



INTERNATIONAL
THYROID ONCOLOGY
GROUP

WINTER 2025
NEWSLETTER

MOMENTUM IN MOTION:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ITOG 2025 ANNUAL MEETING COLLABORATION, INNOVATION, AND PROGRESS IN THYROID ONCOLOGY

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG) was held April 15–17 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, hosted by **Thomas Giordano, MD, PhD**, Professor of Anatomic Pathology at the University of Michigan, and **Frank Worden, MD**, Clinical Professor of Medical Oncology, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics at the University of Michigan. The meeting was chaired by **Laura Boucai, MD**, Endocrinologist, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and **Christine Spitzweg, MD**, Professor of Medicine and Endocrinology and Metabolism, University Hospital of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. The meeting brought together researchers, clinicians, and industry partners from around the world to share the latest discoveries and strengthen collaboration in the fight against advanced thyroid cancers.



From cutting-edge cell therapies to innovative tumor registries, this year's program showcased the progress made possible through multi-institutional partnerships, reflecting ITOG's mission to catalyze the cure of advanced thyroid cancer through collaboration, discovery, and compassion.

KEYNOTE SESSIONS: ADVANCING PRECISION AND ACCESS IN CARE

The meeting opened with a keynote by **Nancy Lee, MD**, an expert radiation oncologist and early drug development specialist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Lee outlined a new framework for *personalizing radiation therapy* in high-risk, non-operable thyroid cancers. Her innovative approach aims to deliver effective and less intensive treatments, aligning therapy with each patient's biology and specific needs.

Arul Chinnaiyan, MD, PhD, the SP Hicks Endowed Professor of Pathology at the University of Michigan, followed with insights into *targeting cancer metabolism*. His research explores how blocking key molecular pathways can drive tumor cells into "metabolic collapse," a promising concept that could one day inform new therapies for aggressive thyroid cancers.



The final keynote, delivered by **Megan Haymart, MD**, a professor at the University of Michigan with a specialty in endocrinology and internal medicine, addressed the *patient experience*, focusing on access to clinical trials, systemic therapies, and long-term support for survivors. Dr. Haymart's talk underscored the importance of equitable care and continued research investment.

SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIA: PROGRESS ACROSS TUMOR TYPES

The **Differentiated Thyroid Cancer (DTC)** session examined progress in overcoming treatment resistance and improving the prediction of disease risk. Presentations included research on genetic factors influencing response to therapy, novel combinations of targeted drugs, and the growing use of global tumor registries (like the *World Tumor Registry*) to unify data and improve understanding across populations.

The **Oncocytic Thyroid Cancer (OTC)** symposium highlighted new insights into how mitochondrial DNA mutations affect tumor growth and immunity. Presenters discussed emerging strategies that combine *metabolic therapies* with *immunotherapy*, offering new hope for this difficult-to-treat subtype.

In the **Medullary Thyroid Cancer (MTC)** session, experts explored early results from *CAR-T cell therapy* trials, the development of a new international *histologic grading system*, and the expansion of the *Medullary Thyroid Cancer Collaborative Registry (MTCCoRe)*, a vital resource that supports global research and patient engagement.

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OUR MISSION

A patient-centered, multidisciplinary team dedicated to discovering innovative treatments, facilitating clinical trials, promoting global scientific collaboration, and leading educational initiatives in advanced thyroid cancers.

Therapeutic Innovation and Clinical Trials

One of the most forward-looking sessions centered on *redifferentiation therapy* or approaches that aim to restore cancer cells' ability to absorb radioactive iodine (RAI). Memorial Sloan Kettering's **Alan Ho, MD, PhD**, presented promising early data combining RAI with *immune checkpoint inhibitors*, suggesting that immune responses may play a key role in treatment success.

The **Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer (ATC)** symposium, which focused on one of the most aggressive forms of the disease, featured presentations on new therapeutic technologies, including:

- **Single-cell RNA sequencing** to identify new molecular targets (**Bryan Haugen, MD**, the Mary Rossick Kern and Jerome J. Kern Chair in Endocrine Neoplasms Research at the University of Colorado Anschutz).
- **Personalized mRNA-lipid nanoparticle vaccines** designed to activate the immune system against tumor cells (**Natalie Silver, MD**, Head and Neck Surgical Oncology, Cleveland Clinic).
- **Adjuvant immunotherapy with pembrolizumab**, shown to improve survival when added to multimodal therapy (**Maria Cabanillas, MD**, Oncologic Endocrinologist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center).

