities and positive change to the IGCS. Through a variety of strategic partnerships, new programs and revenue streams, IGCS has significantly enhanced its global footprint. Recently she led the IGCS Board in an exercise to develop a global health equity statement that is now the road map for all programming and activities at the organizational level as well as future partnerships.

Mary's previous experience, high energy and commitment to women's cancer greatly enhances the IGCS ability to be an integral part of conversations about the study, education, treatment and advocating for women with gynecologic malignancies.

Mary received her undergraduate degree in nursing from the U of Iowa and a master's degree from DePaul University. She is a past board member of the Association Forum of Chicagoland where she has volunteered in many different capacities with the Forum. She is also active in the American Association for Medical Society Executive (AAMSE) and Be Bright Pink and several other advocacy-based organizations.



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Frances Reid, Director of Programmes and Study Lead, World Ovarian Cancer Coalition

Frances Reid has been the Programme Director for the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition since 2017. In that time, Frances devised and led the peer-reviewed Every Woman Study™ (2018) charting global experiences of women with ovarian cancer. Findings from this study informed her work as the lead on the Coalition's Global Ovarian Cancer Charter, launched at the Presidential Plenary of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society Annual Meeting in September 2020. Frances is now leading the newest version of the Study – The Every Woman Study™: Low- and Middle-Income Edition.

Her work with women who have ovarian cancer began in 2003. In 2008, Frances co-founded Target Ovarian Cancer in the UK where she worked as Director of Public Affairs and Services. The power of patient experience and voices are fundamental to her work, and have been transformative in bringing together patient, clinical and policy viewpoints. She developed the Target Ovarian Cancer Pathfinder Study, the results inspiring the establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Ovarian Cancer, and informed a raft of policy decisions and targeted interventions to improve survival and quality of life for women.

Frances has what she would describe as a 'blended career', including 14 years at the BBC primarily as a radio programme maker, an entrepreneur with a home-based micro-bakery and teaching bread making skills, and as a freelance consultant centred on patient experience and impact reporting.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

Tracey Adams, Co-Chair

Tracey Sheridan Adams is a subspecialist consultant in Gynaecological Oncology at Groote Schuur Hospital/ University of Cape Town, South Africa. Degree qualifications include MB ChB 1999, FCOG (SA) and MMED 2009 and certificate in Gynaecological Oncology in 2012. She is a member of the South African Medical Research Council University of Cape Town Gynaecological Cancer Research Centre (SA MRC UCT GCRC), and also University of Cape Town Global Surgery (UCT GS) steering committee member, research and advocacy. She is the current secretary of the South African Society of Gynaecological Oncology (SASGO).

Her research interests include peri-operative care, genetics of ovarian cancer, HPV associated multizonal disease in women as well as quality of life. Her passion lies in advocacy and teaching. Hobbies include hiking, reading and good music.



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Robin Cohen, Co-Chair

Robin Cohen is the CEO and Co-Founder of the [Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Foundation](#), Vice Chair of the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition and Vice President of the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance. She is a member of the [Oncology Nursing Society](#), the [Society of Gynecologic Nurse Oncologists](#), Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society and the Cambridge Who's Who. She received Cure Magazine's Ovarian Cancer Hero Award in 2019. She has been recognized as one of the 75 Greatest Living Philadelphians.

Basel Refky, MD, MRCS

Dr. Refky is an associate professor of surgical oncology at the oncology centre, Mansoura University, subspecializing in Gynecological oncology for over a decade. He has passed the European board exam of surgical oncology and the European Society of Gynecological oncology ESGO and is the general secretary and one of the founders of the Egyptian Gynecological oncology society EGOS.

His hospital, the Oncology Centre of Mansoura University is a comprehensive cancer centre. They have been accredited recently by ESGO as a training centre for gynecological oncology, making them the first Arabic and African accredited centre in gynecological oncology.

Isabelle Soerjomataram, Global Data Expert

Dr. Isabelle Soerjomataram is deputy head of the cancer surveillance at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO) with research interests in international variation in the burden of cancer, impact of prevention on cancer, cancer survival and impact of health system strengthening on cancer outcome. Dr. Soerjomataram received her medical degree from the University of Indonesia and PhD in cancer epidemiology at the Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam. Before moving to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, she went to the Harvard School of Public Health as a visiting scholar and has since led global efforts to improve cancer data to inform national global cancer actions.

