

About the Speakers



Dr. Elisa Bandera earned an MD degree from the University of Málaga, Spain and a PhD in Epidemiology and Community Health from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she also completed post-doctoral training in nutritional epidemiology of cancer. Her major research interests include the impact of obesity on breast and ovarian cancer risk, treatment outcomes and survival, with a focus on cancer health disparities. Her research has been funded by several grants from the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Bandera led the Systematic Literature Review and meta-analysis on endometrial cancer in support of the 2007 WCRF/AICR Second Expert Report. Over the past 10 years she has served as a member of the WCRF/AICR International Expert Panel for the Continuous Update Project and the WCRF/AICR Third Expert Report.



Karen Collins is a registered dietitian nutritionist who promotes healthy eating as a speaker, consultant and writer. Karen serves in a consultant capacity as Nutrition Advisor to the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR). She has authored multiple peer-reviewed book chapters and research summaries for health professionals covering cancer prevention and the intersection of cancer, diabetes and heart disease. And she has penned over 2,000 nutrition-related articles for the public. As a writer and speaker, Karen empowers people to feel less overwhelmed, and equips them to develop realistic strategies for health. For many years, Karen also conducted a private practice in nutrition counseling. A Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Karen holds a BS degree in dietetics from Purdue University and an MS degree in nutrition from Cornell University.



Joanne Elena, Ph.D., M.P.H., is a Nutritional Epidemiologist and Program Director in the Clinical and Translational Epidemiology Branch of the Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). She is responsible for developing, managing, and promoting a research portfolio of grants focused on diet and lifestyle factors that influence cancer progression, recurrence, survival, and related cancer outcomes. She is also involved in optimizing the use and design of cohort studies, incorporating new technologies to assess exposures and outcomes, maximizing the use of existing data, and manages a funding announcement that supports infrastructure needs for large cohort studies. Dr. Elena completed her Ph.D. in nutritional epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her M.P.H. at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Dr. Edward Giovannucci graduated from Harvard University in 1980, and received a medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1984. He then returned to Boston to complete a doctoral degree in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1992. Currently, he is a Professor in the Departments of Nutrition and Epidemiology at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. His research focuses on how nutritional, environmental, and lifestyle factors relate to various malignancies, especially those of the large bowel, as well as other gastrointestinal cancers, and prostate cancers. His work has included the study of how nutrition and other lifestyle factors influence cancer risk by modulating levels of insulin, insulin-like growth factors, inflammation, vitamin D metabolites, and steroid hormones. He serves on the expert panel member of the Continuous Update Project of the World Cancer Research Fund/American Institute of Cancer Research.



Dr. Stephen Hursting is a Professor in the Department of Nutrition and the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also Professor at the UNC Nutrition Research Institute in Kannapolis, NC. He earned his PhD in nutritional biochemistry and MPH in nutritional epidemiology from UNC-Chapel Hill, and he completed postdoctoral training in molecular carcinogenesis and cancer prevention at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). An international leader in the area of nutrition, obesity, metabolism and cancer, his lab focuses on the molecular and metabolic mechanisms underlying obesity-cancer associations, and the impact of obesity- energy balance modulation (eg, calorie restriction and exercise) or pharmacologic agents on cancer development, progression, and responses to chemotherapy.



Elizabeth A. Platz, ScD, MPH is Professor, Martin D. Abeloff, MD Scholar in Cancer Prevention, and Deputy Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she directs the NCI-funded (T32) training program in Cancer Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control. She received her doctorate in epidemiology from Harvard University and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health. A major focus of her work is the use of molecular and genetic epidemiology approaches to understand the mechanisms underlying prostate incidence and progression. She is at the forefront of epidemiologic research on the role of inflammation, a target for prevention, in the development of prostate cancer. In addition to her academic efforts, she is the chair of the Maryland Cancer Collaborative, the group charged with prioritizing and implementing strategies from the state's Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.