Speaker and Presenter Bios



Alison Fitch
BMS Director,
Strategy & Operations

Alison is Director of Strategy and Operations for the Cell Therapy Thematic Research Center and Seattle site. She oversees a team that manages activities including engagement for both our staff and our community, strategic planning, and budget management. Her role includes that of the lead site partner with Facilities and Engineering, Procurement & Finance as well as other Cell Therapy functions with whom we partner to progress these groundbreaking treatments. Alison also leads inclusion-focused STEM education and workforce engagement for Washington and is a member of the STEM Council; she has been a member on the Seattle Site Leadership Team since July 2023.



Timothy Arnot
Retired Educator

Timothy Arnot is a devoted husband, father, educator, and advocate for families affected by cancer. After nearly four decades together, Tim lost his beloved wife, Patty, in November 2025 following a 22-year journey with breast cancer. Throughout her life, Patty demonstrated extraordinary resilience, compassion, and determination, always putting her family and others first. Her courage, her unwavering hope, and the dignity with which she faced cancer continue to inspire Tim. Today, he shares their story to honor Patty's legacy and encourage others to bring compassion, hope, and meaningful support to individuals and families navigating the challenges of cancer. Tim is a semi-retired special education teacher currently living in Chelan, WA.



Gladys Arias , MPA
Principal, Health Equity
Policy Analysis &
Legislative Support

Gladys Arias is a Principal for Health Equity Policy Analysis and Legislative Support at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate. In this role she works to advance public policy that will advance health equity across the cancer care continuum. Gladys received a Master of Public Administration from New York University as well as a Bachelor of Science and Arts from the University of Pittsburgh.



Katharine Sutphen
State & Local
Campaigns Manager

Katharine recently joined ACS CAN's State and Local team as a Campaign Manager focused on prevention, after serving two years as Grassroots Manager for Montana and Wyoming. In that role, she advanced tobacco prevention and Medicaid advocacy while building strong partnerships across rural communities. Katharine holds a master's in Community Health and a graduate certificate in Native American Studies from Montana State University, where her research focused on barriers rural populations face in accessing preventive care.

Speaker and Presenter Bios



Lindsey X. Watchman, M.Ed.
Chairman, General Council
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Lindsey X. Watchman is of Umatilla, Walla Walla, Cayuse, Yakama, and Finnish descent and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). A U.S. Air Force veteran, Lindsey has 28 years of experience in Indian Education and Workforce Development and is a longtime advocate for Tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and self-sufficiency. He currently serves his third term on the CTUIR Board of Trustees as Chairman of the General Council.



Karen Malcolm
CD 2 ACT Lead

Karen Malcolm is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, with maternal heritage from the Fallon Paiute Tribe of Nevada. A six-year breast cancer survivor from Pendleton, Oregon, Karen serves as an ACS CAN ACT Lead for Oregon's 2nd Congressional District. She is a passionate advocate for improving access to care for Tribal Nations.



Gail Menasco
Digital Strategist

Gail Menasco is a breast cancer survivor, patient advocate, and founder and president of BRA Society, a nonprofit focused on improving access to breast reconstruction. Drawing on her personal experience navigating barriers to care, she advocates for stronger patient protections and improved healthcare access at the state and federal levels. She also serves as the Congressional District 5 (CD-5) ACT Lead for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and works as a digital strategy consultant based in Bend, Oregon.



Shawn O'Neal
Senior Regional Media Advocacy Manager

Shawn O'Neal has been the Senior Regional Media Advocacy Manager for ACS CAN since May of 2023, overseeing media operations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. He worked previously in higher education and, outside his work with ACS CAN, continues a 38-year career as a journalist. He lives in Moscow, Idaho with his wife Shane. Their son, Jack, will graduate from the University of Idaho in the spring.

Speaker and Presenter Bios



Dr. Ruben Rathnasingham
Executive Director

Ruben Rathnasingham is the inaugural Executive Director of the Jen-Hsun and Lori Mills Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex, leading the launch of a university-wide platform for AI-enabled research, education, innovation, and societal impact. Previously, Ruben served as Assistant Dean for Health Product Innovation at the University of Texas at Austin and Associate Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at UCSF. Ruben has co-founded multiple ventures, helped bring more than 20 technologies to market, and holds degrees from MIT and Imperial College, London.



Mary Kemp
Director, Grassroots Organizing

Mary Kemp serves as Director of Grassroots Organizing for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, advancing cancer-related public policy across the Pacific Region. Over the course of her career, she has helped secure major public health victories, including expanding healthcare coverage in Idaho and passing California's statewide flavored tobacco restrictions. A former high school Biology teacher and coach in underserved communities, Mary brings a strong commitment to community engagement and culturally informed public health advocacy.



Kari Hampton
Sr. Grassroots Manager
Oregon

Kari Hampton is the Senior Grassroots Manager for Oregon with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, where she works with volunteers, community partners, and advocates to build grassroots leadership and advance policies that improve the lives of people impacted by cancer. Kari's passion for advocacy is deeply personal, shaped by her own family's experience with cancer. She is especially passionate about empowering volunteers and emerging leaders to find their voice, share their stories, and turn their experiences into meaningful action.



Maggie Osborne
Director, Grassroots Organizing

Maggie Osborne is the Director of Grassroots Organizing for ACS CAN, where she works with volunteers, advocates, and staff across the country to advance policies that help prevent cancer, improve access to care, and support cancer patients and survivors. She brings more than 20 years of experience with both ACS and ACS CAN, leading grassroots advocacy efforts, volunteer engagement, and leadership development. Maggie is passionate about empowering advocates to use their voices to create meaningful change and is dedicated to helping volunteers turn their passion into action to end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

Summit Hosts



Anika Khan
Grassroots Manager
Washington

Anika Khan graduated in 2019 with a B.A in Psychology with an emphasis in Behavioral Psychology and a Minor in Public Health. Her passion for public health led Anika to joining The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in January 2025 as the Grassroots Program Manager of Washington State. Anikas passion for the fight against cancer stems from her mom's cancer diagnosis when Anika was a teenager, which shaped her views on cancer care as well as the economic impact of cance



Erica Watson
Grassroots Manager
Idaho

Erica Watkins is the Idaho Grassroots Manager for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, where she works alongside volunteers, cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers to advance policies that improve cancer prevention, treatment, and access to care. Based in Boise, she leads grassroots advocacy efforts across Idaho and is passionate about empowering communities to create meaningful change in the fight against cancer..



Janet Bradshaw
Washington Vice SLA

Janet Bradshaw is a proud mother of three, a 10-year breast cancer survivor, and a passionate advocate for those whose lives have been touched by cancer. Her own cancer journey opened her eyes to the challenges patients and families face, inspiring her to turn one of life's most difficult experiences into a purpose. Today, she proudly serves as the Washington State Vice State Lead Ambassador for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). Janet believes that every voice matters, every story has power, and no one should have to face cancer alone. Through her advocacy, she hopes to make a difference for those fighting cancer today and for generations to come.