



Speaker Biographies

Heather Lee, PhD

Chair, Chordoma Foundation Community Advisory Board

A founding Board member of the Foundation and past Board chair, Heather has made an indelible mark on the character of the Foundation. In particular, during her time on the Board, Heather was a staunch advocate for focusing on meeting the vast needs of the chordoma patient community, and, among other things, she spearheaded our Community Conference series, Peer Support Program, and the formation of the Board's E&O committee. Heather and her family became involved with the Foundation during her son, Justin Straus', six-year battle with chordoma. A certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR), Heather is a principal at Developmental Associates, LLC a North Carolina-based human resources consultancy.

Adrienne Flanagan, PhD

University College London

Dr. Flanagan received her medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and undertook her PhD at the University of London in 1990 while she was a Medical Research Council Training Fellow at St George's Hospital Medical School in London. She became a senior lecturer and honorary consultant pathologist at Imperial College London, and later moved to University College London, and now practices clinical pathology at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. Adrienne was elected as Professor of Musculoskeletal Pathology at UCL's Cancer Institute in 2004. Dr. Flanagan is the Meeting Secretary of Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and a trustee or member of various committees including the Sarcoma UK Research Advisory Committee, The Jean Shanks Foundation, The Chordoma Foundation (USA) and the National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel of the Royal College of Pathology. Her research interests focus on reclassifying bone and soft tissue tumours using molecular signatures which she then translates into clinical practice, and uses for stratifying patients for treatment. She is the co-lead of the International Cancer Genome Consortium bone tumour project.

Tanaz Sharifnia, PhD

Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT

Dr. Sharifnia is a research scientist in the laboratory of Dr. Stuart Schreiber at the Broad Institute. Her research interests include applying systematic approaches to understand oncogene addiction and therapeutic response and resistance in cancer. Dr. Sharifnia received her PhD in the field of cancer genomics from Harvard University.

Christopher Heery, MD

National Cancer Institute

Dr. Heery is the director of the Clinical Trials Group of the Laboratory of Tumor Immunology and Biology at the National Cancer Institute. His clinical research is focused on the use of novel agents capable of inducing the immune system to recognize and kill cancer cells. Dr. Heery is very interested in the use of these agents in combination with each other as well as "standard" cytotoxic therapies in an effort to improve their efficacy. Dr. Heery also has an interest in using these therapies to help patients with the fewest treatment options, including patients with rare diseases.

Gregory Cote, MD, PhD

Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Cote is a medical oncologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center in

the Henri and Belinda Termeer Center for Targeted Therapies (Phase I), the Center for Sarcoma and Connective Tissue Oncology and the Stephan L. Harris Center for Chordoma. His primary research interest is in developing novel agents for connective tissue malignancies through translational studies and early phase clinical trials.

Silvia Stacchiotti, MD
Istituto Nazionale Tumori

Dr. Stacchiotti is a medical oncologist at the Istituto Nazionale Tumori in Milan, Italy. She specializes in the treatment of patients with sarcoma, including chordoma. Aside from having one of the most active chordoma practices in the world, she leads a network of expert physicians throughout Europe dedicated to working together to provide high quality and coordinated care to chordoma patients. Working with this group, she spearheaded the creation of consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of chordoma published in the Lancet Oncology. She has also been instrumental in planning a multi-institutional European patient registry as well as several multi-institutional clinical trials.

Thomas DeLaney, MD, FASTRO
Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. DeLaney is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School. He trained in Radiation Oncology at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and spent 6 years as Senior Investigator at the National Cancer Institute. Since 1992, he has been on staff at MGH where he is the Medical Director of the Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center and Co-Director of the Center for Sarcoma and Connective Tissue Oncology. He is Andres Soriano Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. DeLaney has made important contributions to the treatment of soft tissue sarcomas, bone sarcomas and chordomas, as well as the use of charged particle (proton) radiation therapy. His bibliography lists him as lead author or co-author of 135 original articles in peer-reviewed research publications, as well as 83 reviews, chapters and editorials. He is on the editorial boards of Journal of Surgical Oncology and UpToDate in Oncology.

Francis Hornicek, MD, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Hornicek graduated with a BA in biology and mathematics from Washington and Jefferson College. He earned his PhD in physics-biophysics from Georgetown University and his MD from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Hornicek completed his Orthopaedic Surgical Residency at the University of Miami and an Orthopaedic Oncology Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and Children's Hospital Boston.

Dr. Hornicek serves as the:
Chief of the Orthopaedic Oncology Service
Vice-Chair for Research - Biologics, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Co-Director of the Center for Sarcoma and Connective Tissue Oncology
Director of the MGH Stephan L. Harris Chordoma Center
Co-Leader of the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Sarcoma Group
He is an active educator of medical students, residents and fellows, and he is involved in important cancer research.

Paul Gardner, MD
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Dr. Gardner is associate professor of neurological surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and director of the Center for Skull Base Surgery. He specializes in endoscopic endonasal skull base surgery, pituitary tumors, and vascular neurosurgery. Dr. Gardner received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency and a two-year fellowship focusing on endoscopic endonasal pituitary and open skull base surgical techniques. His research has focused on evaluating patient outcomes following these surgeries, as well as exploring molecular

analysis in rare tumors. Dr. Gardner is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and North American Skull Base Society.

