LONDON GLOBAL CANCER WEEK

Global Partnerships for Equitable Cancer Care: Moving From Local Insight to Worldwide Impact

Date: 6th November 2026

Venue: Great Hall, King's College London

LGCW 2026 – Speaker List

Alphabetical by surname

Prof Ajay Aggarwal — Professor of Cancer Services and Systems Research, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK.



Ajay Aggarwal is a Consultant Clinical Oncologist at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, and Professor of Cancer Services and Systems Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the Faculty of Public Health and Policy. His research spans cancer policy, performance assessment of cancer care, and global health, drawing on epidemiology, econometrics and qualitative methods. Within his global health work he is leading the first prospective international multicentre trial across India, Jordan, Malaysia and South Africa evaluating the role of AI in radiotherapy. He also advises the WHO, the IAEA and the World Bank. Between 2023-2026 he was the Clinical Director of the ten National Cancer Audits in England and Wales, one of the largest cancer quality assurance and improvement programmes in the world, and he is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Cancer Policy. He is Chair of the ESTRO Health Economics in Radiation Oncology (HERO) group, leading its value-based healthcare initiative.

Prof Usman Malami Aliyu — Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT), Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Professor Usman Malami Aliyu is the pioneer Director-General/CEO of Nigeria's National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT), the national agency responsible for advancing cancer research, prevention and control. A distinguished Consultant Radiation and Clinical Oncologist, academic and public health leader, he is spearheading efforts to strengthen Nigeria's cancer control system through strategic international partnerships, research, innovation and health system development. His leadership focuses on expanding equitable access to quality cancer care, strengthening institutional capacity and advancing sustainable, evidence-based solutions to reduce the national cancer burden.

Dr Olubukola Ayodele — Consultant Medical Oncologist and Co-Convenor, London Global Cancer Week.



Dr Olubukola Ayodele is a Consultant Medical Oncologist at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, UK who specializes in the management of breast malignancies. She is an honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Leicester and the Head of the Breast Cancer Unit at the Leicester Cancer Research Centre, also leading the breast cancer clinical trials portfolio. She obtained a dual fellowship in drug development and sarcoma from the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (PMCC) in Toronto, Canada, following specialist oncology training in the Republic of Ireland. She is the inaugural recipient of the ISMO-PMCC collaboration fellowship award in 2018. She is a recipient of the 2021 ASCO Conquer Cancer Endowed Merit award. She is the author of multiple publications including a book chapter and serves as a reviewer for several scientific journals. Dr Ayodele has a portfolio of academic and commercial clinical trials which she runs alongside collaborative translational research projects focusing on molecular drivers and biomarkers in breast cancer. She has received multiple grants for her research work. Dr Ayodele is passionate about global oncology.

Prof Nirmala Bhoo-Pathy — Professor of Epidemiology, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia.



Professor Nirmala Bhoo-Pathy, MD, PhD, is a public health physician, clinical epidemiologist and cancer systems scientist at Universiti Malaya, Malaysia. Her work examines how health systems determine who benefits from advances in cancer care and how these systems can be reshaped to deliver more equitable, affordable and patient-centred care. As a regional scientific lead of the ASEAN Costs in Oncology (ACTION) study, she has studied the financial, quality-of-life and survival consequences of cancer among nearly 10,000 patients across eight Southeast Asian countries. Her work brings together epidemiology, policy and implementation across financial protection, access to treatment, survivorship and the cancer workforce. She is one of 21 members of the World Health Organization Science Council. She also serves on three Lancet Commissions, including Women, Power and Cancer, the Human Crisis in Cancer, where she leads the Economic Section, and Cancer and Health Systems. Bhoo-Pathy is the President of the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention. In 2024, she was named one of Tatler Asia's Most Influential, joining a prominent cohort of leaders and changemakers across healthcare, business, culture and society.

Ms Leena Chagla — Immediate Past President, Association of Breast Surgery, UK.



