



LIFEFEST2026 AGENDA

Friday, July 10th

2:30 - 4:00 PM

REGISTRATION & WELCOME

3:00 - 4:00 PM

GIST 101 - Symphony I

Elizabeth Davis, MD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

SDH Deficient 101 - Blackbird Studio A/B

Andrew Blakely, MD, FACS, NIH / National Cancer Institute

MEET & GREET - Symphony Foyer

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Hosted by The Life Raft Group - Appetizers provided

Saturday, July 11th

7:30 - 8:30 AM

Symphony Foyer

REGISTRATION

Symphony II

BREAKFAST & ROUND TABLES

**Newly Diagnosed & Membership
Caregiver Support
Nutrition & Wellness**

**Financial Assistance Resources
Symptom Management
Be Your Own Advocate**

Symphony II

8:30 - 8:45 AM

Opening Remarks
The Life Raft Group

General Session - Symphony I

SDH Deficient GIST Session - Symphony III

8:45 - 9:45 AM

**The Grand Ole Update:
Latest from the GIST Stage**

Michael Heinrich, MD
Oregon Health & Science University

Neeta Somaiah, MD
MD Anderson Cancer Center

Jonathan Trent, MD, Ph.D.
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

8:45 - 9:00 AM
Opening Remarks
Becky Owens

9:00 - 9:45 AM
The Role of Surgery in SDH GIST:
An Expert Q&A

Andrew Blakely, MD, FACS,
NIH / National Cancer Institute

John Mullinax, MD
Moffitt Cancer Center

Raphael E. Pollock, MD
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

Elizabeth Lilley, MD, MPH
Brigham & Women's Hospital

9:45 - 10:15 AM

The Trial Journey:
A Conversation Between Nurse and Patient
Amanda Nolen, BSN, RN, *Vanderbilt University
Medical Center*

SDH-Deficient GIST Patient Support Group
Moderator: Becky Owens

10:15 - 10:30 AM

BREAK

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Open Mic with the Oncologists
Moderator: *Denisse Evans*

Jonathan Trent, MD, PhD
*Sylvester Comprehensive
Cancer Center*

Breelyn Wilky, MD
*University of Colorado
Cancer Center Anschutz*

Ciara Kelly, MD
*Memorial Sloan
Kettering Cancer Center*

Margaret von Mehren, MD
Fox Chase Cancer Center

Mauricio Ribeiro, MD
Moffitt Cancer Center

Center Stage: SDH Research & Clinical Trials

Michael Heinrich, MD
Oregon Health & Science University

Andrew Blakely, MD, FACS
NIH / National Cancer Institute

Ramesh Bulusu, MD, MRCP, MSc, FRCR
PAWS-GIST Clinic

	Symphony I	Symphony III		
11:30 - 12:30 PM	<p>The Role of Surgery in GIST: An Expert Q&A</p> <p>John Mullinax, MD <i>Moffitt Cancer Center</i></p> <p>Andrew Blakely, MD, FACS <i>NIH / National Cancer Institute</i></p> <p>Raphael E. Pollock, MD <i>The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Lilley, MD, MPH <i>Brigham and Women's Hospital</i></p> <p>Deepa Magge, MD, FACS <i>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</i></p>	<p>SDH Panel - Open Mic with the Oncologists</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Jonathan Trent, MD, PhD <i>Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center</i></p> <p>Ramesh Bulusu, MD MRCP, MSc, FRCR <i>PAWS-GIST Clinic</i></p> <p>Vicki Keedy, MD <i>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</i></p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Ciara Kelly, MD <i>Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</i></p> <p>Neeta Somaiah, MD <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i></p> <p>Michael Heinrich, MD <i>Oregon Health & Science University</i></p> </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Margaret von Mehren, MD <i>Fox Chase Cancer Center</i></p>	<p>Jonathan Trent, MD, PhD <i>Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center</i></p> <p>Ramesh Bulusu, MD MRCP, MSc, FRCR <i>PAWS-GIST Clinic</i></p> <p>Vicki Keedy, MD <i>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</i></p>	<p>Ciara Kelly, MD <i>Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</i></p> <p>Neeta Somaiah, MD <i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i></p> <p>Michael Heinrich, MD <i>Oregon Health & Science University</i></p>
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	Symphony II			
12:30 - 2:00 PM	LUNCH & AWARDS CEREMONY			
2:00 - 2:15 PM	BREAK			
	Symphony I	Symphony III		
2:15 - 3:00 PM	<p>Side Effect Management</p> <p>Morgan Lambrecht, DNP, APRN, FNP-C <i>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</i></p>	<p>Interventional Radiology</p> <p>Meaghan Dendy Case, MD, MA <i>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</i></p>		

	Symphony I	Symphony III
3:00 - 3:45 PM	<p align="center">Women Treating Women Panel</p> <p>Vicki Keedy, MD Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Morgan Lambrecht, DNP, APRN, FNP-C Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Erica Pimenta, MD Dana-Farber Cancer Institute</p> <p>Breelyn Wilky, MD University of Colorado Cancer Center Anschutz</p> <p>Ciara Kelly, MD Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</p> <p>Margaret von Mehren, MD Fox Chase Cancer Center</p> <p>Neeta Somaiah, MD MD Anderson Cancer Center</p> <p>Elizabeth Lilley, MD, MPH Brigham and Women's Hospital</p> <p>Deepa Magge, MD, FACS Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p>	<p align="center">Patient Voices: Living with GIST <i>Stories of strength, insight, and the journey beyond diagnosis.</i></p> <p>Robbie Cannon Karen Dalal Martha Smart Chris Goldsmith</p>
3:45 - 4:30 PM	<p align="center">Ask the Specialists:</p> <p>Nephrology - Hunter Huston, MD, FASN Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Cardiology - Jonathan Heimlich, MD, PhD Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p>	<p align="center">Caring for the Whole You: <i>Wellness & Integrative Health</i></p> <p>Sarah Murawski, PA Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Cristina Kline-Quiroz, DO Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Loretta Mostofi Liposarcoma Advocate</p>
	Sunday, July 12th	
	Meet in Lobby	
7:00 - 7:30 AM	Walk for Hope Registration	
7:30 - 8:00 AM	Walk for Hope Vanderbilt University Courtyard	
	Symphony II	
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast	

	Symphony I		
9:00 - 9:30 AM	The Power of Music Jess Knoble, MT-BC		
	Symphony III		
9:30 - 10:45 AM	Nutrition Knowing How to Research Learning More About SDH-Deficient GIST Shape What Comes Next: Enrolling in the Registry to Empower Research	Interactive Workshops Advocating for Your Care: Navigating Insurance, Access, and Your Rights Emotional & Mental Health Resource Navigation	Supportive & Palliative Care Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (GIST Specific) GIST Mentor Program
	Symphony I		
10:45 - 11:15 AM	Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Cancer Care Nizar Allibhoy <i>Founder & CEO, Kerry Care</i>		
11:15 - 11:45 AM	Introducing the LRG Patient Registry Denisse Evans, MS <i>The Life Raft Group</i>		
11:45 - 12:00 PM	Closing Remarks Sara Rothschild, MPH, Executive Director - The Life Raft Group		

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