



2020 LOS ANGELES POLICY FORUM - SEPT. 30TH; 5:30 -6:45 PM

THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE: BREAKTHROUGHS, ADVANCES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS

SPEAKER BIOS



Johnese Spisso, RN, MPH

President
UCLA Health

Johnese Spisso, RN, MPA, President, UCLA Health, CEO, UCLA Hospital System, Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences. Johnese Spisso assumed the position of President of UCLA Health, CEO of UCLA Hospital System and Associate Vice Chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences in 2016. She is a nationally recognized academic healthcare leader with more than 30 years of experience, and oversees all operations of UCLA's hospitals and clinics as well as the health system's regional outreach strategy. Before coming to UCLA, Spisso spent 22 years at UW Medicine in Seattle, Washington, where she was promoted from Chief Nursing Officer to Chief Operating Officer to Chief Health System Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs for the University of Washington. She served in the latter role from 2007-2016 and was responsible for the two academic medical centers, two community hospitals, the network of community clinics, and the Airlift Northwest flight program. While there, Spisso played a major role in expanding collaborations with regional hospitals and in the operational integration of two major community hospitals into UW Medicine. She also was instrumental in leading the development of a statewide trauma system. Prior to UW, as a registered nurse, Spisso rose through the ranks over 12 years at the University of California, Davis Medical Center and directed the critical care, trauma and burn center, emergency services and the Life Flight Air-Medical Program. Before that, she began her career as a critical-care nurse in the medical, surgical and transplant intensive care unit at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Presbyterian. Spisso received a master's degree in health care administration and public administration from the University of San Francisco, and a bachelor's degree in health sciences from Chapman College. She earned her RN at the St. Francis School of Nursing. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on healthcare leadership, and she serves on several national boards, including the American Association of Medical Colleges' Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems. Spisso is active in community leadership and served from 2016-2018 as the Los Angeles Community Chair for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Light the Night Walk and in 2017 served as the Los Angeles Community Chair for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Luncheon. She has received numerous awards and recognition throughout her career, most recently being named to Modern Healthcare's Top 25 Most Influential Women Leaders in 2019, LA Business Journal's 500 Most Influential Leaders in Los Angeles in 2020 and Modern Healthcare's Top 50 Clinical Leaders of 2020 in the U.S.



Dr. Michael Teitell

Director
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. Teitell is a molecular immunologist and biochemist who joined the faculty at UCLA as an assistant professor and chief of the Division of Pediatric and Neonatal Pathology in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in 1999. He was jointly appointed in the UCLA Department of Pediatrics in 2001 and the Department of Bioengineering in 2009, and was promoted to professor in 2008. In addition, he is the Latta Endowed Professor of Pathology, co-director of the UCLA Tumor Immunology Training Program, co-director of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center Bioengineering Core, an associate director of the UCLA-Caltech Medical Scientist Training Program, and the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative for Intercollegiate Athletics at UCLA. Dr. Teitell received concurrent B.S. and M.S. degrees from the UCLA College Honors Program as a Departmental Scholar in Chemistry and Biochemistry in 1985. He earned combined M.D. and Ph.D. degrees in the UCLA Medical Scientist Training Program in 1993 under the mentorship of Dr. Mitchell Kronenberg. Dr. Teitell served as a resident and clinical instructor in anatomic pathology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School and as a research associate with Dr. Richard Blumberg from 1993 to 1995. From 1995 to 1997, Dr. Teitell was a resident in clinical pathology at UCSF and a post-doctoral researcher with Dr. Joe Gray. From 1997 to 1999, he held a joint appointment at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles as a pediatric pathology fellow and at UCLA as a clinical instructor in pathology. Research in the Teitell lab began with studies of fundamental mechanisms of cancer formation and progression, particularly for B lymphocyte malignancies. This led to projects in stem and cancer cell metabolism and the collaborative development of new approaches in cell engineering and response detection. Dr. Teitell serves currently as chief of the Division of Pediatric and Neonatal Pathology, with board certification in anatomic, clinical and pediatric pathology. He is a Scholar and Stohlman Scholar of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and was elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigators in 2004 and to the Association of American Physicians in 2017. In August, 2017, Dr. Teitell became the Director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center which has more than 450 researchers and clinicians engaged in cancer research, prevention, detection, control, treatment and education. He is also President of the Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation.