Miss Leena Chagla is the immediate past President of the Association of Breast Surgery (UK) and a Council member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the oldest Surgical College in the world. She is a Consultant Breast Surgeon and the clinical lead for the breast unit at Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. She was an Oncoplastic TIG (Training Interface Group) trainer and had hosted the TIG oncoplastic fellows meeting in Liverpool for the past 20 years. She also teaches on the ABS Oxford Oncoplastic Surgery course (OOPS). She is past-President of the Liverpool and Northwest Society of Surgeons having trained and practised as a General Surgeon doing both Breast and Upper GI cancer surgery initially. She is a popular speaker both nationally and internationally and is involved in the development of guidelines for the management of breast cancer.

She is passionate about collaboration, MDT working and the welfare of trainees. She launched the Anti-bullying Campaign (#CoreItOut) for ABS in alliance with RCSEd.

Dr Flora Dangwa — Wellcome Trust CREATE PhD Fellow, King's College London, UK; Global Power of Oncology Nursing (GPON).



Flora Tarisai Dangwa is a Wellcome Trust-funded PhD Fellow in the CREATE Programme at the Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, and the Biomedical Research and Training Institute in Zimbabwe. A UK-registered nurse with more than 25 years' experience in cancer care and specialist palliative care, she has held senior clinical roles across NHS Foundation Trusts and hospices in London. Flora holds an MSc in Advanced Cancer Practice from King's College London and an MSc in Health Professions Education from University College London. Her work brings together clinical leadership, education, research and lived experience to address inequities in access to palliative care. Her PhD focuses on co-designing community-led models of palliative care in Zimbabwe, drawing on local strengths, resources and social networks. Guided by the Ubuntu philosophy, "I am because we are," her research places communities at the centre of care and seeks culturally grounded solutions to improve support for people living with serious illness and their families. Flora is also a committee member of the Global Power of Oncology Nursing (GPON), advocating for more equitable access to nursing education and skills development in low- and middle-income countries through high-quality, accessible and freely available learning opportunities.

Dr Soumen Das — Director, Institute of Breast Disease, NCRI Hospital, Kolkata, India.



Dr Soumen Das is a breast surgical oncologist and Director of the Institute of Breast Diseases, NCRI Hospital, Kolkata, a dedicated breast cancer centre in Eastern India. He contributes to the NCCN breast cancer guidelines and serves as an International Advisor to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. His work focuses on improving access to breast cancer care in low-resource settings, including survivor-led navigation models for early detection, published in The Lancet Regional Health. He is a committed educator and advocate for equity in cancer care across low- and middle-income countries.

Dr Ibithal Fadhil — Chair, Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance



Dr Ibtihal Fadhil is a public health physician, epidemiologist and global health advocate with more than 35 years of experience in public health, health policy, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and health systems strengthening. She served for 10 years as Regional Adviser for NCDs at the World Health Organisation Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO EMRO), providing technical and strategic support to countries across the region.
Dr Fadhil is the Founding Chair of the Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance (EM-NCDA) and Chair of the MENA Coalition for HPV Elimination. She is also a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Women and Cancer and a regional advocacy consultant with extensive experience in civil society engagement, NCD policy and cancer prevention.
She holds an MSc and PhD in Public Health and Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Her current work focuses on NCD prevention, cancer control, women's health, patient engagement, advocacy, research and strengthening health systems across the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Dr Olufunke Fasawe — Vice President, Integration, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI).



Dr Olufunke "Funke" Fasawe (she/her) is the Regional Vice President, West and Central Africa at the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and the Country Director, Nigeria. She leads strategy, partnerships, and teams advancing health equity and improving access to cost-effective drugs, technologies, and programs across 5 countries. With almost fifteen years of experience working in global health, Funke is passionate about strengthening health systems and empowering women and girls. She previously worked with UNAIDS in Geneva and began her career as an intern at the World Health Organization there. She earned a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Lagos, a Master's degree in International Health, Policy and Economics from Bocconi University in Italy, and a Doctor of Public Health from UC Berkeley. She also holds a certificate in Leadership from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Ms Ruth James — Chair, International Committee, Association of Breast Surgery, UK.