Researchers also highlighted progress in *neoadjuvant therapy* (treatment given before surgery) to improve outcomes in advanced cases. ITOG-supported studies are exploring targeted therapies such as *selpercatinib* and *zanzalintinib* as potential new standards of care.

A MESSAGE FROM ITOG'S NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear ITOG Members and Supporters,

It is an honor to write to you as the new Chief Executive Officer of the International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG). I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to join this extraordinary community of researchers, clinicians, and advocates united by a shared purpose: improving outcomes for patients facing rare and aggressive thyroid cancers.

Since its founding, ITOG has been defined by collaboration and the commitment of its members. Across institutions and disciplines, you have pioneered clinical trials, advanced new therapeutic approaches, and brought hope to patients and families who often have few options. That collaborative spirit is the heartbeat of ITOG. I am both humbled and determined to uphold this legacy.

As I step into this role, I aim to honor that tradition while helping position ITOG for its next chapter of growth and impact. Together, we have an opportunity to further our mission, strengthen partnerships, and share the remarkable stories of innovation and collaboration that define our work.

Over the coming months, we will advance several initiatives to help us do just that, including improving our website, enhancing member communications, and preparing for what promises to be another terrific Annual Meeting. We are also looking to expand our industry partnerships, which are essential to advancing our collaborative research and supporting ITOG's leading-edge studies. Each of these efforts is rooted in a simple goal: to make it easier for our community to connect, collaborate, and carry forward the mission that has guided ITOG since its founding.

This work also holds deep personal meaning for me. In 2020, my father was diagnosed with anaplastic thyroid cancer. Thanks to the work of ITOG and the

Pediatric Thyroid Cancer and Future Directions

The **Pediatric Thyroid Cancer** symposium underscored the importance of tailoring treatments for young patients, whose cancers often differ genetically from adult disease. Presenters emphasized the need to balance therapy effectiveness with long-term quality of life, given the high cure rates but lifelong impact of treatment decisions.

The meeting concluded with updates on ITOG-sponsored clinical trials, including work investigating targeted therapies, combination treatments, and the biology of treatment resistance. These studies represent the collective effort of investigators across multiple institutions and countries, united by ITOG's collaborative framework.

A Community Moving Forward

The 2025 ITOG Annual Meeting reaffirmed the organization's central role in advancing global collaboration and innovation in thyroid oncology. Each session reflected ITOG's enduring mission, to bring together the world's leading experts to accelerate discovery, improve care, and offer new hope to patients facing rare and challenging thyroid cancers.

Dr. Randolph at the Big House during the Annual Meeting at University of Michigan.



We are so pleased to welcome our new ITOG CEO, Patrick Fiorenza. This represents a substantial landmark in the positive evolution of our wonderful organization. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Board, and the broader ITOG membership, we welcome Pat to his new role. I cannot think of a better individual to help lead us to our bright horizon.
Greg Randolph, President

dedication of many of its physicians, he is now cancer-free and thriving. I have seen firsthand how collaboration and innovation can change lives, and that lived experience fuels my commitment to advancing ITOG's mission every day.

On a personal note, I live in Baldwinsville, New York (a suburb of Syracuse) with my wife, an accountant, and our three young children (ages 3, 5, and 7), who keep us joyfully on our toes. I hold a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School and recently completed my PhD at the University at Buffalo, where my research focused on AI literacy and career readiness.

Thank you for your warm welcome and for the passion you bring to ITOG's mission. I look forward to getting to know you, learning from your expertise, and working together to advance the field of thyroid oncology.

With gratitude,

Patrick J. Fiorenza, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
International Thyroid Oncology Group
patrick@itog.org



ITOG's new CEO, Patrick Fiorenza, with his wife, Kate, and their children Bridget (7), Henry (5), and Maura (3).

DRIVING DISCOVERY:

UPDATES FROM ITOG STUDIES & REGISTRIES

The International Thyroid Oncology Group’s (ITOG) research initiatives reflect our commitment to advancing discovery through collaboration. From facilitating groundbreaking clinical trials to expanding our registry-based research, these projects highlight the collective expertise and innovation of our global network. Each initiative represents a step forward in understanding, treating, and ultimately curing advanced thyroid cancer. The table below highlights key studies and collaborative efforts that continue to shape the future of thyroid oncology.