Dr. Adrian Bot

Vice President of Translational Medicine
Kite Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Adrian Bot, MD, PhD is the Vice President of Translational Sciences at Kite Pharma Inc, a biotechnology company developing genetically engineered T cell therapies, based in Los Angeles, CA. He has more than 20 years of experience in biomedical research and development. Dr. Bot obtained his MD at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Timisoara, Romania and his PhD in Biomedical Sciences at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Subsequently, he was a Guest Scientist at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla and Scientist, Principal Scientist and Director of Immunology Research at Alliance Pharmaceutical Corp. in San Diego, CA. In Nov 2002, Dr. Bot joined Allecure Pharmaceuticals which became MannKind Corp, where he was a Director of Research and Development. He had several other appointments at MannKind: Sr. Director of Translational Medicine, Vice President of Scientific Management and Vice President of Research, prior to the appointment as Chief Scientific Officer and then Vice President of Translational Sciences at Kite Pharma Inc. Most currently at Kite Pharma, Dr. Bot has been responsible for overseeing the translational activities in support of the development of Axi-Cel, a novel CAR T cell therapy for B cell malignancies.



Dr. Farah M. Brasfield

Regional Chief, Hematology/Oncology
Kaiser Permanente-Southern California

Dr. Farah M. Brasfield earned her bachelor's degree in biochemistry and biophysics from the University of Houston. She spent four years at MD Anderson Cancer Center performing cancer research and completed her medical degree at Texas A&M College of Medicine in 1992. Her internship and residency in internal medicine was followed by a fellowship in ematology/oncology at the University of Arizona under the direction of renowned hematologist/oncologist Dr. Sydney Salmon. She joined Kaiser Permanente in 1998 and currently serves as the chief of the Hematology/Oncology Department for Orange County, as well as regional chief at Southern California Permanente Medical Group. Dr. Brasfield is a sub investigator in many clinical research trials.



Dr. Maggie DiNome

Chief of Breast Surgery and Director of Breast Health
UCLA Medical Center

Dr. Maggie DiNome is the Chief of Breast Surgery and the director of Breast Health at UCLA. She received her undergraduate degree from Yale University and her medical degree from Duke University. She completed her surgical residency at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and her fellowship in cancer research in the division of Surgical Oncology at UCLA. She is director of the SSO-accredited surgical breast fellowship, which trains the next generation of leaders in the multidisciplinary care of patients with breast cancer.



Zul Surani

Associate Director, Research Center for Health Equity
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Zul Surani, Directs Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) and serves as the Operations Director for the Research Center for Health Equity (RCHE) at Cedars-Sinai Cancer. RCHE conducts a wide range of research including research-driven community outreach and engagement and works in partnership with diverse, underserved communities to reverse inequities. He also serves as the current Chair of the California Dialogue on Cancer that develops California's Cancer Plan and mobilizes stakeholders to implement objectives. Prior to this position, he served as the Executive Director for USC's Health Sciences Campus Community Partnerships Office leading community-based cancer research collaborations, outreach and partnerships at the East Los Angeles Campus. He also helped develop and manage UCLA's Mobile Mammography Community Outreach Program for many years before joining USC. At Cedars-Sinai, he has worked with key stakeholders and community leaders to establish various cancer research and cancer outreach initiatives that benefit immigrant and underserved communities, including the LGBTQ+ population. Zul studied Public Affairs, Health Care Management and Public Health at USC and is currently pursuing a doctorate also at USC.