Ruth James is an Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon working at Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She chairs the Global Health Committee of the Association of Breast Surgery (ABS). Ruth has worked on breast cancer related educational projects involving capacity building and community awareness in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda and India. She is a key representative of ABS in the development of a breast cancer training package for LMICs in partnership with Global Health Partnerships, Cancer Diseases Hospital Lusaka, the Uganda Cancer Institute and Blended Learning UK. The program is currently being piloted in 5 regions of Zambia and Uganda. Ruth has worked with the the Kenya UK Breast Cancer Alliance (KUBCA), participating as faculty in the Kenya UK Breast Cancer Awareness week in 2021 and the Third Kenya-UK Breast Cancer Alliance Meeting in Mombasa in March 2026. She has delivered virtual sessions at rural breast cancer awareness and screening programs run by the Ambuja Foundation in Maharashtra 2023, Punjab 2025 and Gujarat 2026. She is co-author of a publication on factors leading to late presentation in Matabeleland South and has co led an ABS funded Breast POCUS course in Luton aimed primarily at those practising in LMICs.

Prof T. Peter Kingham — Director, Global Cancer Research and Training Programme, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, USA.



Dr T. Peter Kingham obtained his undergraduate degree at Yale University and MD from SUNY Stony Brook. His general surgery residency was at New York University. He undertook a research fellowship in hepatic immunology in the DeMatteo Laboratory at Memorial Sloan Kettering. After finishing residency, he completed a two-year fellowship in surgical oncology at MSK prior to being appointed on the Hepatopancreatobiliary Service. He is Director of the Global Oncology Fellowship. Since 2015 he has been Director of Global Cancer Research and Training Program. In 2022 he was promoted to

Professor. His primary research interests are determining how to improve cancer care for patients in low- and middle-income countries, building HPB surgery in low resource environments, and colorectal cancer liver metastasis management. Dr Kingham is co-PI on multiple prospective studies in Nigeria, co-founded HPBridge within the IHPBA, and co-founded the African Research Group for Oncology (ARGO). He is PI of a UG3/UH3 and R01 NIH grants focused on colorectal cancer in Nigeria, a D43 NIH grant to build a cancer research training program in Nigeria, and a P20 grant to build an immuno-oncology center in Nigeria He has over 420 publications in peer-reviewed journals and authored 18 chapters.

Prof Mark Lawler — Professor and Chair in Translational Cancer Genomics, Queen's University Belfast, UK.



Professor Mark Lawler is an internationally recognised leader in cancer research, digital health and the use of data to improve patient outcomes and address cancer inequalities. He is Scientific Director of DATA-CAN, the UK's Health Data Research Hub for Cancer, and co-leads Health Data Research UK's Big Data for Complex Diseases Programme. He also co-leads the All-Island Cancer Research Institute, bringing together 11 universities across Ireland to advance cancer research. Mark was the architect of the European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights, for which he received the 2018 European Health Award. He also co-developed the European Code of Cancer Practice and serves as Scientific Lead of the European Cancer Organisation's European Cancer Pulse initiative. His research and advocacy have influenced cancer policy across Europe, including legislation protecting cancer survivors from financial discrimination and efforts to strengthen national cancer control planning. He has also chaired major Lancet Oncology commissions examining cancer research, genomics and precision oncology. His work focuses on translating research and data into meaningful improvements in cancer care worldwide.

