Meet the Panelists

Prof. Yibin Kang
Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Professor of Molecular Biology; Co-Founder, KayoThera

Yibin Kang is a Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University and an Associate Director of Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Fudan University in Shanghai in 1995. After completing his graduate study at Duke in 2000, Dr. Kang became an Irvington Institute postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Joan Massagué at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and pioneered a functional genomic approach to elucidate mechanism of breast cancer metastasis. Dr. Kang joined the faculty of Princeton University as an Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology in 2004. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2010 and to Endowed Chair Full Professor in 2012. Dr. Kang has served as the President of the Metastasis Research Society (2016-2018), Chair of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Tumor Microenvironment Working Group (2018-2019) and President of Chinese Biological Investigator Society (2018-2020).

Dr. Kang’s research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of breast cancer metastasis. His laboratory applies a multidisciplinary approach to analyze the molecular basis of cancer metastasis, combining molecular biology and genomics tools with animal models and advanced in vivo imaging technologies. His work discovered new genes that promote recurrence, metastasis and chemoresistance of breast cancer, delineated tumor-stromal interactions that are essential for metastatic growth, and identified novel regulators with dual functions in mammary gland cell fate determination and tumor progression.

Dr. Stacy Blain ’89
Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Concarlo Holdings

Dr. Blain is an Associate professor in the Depts. of Pediatrics and Cell Biology at The State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center and the inventor of two technologies licensed by Concarlo Holdings. Dr. Blain is an internationally recognized expert in cell cycle and cancer biology, and has been studying p27, CDK4 and CDK2 for more than 25 years. Her work has been published in top tier journals and cited repeatedly by Faculty of 1000; she has presented data at numerous national and international meetings, is an ad-hoc reviewer for a dozen different journals, and has been a reviewer for numerous NIH study sections. She has received research funding from the NIH, the American Cancer Society, and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund. She is a decorated teacher, mentor and educational leader. Dr. Blain wrote and directs the Cancer subunit for the SUNY Downstate Medical School Curriculum. Dr. Blain received her BA from Princeton University, her Ph.D. from Columbia University in the laboratory of Dr. Steven Goff and did her postdoctoral work with Dr. Joan Massague at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Concarlo Holdings, LLC is a startup biotechnology company, developing diagnostics and therapeutics for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. Concarlo is located in the Downstate Biotechnology incubator, has received investment from the Seed Accelerator Fund and been part of the NYCEDC Impact Program. They are currently in the pre-Series A stage.

Dr. Mark Esposito *17
Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, KayoThera

Dr. Mark Esposito is the CEO and co-founder of KayoThera, a discovery stage biotechnology company developing therapies to treat advanced cancer patients. Dr. Esposito received his B.A. from Middlebury College and his Ph.D. from Princeton University under Dr. Yibin Kang. Dr. Esposito’s work has focused on identifying the fundamental mechanisms driving solid tumor relapse and suppression of anti-tumor immunity. Translating discoveries made in the lab at Princeton University, Dr. Esposito’s team at KayoThera is developing small molecule therapeutics with the goal of curing advanced stage cancer patients.

6:00pm - 6:30pm  Check-In
6:30pm - 7:45pm  Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A
7:45pm - 8:45pm  Networking Reception

NewYork-Presbyterian David H. Koch Center, 1283 York Avenue, New York, NY
“How Genomics Are Driving Novel Therapies”

Meet the Panelists

Jacob Van Naarden ’06
Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Loxo Oncology

Jacob S. Van Naarden ’06 serves as Chief Operating Officer of Loxo Oncology at Lilly. In his previous roles, Mr. Van Naarden served in various biotechnology investing, operating, and advisory capacities. Previously, Mr. Van Naarden served as a public equity biotechnology analyst at HealthCor Management, a multi-billion-dollar healthcare-dedicated investment firm based in NYC. Prior to HealthCor, Mr. Van Naarden was an Associate at Aisling Capital, a multi-strategy healthcare investment firm based in NY. Mr. Van Naarden started his career in the Healthcare Group of the Investment Banking Division at Goldman Sachs. Mr. Van Naarden received his A.B. degree in molecular biology from Princeton University, graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Debra Yu ’86
President and Chief Business Officer, LianBio

Debra Yu, MD has 30+ years of experience in the life sciences industry as a venture capital investor, a company executive and a strategic advisor. She is currently President & CBO of LianBio, a company focused on developing therapeutic medicines in China. She has had major roles doing cross border financing and partnering transactions as Head of Cross Border Healthcare Investment Banking at China Renaissance Securities (US) and Managing Director of Labrador Advisors. Previously, Debra was a venture capital investor at Delphi Ventures and Bay City Capital; she also was a key architect of Pfizer’s corporate venture capital group which she co-led for 5 years. Previously she was VP of Strategy at WuxiApptec, a leading global CRO and earlier, she was a consultant at Mckinsey & Co in US and London/Amsterdam and an analyst at Morgan Stanley. She has a B.A. with High Honors from Princeton University in Molecular Biology and earned an M.D. from Harvard Medical School.

with opening remarks by

Dr. Laura Forese ’83 P13 P18
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian

Laura L. Forese, MD MPH, is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of NewYork-Presbyterian, including NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian Regional Hospital Network, NewYork-Presbyterian Physician Services, and NewYork-Presbyterian Population and Community Health. She is responsible for achieving NewYork-Presbyterian’s operating targets, and implementing our patient-centered strategic vision and culture across the enterprise. She joined NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in 2003 as Vice President of Medical Affairs and, since then, has held roles as Chief Medical Officer, Group Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer for NYP/Weill Cornell, NYP/Westchester and NYP/Lower Manhattan; and President of the former NYP Healthcare System.

Prior to joining NewYork-Presbyterian, Dr. Forese spent four years as Vice Chair in Columbia’s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. A pediatric orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Forese has been a Columbia faculty member since 1993 and retains her appointment as Associate Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Forese graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University, and Alpha Omega Alpha from Columbia University College of Physician and Surgeons. Dr. Forese also holds a Master of Public Health from Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health.