Asima Mukhopadhyay, MBBS, DGO, MD, MRCOG, CCT (Gyn Oncology), PhD, MSc

India/UK - taken from <https://igcs.org/awards/award-for-community-advancement/asima-mukhopadhyay/>

Asima Mukhopadhyay is a Gynaecological Oncologist (surgeon) and clinician scientist working in the UK (James Cook University Hospital and Newcastle University) and in India (Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata). She obtained her MBBS from Medical College, Kolkata; MD from All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi (Gold Medal); Speciality training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UK and Gynaecological Oncology (Northern Gynaecological Oncology Centre, Gateshead), MSc in Clinical trials (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and a PhD (Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University, awarded faculty prize).



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Rafe Sadnan Adel

Rafe Sadnan Adel is the founding chairperson of cancerbd.net, the first ever web-based initiative to raise awareness about cancer in Bangladesh. He is also a board member of the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition. He began his career as a journalist, reporting on issues facing diverse groups in Bangladesh. Most recently, he was the Head of Media and External Relations at BRAC, the world's largest humanitarian organization. His work can be seen at www.rafesadnanadel.com.

Ngoc Phan, MD

Ngoc Phan is a gynecological oncologist at the Da Nang Oncology Hospital in Da Nang, Vietnam. She graduated from Medical School at Hue University School of Medicine and Pharmacy. She started a fellowship with IGCS in February 2020, becoming the second IGCS fellow in Vietnam. Ngoc was born in Quangnam, a small province in central Vietnam, where women with gynecologic cancer diseases did not receive standard treatment at the time. For this reason, she decided to enhance her knowledge and skill in gynecologic oncology. She is very happy to join The Every Woman Study Low- and Middle-income countries as a Country Lead as well as serving on the oversight committee.

Dilyara Kaidarova

Dilyara Kaidarova is the Director of the Kazakh Institute of Oncology and Radiology and President of Kazakhstan Cancer Society. She is an Chief Oncologist of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, doctor of medical sciences, professor and active member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

She obtained her degree in medicine at the S D Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She is a professor of the Department of Oncology of KazNMU (Kazakh National Medical University) named after S.D. Asfendiyarov. Dr. Kaidarova is Expert of Lancet Commission. Under her initiative KazIOR developed and adopted Kazakhstan Cancer Control Plan for 2018-2022.

Raikhan Bolatbekova

Raikhan Bolatbekova is a gynecological oncologist at the Kazakh National Medical University. She is a head of Oncogynecology Department of Almaty Oncology Center and GynOncologist in Kazakh Institute of Oncology and Radiology

She obtained her medical degree from Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University in 2011

Sara Nasser

Dr. Nasser is a senior fellow in gynaecological oncology currently working at one of the largest cancer centres in Europe. Through her varied experience in both Obstetrics and Gynecology in Germany, the United Kingdom and in developing countries, she is always at the forefront of innovative changes in the clinical, research and educational aspects of her field. Dr Nasser stands for women empowerment in medicine. In her position as executive officer for the Panarabian Research Society for Gynecologic Oncology (PARSGO) and Chair of the Global Health Taskforce for the German Cancer Society (NOGGO) she is an advocate for improving women's healthcare worldwide.



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Florencia Noll

Florencia Noll is a Gynecologic Oncologist, currently working as an Assistant professor in the Gynecologic Oncology Department at Sanatorio Allende Cerro, Cordoba city, and as an Associate Physician at The Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she completed her Fellowship Program. She has expertise in minimally invasive and traditional surgery and served as a surgical instructor at IRCAD Latin America and the Training Center of the University Institute at Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires.

She finished her Editorial fellowship in the International Journal of Gynecological Cancer (IGCS) where she is currently part of the Junior Editorial board and also of the peer-reviewing staff.

She is a member and also served on various committees and academic societies including the Argentine Association of Gynecological Cancer (AAGO), of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS), and of the European Society of Gynecologic Oncology (ESGO). She also participates monthly in the Board for the ECHO Virtual Tumor project.

She has authored and co-authored over 20 scientific publications. Her uppermost clinical and research interests include health care, disease prevention, and treatment for patients with gynecologic cancer. She has focused on medical communication and would like to encourage worldwide collaborative research projects and protocol development.

Runcie CW Chidebe

Runcie C.W. Chidebe is a cancer control advocate, global health consultant, researcher, psychologist and the executive director of [Project PINK BLUE](#). He is one of the leading voices advocating for Nigeria government to make cancer control a national health priority. He has been engaged in supporting women battling with cancer, hosting [oncology trainings](#) for doctors/nurses, fundraising for indigent patients, cancer awareness, founded Nigeria's first patient navigation and the first cancer support group in Abuja, Nigeria.

He is a Member, Nigeria's ministerial committee on the implementation of National Cancer Control Programme (2018-2022), National Cervical Cancer Programme for the Nigeria's [Federal Ministry of Health](#); Global Steering Committee for the Novartis Peer Navigation Programme for metastatic breast cancer, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) World Cancer Day Advisory Group and an external board member of the Birmingham & Lewisham African & Caribbean Health Inequalities Review, United Kingdom.