Dr Bente Mikkelsen — Director, Global Engagement and Strategies, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Former Director, Department of Noncommunicable Diseases, World Health Organization (WHO). (USA)



Dr Bente Mikkelsen has a long-standing experience and significant contributions to public health and development. Dr Mikkelsen brings over 11 years of senior management experience from the World

Health Organization (WHO). As the Director of Non-Communicable Diseases , Rehabilitation and Disability at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as Director NCDs and Promoting Health through the Life course, WHO EURO Regional Office, Copenhagen, Denmark she has played a pivotal role in advancing international efforts to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Her tenure at WHO was marked by her ability to implement global health decisions at the country level, effectively exercising the WHO reform as a method of work as well as establishing new initiatives like the Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs, Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer medicines (GPCCAM), Global Diabetes Compact and leading the Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative (CCEI) as well as the HEARTS initiative. Prior to her role at WHO, Dr Mikkelsen served as the CEO of the South-Eastern Regional Health Authority in Norway. Her leadership was instrumental in implementing one of Norway's most extensive political decisions to restructure the public health sector, showcasing substantial political insight and strategic planning capabilities.

Prof Olalekan Olasehinde — Professor of Surgery, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex; African Research Group for Oncology (ARGO), Nigeria.



Prof Diana Sarfati — Professor of Public Health and Former Director-General of Health, New Zealand.



Dr Diana Sarfati (MBChB, MPH, PhD, FNZCPHM) was appointed New Zealand’s Director General of Health and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Health in 2022. From 2019 to 2022, she was National Director of Cancer Control and Establishment Chief Executive of Te Aho o Te Kahu, the Cancer Control Agency in New Zealand. Previously Diana was Head of the Department of Public Health and Director of the Cancer and Chronic Conditions (C3) research group at University of Otago, Wellington. She has led a large body of health-related research particularly relating to health systems and cancer

care. Diana has held a number of national and international roles. She is currently a commissioner in the Lancet Cancer and Health Systems Commission. She also led a 2019 Lancet Oncology series on cancer in small island developing states.

Mr Richard Skone-James — Director of Programmes, Global Health Partnerships (formerly THET), UK.



Richard Skone James is Director of Programmes at Global Health Partnerships (formerly THET), where he has worked since 2014. He has over a decade's experience in global health programming, with a particular focus on health workforce development across Africa and Asia. At GHP, Richard's work has involved overseeing fund management programmes across a range of health cadres and themes, supporting institutional health partnerships between UK and overseas health institutions, such as health facilities, universities, health professions organisations and government bodies. He has developed a range of resources to support best practice in partnership working, including in volunteer management, and gender equality and social inclusion, and he has led partnership capacity development workshops and brokered new partnerships across several countries. He holds an MSc in International Development from the University of Edinburgh and is interested in how equitable, long-term institutional partnerships can support stronger health systems and a more sustainable health workforce.

Dr Susie Stanway MBChB MSc FRCP MD— Consultant Medical Oncologist and Co-Convenor, London Global Cancer Week, UK.



Dr Susannah Stanway is an honorary consultant medical oncologist at the Royal Marsden Hospital in the UK, specializing in breast cancer with an interest in global cancer care and has an associate honorary faculty position at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR). She is a past president of the Oncology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine where she founded and chaired the steering group of a conference that brought people together to address global cancer outcome disparities, which was

held annually between November 2016-2018. She now co-convenes London Global Cancer Week. She teaches global cancer control on several post-graduate courses in the UK (for example on the Institute of Cancer Research MSc course, UCL Global Health MSc course and The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on the Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene course) and speaks nationally and internationally. She has received three awards from the Global Challenges Research Fund to collaboratively contribute to research projects in sub-Saharan Africa and is on the editorial board of eCancer.

Ms Lisa Stevens — Director, Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)., Austria



Lisa Stevens joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in June 2019 as the Director, Division of Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). Prior to joining the Agency, Ms Stevens spent 24 years in various roles at the US National Cancer Institute (NCI). She joined NCI's Center for Global Health (CGH) as Deputy Director in 2012. At CGH, Ms Stevens worked with Ministries of Health and other multi-sectorial groups in all WHO Regions to include evidence-based policies in cancer control and/or NCD control plans. In addition, she co-founded the International Cancer Control Partnerships to organize multiple global partners working with stakeholders in cancer control. In September of 2018 a global review of plans was published in the Lancet Oncology; a second review was published in 2025.

