

The Cancer Bioethics Consortium, in collaboration with  
the MSK Ethics Committee, presents:

# HARD CHOICES:

## Ethics in Modern Oncology

**MAY 8, 2026 • VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

A complimentary conference examining the  
ethical challenges in cancer care  
and research.



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center



# OVERVIEW

**The Cancer Bioethics Consortium, in collaboration with the MSK Ethics Committee, presents this complimentary virtual conference designed for professionals across the oncology spectrum to explore the ethical complexities of cancer care and research.**

The **Cancer Bioethics Consortium (CBC)** is a newly-created organization of healthcare professionals who work in the fields of oncology and bioethics in the United States. CBC is dedicated to promoting greater awareness, understanding, and collaboration around the ethical issues that permeate oncology practice and research.

The one-day virtual conference, ***Hard Choices: Ethics in Modern Oncology***, convenes nationally recognized experts in oncology and bioethics, representing clinical, academic, administrative, legal, and governmental perspectives. The curriculum focuses on timely and emerging ethical challenges in oncology care and research through the lenses of bioethics, policy, and regulations. Rather than addressing clinical practice directly, the event will center on the less tangible, but equally vital, elements of care.

Each session — including those focused on Cell and Gene Therapies, Tissue Acquisition and Bio Banking, and the Drug Shortages Panel — has been carefully designed to maintain a non-clinical perspective. Attendees can expect thoughtful discussions that do not offer guidance or recommendations regarding clinical management, treatment options, medical procedures, or therapeutic decision-making. The conference will emphasize broader ethical and policy issues shaping the field, distinguishing the conference from forums centered on direct patient care.

This conference is intended for both clinicians and non-clinicians seeking to better understand the ethical issues that shape oncology practice and research.

## LIVE VIRTUAL FORMAT

The program will be held live virtually via Zoom. All times listed on the schedule are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Detailed access instructions will be provided in advance of the program.

Following the conclusion of the program, participants will receive access to an online syllabus, which will include PDF copies of the faculty presentations.

## ACCREDITATION

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

### **AMA Credit Designation Statement**

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center designates this live activity for a maximum of **6.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)<sup>™</sup>**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### **ABIM MOC Recognition Statement**

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to **6.75 Medical Knowledge MOC points** in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. Participants will earn MOC points equivalent to the amount of CME credits claimed for the activity. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

Applications have been submitted for **ANCC Nursing Contact Hours** and **Social Work Contact Hours**.



**Registration is complimentary for all participants.**

To learn more or register, scan the QR code or visit:

[msk.org/EthicsConference](https://msk.org/EthicsConference)

# PLANNERS & FACULTY



## CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

### **Louis Voigt, MD, MBE, HEC-C**

Chair, Ethics Committee  
Attending Physician, Department of Anesthesiology, Pain  
& Critical Care Medicine  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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## CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

### **Gregory A. Abel, MD, MPH**

Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School

### **Liz Blackler, MBE, HEC-C, LCSW-R**

Associate Director, Ethics Committee  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

### **MaryEliza McEachen, RN, CPHON®**

Clinical Nurse Manager, MSK Kids  
Clinical Ethics Consultant  
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### **Jonathan M. Marron, MD, MPH, HEC-C**

Director of Clinical Ethics, Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics  
Attending Physician, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School  
Clinical Ethicist, Boston Children's Hospital

### **Claire Murray**

Specialist, Ethics Committee  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

### **Nico Nortjé, PhD, MA, MPhil, HEC-C**

Executive Director, Center for Clinical Ethics in Cancer Care  
Associate Professor, Department of Critical Care Medicine  
Director of Goal Concordant Care & End-of-Life  
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

### **Connie M. Ulrich, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN**

Lillian S. Brunner Chair  
Professor of Nursing and Medical Ethics and Health Policy  
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing; Perelman School of Medicine

### **Amy Scharf, MBE, HEC-C**

Project Coordinator, Office of the Chief Physician Executive  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

### **Christine Wilkins, PhD, LCSW**

Director, Department of Social Work  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

## CONFERENCE FACULTY

### **Ghassan Abou-Alfa, MD, JD, MBA, PhD (hc)**

Attending Physician  
Gastrointestinal Oncology Service  
Department of Medicine  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