As a result of his patient advocacy work in Africa, Runcie has been recognised globally, including nobel [Nelson Mandela](#) -Graca Machel innovation award, UICC Young Cancer Leader Award, U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), Catherine Peugeot Research Award, France; [Global Ties U.S. Award](#) for Social Innovation and Change by the U.S. Government, [40 Under 40 in Cancer](#) globally, [Distinguished Advocacy Award](#) by International Gynecologic Cancer Society, USA; [Faces of Exchange award](#) alongside the Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinta Ardern and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres by the U.S. Department of State and many other laurels across Europe, America and across Africa.



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Garth Funston

Garth is a Senior Clinical Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge and a practicing General Practitioner. His research focuses on the early detection of cancer and on optimising diagnostic pathways. He studied Medicine at the University of Cambridge and went on to undertake Academic Clinical Training in Manchester. In 2021, he completed a Cancer Research UK funded PhD at the University of Cambridge, evaluating the ovarian cancer biomarker CA125 in primary care and developing prediction models to improve its performance and clinical utility. He was awarded the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition Inaugural Transformational Research Award and the Royal College of General Practitioners Clinical Research Paper of the Year Award for his work. He currently leads charity and government funded early detection studies across a range of cancers.

Martin Origa

Martin Origa is a Gynecologic Oncologist and Head of the Service at the Uganda Cancer Institute. His post-college training was completed at Makerere University. He also completed a fellowship at the International Gynaecological Cancer Society in 2021.

Eva-Maria Strömsholm, Practical Nurse

Eva-Maria Strömsholm is a practical nurse with a specialization in cancer care, and is a rare ovarian cancer survivor. She obtained masters degrees in pedagogy and developmental psychology. She is an ePAG in the EURACAN G2 domain of rare gynaecological cancers. As an active patient advocate, she is the co-founder and vice chair at Gynecological Cancerpatients in Finland, co-founder and member of the Nordic Gynecologic Patient Organizations Network, board member of the Ostrobothnian Cancer Society, and a member of the ENGAGe rare cancer committee, the ESMO patient advocate working group as well as the council of the Finnish Cancer Society.

Annie Vaillant, MD

Dr. Ana Vaillant, MD, FACOG is a board-certified Obstetrics & Gynecology Specialist in Caguas, Puerto Rico and has over 10 years of experience in the medical field. She graduated from the Ponce School of Medicine with honors in 2011. She is also a 2-time ovarian cancer survivor.

Iren Lau, Patient Advocate

Ms Iren Lau is astute Managing Director of Flick's Far East Sdn.Bhd. since 2015. Before joining here, she has 20 years' experience in distinguished fields and exposure to deal with complex macro & micro issues that affect company profitability by providing advance solutions in weighty expenditure savings. She also demonstrated excellent negotiations skills in mergers and acquisitions strategies. She is focus, commitment to the highest level, dynamic tenacious and resourceful with strong leadership skills and a high degree of inter-personal skills. During her career in Operations and Management, she has developed farsighted goals and missions for the development of the company. Her business acumen has also indirectly assisted in attaining these goals.



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We are indebted to the contribution of two oversight committee members who sadly passed away in 2022.

Celina May Benjamin, Patient Advocate

Celina May Benjamin battled both breast and ovarian cancer in the last three years. She was first diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer in 2018 and high grade serous epithelial ovarian cancer in 2019. Both were aggressive cancers. Ms. Benjamin and her treating clinician, Prof Woo Yin Ling, joined forces to establish the first ever patient advocacy organization in their country for women with ovarian cancer. With the assistance of the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, Ovarian Cancer Malaysia was formed in 2021.

Dacey Scroggins

The recipient of the 2016 AACR Distinguished Public Service Award, Dacey was a member of the AACR Minorities in Cancer Research Council; the Leadership Committee for MD Anderson Cancer Center's "Women's Cancer Moon Shots Program"; NCI's Investigational Drug Steering Committee and its Patient Advocate Steering Committee; and NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute, Partnership for Community Outreach and Engagement in Genomics. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of the GOG Foundation and the NRG Oncology Foundation and a chair of the NRG Patient Advocate Committee and of the Advocate Advisory Board of a DoD-funded Consortium for Long-Term Ovarian Cancer Survival.

Dacey was also a founding partner in Pinkie Hugs, LLC (a mother-daughter writing and film production firm specializing in social justice-focused documentaries) and a co-founder of In My Sister's Care, an organization focused on improving gynecologic cancer awareness and care for medically underserved women and on eliminating health disparities. Her activism was driven by a commitment to global health equity.



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