Prof Richard Sullivan — Professor of Cancer and Global Health, King's College London, UK.



Richard Sullivan is Professor of Cancer and Global Health at King's College London. He is the Director of the Institute of Cancer Policy and Co-Director of the Centre of Conflict & Health Security. Richard is an NCD advisor to the World Health Organisation and leads the World Bank Group's cancer strategy. Richard is a Fellow with the Centre for Global Development and UK representative to the WHO International Agency for Research's Scientific Council. His Institute works on a wide range of global oncology research areas, including cancer systems strengthening, the political economy of cancer, pharmaceutical policy, and global cancer surgery. In conflict and health security, Richard has led major health systems-strengthening programs in conflict-affected ecosystems, especially in the Middle East.

The Centre for Conflict & Health Security focuses on highly securitised research areas, including bio-hybrid warfare, CBRN threats, high-threat infectious diseases, and the development of health intelligence. Richard trained in surgical oncology (urology) and combined this with a laboratory drug-discovery program. His PhD in Biochemistry from University College London focused on cell signalling pathways in cancer. His group was among the first to target the EGFR receptor.

Ms Carolyn Taylor — Global Oncology Advocate and Founder, Global Focus on Cancer., USA



Carolyn Taylor is the Founder and Executive Director of Global Focus on Cancer, a nonprofit organization working globally to advance people-centered, equitable cancer care through research, policy, implementation, and health systems strengthening. A person with lived experience of cancer, Carolyn's work focuses on integrating experiential knowledge, psychosocial and peer support, patient navigation, and sex- and gender-responsive approaches into cancer research, policy, and practice. She serves as a Commissioner on The Lancet Global Health Commission on People-Centered Care for Universal Health Coverage, was Contributing Author and Advocate Advisory Lead for The Lancet Commission on Women, Power, and Cancer, and serves on the International Cancer Control Partnership Steering Committee. Carolyn developed the Stronger Together Peer Support Program and Implementation Toolkit, an evidence-informed model adapted across multiple countries. Her work has been published in leading oncology and global health journals, and she works with the World Health Organization and other global partners to translate evidence and experiential knowledge into practice.

Dr Dario Trapani — Medical Oncologist, European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy.



Dario Trapani, MD, PhD, is an Italian medical oncologist working at the point where experimental therapeutics meets the realities of cancer care. At the European Institute of Oncology in Milan, his

clinical and academic work in breast cancer and early drug development has kept his attention on how much of medical innovation becomes meaningful benefit for patients, with a focus on how to incorporate value in the decision-making for health planning and healthcare broadly.

Prof Didier Verhoeven — Visiting Professor of Global Oncology, University of Antwerp, Belgium.



Prof. Didier Verhoeven, MD, PhD, MSc, medical oncologist , visiting Professor University of Antwerp , Belgium Dr Didier Verhoeven is a medical oncologist at AZ KLINA in Brasschaat, Belgium. He defended his PhD thesis, “Tumor Cell Proliferation and Stromal Changes in Breast Cancer,” at the University of Antwerp in 1992. He also holds a Master’s degree in Medical and Pharmaceutical Research from the University of Brussels. Alongside his clinical work, Dr Verhoeven is actively involved in global oncology and is a Visiting Professor at the University of Antwerp. In November 2021, he was invited to participate in the Lancet Breast Cancer Commission and to contribute to the Global Breast Cancer Initiative. At the end of 2025, he became Vice-Chair of the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC). In March 2026, Oxford University Press published the second open-access edition of his book, Breast Cancer: Global Quality Care, a worldwide collaborative effort involving 130 experts from 30 countries.