### **Eric Blackstone, PhD, HEC-C**

Postdoctoral Bioethics Research Fellow  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

### **Rena M. Conti, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Markets Public Policy and Law  
Questrom School of Business  
Boston University

### **Christine Grady, MSN, PhD**

### **Steven Joffe, MD, MPH**

Chair, Department of Medical Ethics & Health Policy  
Art and Ilene Penn Professor of Medical Ethics  
& Health Policy  
Professor of Pediatrics  
University of Pennsylvania  
Perelman School of Medicine

### **Liza-Marie Johnson, MD**

Associate Member, St. Jude Faculty  
Director, The Bioethics Program  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

### **Martha F. Jones, MA, CIP**

Vice President, Human Research Affairs  
Mass General Brigham

### **Jennifer Miller, PhD**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Yale Liaison, Working Group on: Bioethics of Data  
Science, Artificial Intelligence (AI)  
and Genomics Implementation Science Curriculum  
Yale School of Medicine

### **Amitabha Palmer, PhD, HEC-C**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Clinical Ethics  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

### **Leonard Saltz, MD**

Executive Director, Clinical Value & Sustainability  
Head, Colorectal Oncology Section  
Attending Physician  
Gastrointestinal Oncology Service  
Department of Medicine  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

### **Andrew Shuman, MD, FACS, HEC-C**

Professor, Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
Chief, Clinical Ethics Service for Michigan Bioethics  
University of Michigan Medical School

### **Yoram Unguru, MD, MS, MA, HEC-C**

Attending Physician  
Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
The Herman and Walter Samuelson Children's  
Hospital at Sinai

### **Selwyn Vickers, MD, FACS**

President and CEO  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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## SPECIAL GUESTS

### **Lauren Maurillo**

Caregiver

### **Sydney Towle**

Patient

# AGENDA

**Friday, May 8, 2026**

9:05 a.m.—4:55 p.m. EDT (UTC -4)

Dedicated time for questions and discussion will follow each presentation.

9:00 a.m.	Zoom Login and Check-In
9:05 a.m.	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Louis Voigt, MD, MBE, HEC-C
9:10 a.m.	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Selwyn Vickers, MD, FACS
9:20 a.m.	<b>Ethical Issues at the Intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Cancer Care</b> Amitabha Palmer, PhD, HEC-C
10:00 a.m.	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>  A. <b>Cell and Gene Therapies for Cancer and Related Diseases</b> Rena M. Conti, PhD  B. <b>Tissue Acquisition / Bio Banking</b> Martha F. Jones, MA, CIP
10:40 a.m.	Break
10:50 a.m.	<b>Framing Cost and Value in Novel Treatment</b> Leonard Saltz, MD
11:30 a.m.	<b>Pharma Scoring</b> Jennifer Miller, PhD
12:05 p.m.	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b>  <b>Drug Shortages</b> Eric Blackstone, PhD, HEC-C Rena M. Conti, PhD Lauren Maurillo (Caregiver) Jennifer Miller, PhD Leonard Saltz, MD
1:05 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:50 p.m.	<b>The Ethics of Research in Cancer Care</b> Steven Joffe, MD, MPH

2:35 p.m.	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b></p> <p>A. <b>Children are Not Small Adults — Bioethical Considerations in Pediatric Oncology</b> Liza-Marie Johnson, MD Yoram Unguru, MD, MS, MA, HEC-C</p> <p>B. <b>Ethical Dimensions of Surgical Oncology</b> Andrew Shuman, MD, FACS, HEC-C</p>
3:20 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m.	<p><b>PATIENT DISCUSSION</b></p> <p><b>Social Media</b> Ghassan Abou-Alfa, MD, JD, MBA, PhD (hc) Sydney Towle (Patient)</p>
4:00 p.m.	<p><b>KEYNOTE PRESENTATION</b></p> <div data-bbox="319 683 445 812" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Reflections on the Future of Cancer Ethics</b> Christine Grady, MSN, PhD</p>
4:45 p.m.	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b> Nico Nortjé, PhD, MA, MPhil, HEC-C</p>
4:55 p.m.	Adjourn



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