April Zehm, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Zehm received her undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering and her medical degree from the University of Wisconsin. She completed Internal Medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics and completed the Harvard Interdisciplinary Palliative Care fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She joined the Palliative Care Division at MGH in 2015. Her interests include medical education and improving the quality of medical care for patients with serious illness.

Jayne Donovan, MD
Spaulding Rehabilitation Center

Dr. Donovan is board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R). She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She completed her residency training in PM&R at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital/ Harvard Medical School, where she served as a two year Chief Resident, and her fellowship training in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation/ Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. Her clinical and research interests are focused on caring for individuals with spinal cord injuries and other neurologic disabilities with a goal of improving quality of life. She also has a strong interest in resident and medical education.

Al Ferreira, RN
Massachusetts General Hospital

After graduating from Northeastern University, Al's 30-year clinical career includes working in critical care, post-anesthesia, perioperative, and orthopedic nursing. In addition, he has worked as a clinical analyst in information systems and as a perioperative informatics consultant for two software firms.

Brianne Carter, LICSW, MTS
The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden

Brianne is the Co-Director of Wellness & Integrative Care at The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden. Brianne brings an expansive breadth of experience and expertise to help support the growing client community and foster the expansion of the remarkable programs and therapeutic services at The Healing Garden. Following a Masters Degree in Theology from Harvard Divinity School and a Masters in Social Work from Smith School for Social Work, Brianne worked in community mental health, Emerson Hospital, and the Mass General Cancer Center at Emerson Hospital-Bethke.

Kathy Benson, LICSW
The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden

Kathy is currently leading the Caregiver Support Group and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction classes at The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden. She has a private practice. Formerly, she was a clinical social worker at Nashoba Valley Medical Center and has an extensive background in the field of self-development. She has completed trainings at UMass Medical Center's Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program, Finding the Deep River Within, Internal Family Systems and multiple trainings at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health.

Sandra Yudilevich Espinoza, PhD, LICSW

Salem State University School of Social Work

Janet Surrey, PhD Metta

Dr. Surrey is an Insight Dialogue Teacher. She teaches Insight Dialogue retreats worldwide and leads a monthly practice group in the Boston area. Jan has been a faculty member of Metta's Relational Insight Meditation Program and serves on Metta Programs' Teachers Council. Jan has studied with a number of Vipassana teachers for over 25 years, and has worked with Gregory Kramer since 2007. Her original teacher was Vimala Thakar, but Jan has also done many retreats with Thich Nhat Hanh and Joanna Macy. In 2008 she completed a two and a half year Community Dharma Leader training at Spirit Rock Meditation Center. Jan is a practicing clinical psychologist and founding scholar of the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at the Wellesley Centers for Women. She is on the faculty and board of the Institute for Meditation and Psychotherapy. Jan is dedicated to a lifelong exploration of the power of relationships to create suffering and the power of relationships to liberate and transform suffering. Jan lives in Newton, Massachusetts.

Susan Pollak, MTS, EdD Harvard Medical School

Dr. Pollak is a clinical psychologist. Dr. Pollak received a degree in Comparative Religion from Harvard Divinity School, her doctorate in Psychology from Harvard University, and her clinical training through Harvard Medical School. She has been a clinician and Instructor in Psychology at Harvard Medical School for 20 years, specializing in the integration of meditation and psychotherapy. Susan is the President of the Board of Directors for the Institute for Meditation and Psychotherapy. She has had a meditation and yoga practice since childhood. She is the co-editor, with Merry White, of *The Cultural Transition* (Routledge & Kegan Paul), contributing author to *Mapping the Moral Domain*, ed. Carol Gilligan, (Harvard Press), contributing author to *Evocative Objects*, ed. Sherry Turkle (MIT Press), a contributing author to *Meditation and Psychotherapy* (2nd Edition) (Guilford Press) and a coauthor to *Sitting Together: Essential Skills for Mindfulness-Based Psychotherapy*.

Bill Dorland, PhD Chordoma Community Member

As a chordoma patient, Bill has been living with chordoma for over a decade. He has undergone four surgeries, and participated in three clinical trials. Most recently he participated in a Phase 1 trial of the GI-6301 vaccine at the National Cancer Institute, with great success.

With the Chordoma Foundation, Bill initiated and co-sponsored the first conference for chordoma patients in 2008 and continues to support the foundation's battle against this malignant but extremely rare cancer of the skull and spine.

Andrew Schoelkopf Chair, Chordoma Foundation Board of Directors

Andy is a partner at Menconi & Schoelkopf Fine Art, a leading private art dealer located in New York City that specializes in American paintings, drawings, and sculpture of the eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-centuries. Andy was raised in a family of art dealers, the son of Robert and Jane Schoelkopf, who ran the prestigious Robert Schoelkopf Gallery in New York until the Robert's death in 1990. Working at the gallery until its close in 1991, Andy then joined Christie's, where he rose to head of the American Paintings Department. Andy is a past board member of the Private Art Dealers Association, of which his gallery is a member. Andy holds a Bachelor's degree from Denison University and a Masters of Business Administration from Fordham University Graduate School of Business.