Table 1. ITOG Completed Studies

Name	Number	Drug	Status
The Combination Targeted Therapy With Pembrolizumab and Lenvatinib in Progressive, Radioiodine-Refractory (RAIR) Differentiated Thyroid Cancers (DTC): A Phase II Study	NCT02973997	Pembrolizumab and Lenvatinib	Completed. Results published.
An Open-Label, Single-Arm, Multicenter, Phase 2 Trial of Lenvatinib for the Treatment of Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer (ATC)	NCT02657369	Lenvatinib	Completed. Results published.
Phase II Study of XL184 (Cabozantinib) in Combination With Nivolumab and Ipilimumab (CaboNivolpi) in Patients With Radioiodine-Refractory Differentiated Thyroid Cancer Whose Cancer Progressed After One Prior VEGFR-Targeted Therapy	NCT03914300	Cabozantinib, Ipilimumab, Nivolumab	Completed. Results published.
Randomized Double-Blind Phase II Study of Radioactive Iodine (RAI) in Combination With Placebo or Selumetinib for the Treatment of RAI-Avid Recurrent/Metastatic Thyroid Cancer	NCT02393690	Selumetinib	Completed accrual. Not yet published.
Phase II Study of Cabozantinib in Patients With Radioiodine-Refractory Differentiated Thyroid Cancer Who Progressed on Prior VEGFR-Targeted Therapy	NCT01811212	Cabozantinib	Completed. Results published.
A Phase 1/2 Study of Oral Selpercatinib (LOXO-292) in Patients With Advanced Solid Tumors, Including RET Fusion-Positive Solid Tumors, Medullary Thyroid Cancer, and Other Tumors With RET Activation (LIBRETTO-001)	NCT03157128	Selpercatinib	Completed. Results published.
Randomized Phase II Study of Sorafenib With or Without Everolimus in Patients With Radioactive Iodine Refractory Hurthle Cell Thyroid Cancer	NCT02143726	Sorafenib and Everolimus	Completed. Results published.

Table 2. Current ITOG Clinical Trials

Name	Number	Drug	Status
Neoadjuvant Treatment With Selpercatinib in RET-Altered Thyroid Cancers	NCT04759911	Selpercatinib	Enrollment completed. Data presented at ATA 2025
Restoration of Radioiodine Uptake With Selpercatinib in RET Fusion-Positive Radioiodine-Refractory Thyroid Cancer: A Phase 2 Study Performed in Collaboration With the International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG)	NCT05668962	Selpercatinib	This study was closed by the sponsor due to slow accrual.
A Phase 1 Trial of Concurrent Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) and Dabrafenib and Trametinib in BRAF Mutated Anaplastic or Poorly Differentiated Thyroid Cancer	COH 21308	Dabrafenib, Trametinib, and Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy	Actively recruiting at City of Hope. Open at Michigan, OSU, and MD Anderson.

Table 3. Current ITOG Registries

Name	Description	Status
Multi-Institutional Medullary Thyroid Cancer (MTC) Collaborative Registry	Collect MTC patient clinical data into REDCap repository for analysis.	Collection occurring at four ITOG member institutions.
Acquired Resistance Registry	Collect information on patients that progress on standard kinase inhibitor therapy into a REDCap repository for analysis.	Based at Royal North Shore in Australia with 10 ITOG member institutions active and data being collected.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION:

UPDATES FROM OUR CORPORATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The **Corporate Leadership Council (CLC)** continues to play a vital role in advancing the International Thyroid Oncology Group's (ITOG) mission by strengthening partnerships with industry and expanding financial support for research initiatives. Industry investment has grown steadily over the past three years, reflecting the success of the CLC's outreach and engagement efforts.

Under the leadership of **Laura Boucai, MD**, Endocrinologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and new co-chair, **Whitney Goldner, MD**, Professor of Medicine, Division Head Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes, at the University of Colorado, the Council continues to deepen its dialogue with existing partners while expanding discussions around future collaborative research opportunities.

We are deeply grateful to our **Corporate Leadership Council partners**, whose commitment and collaboration have helped accelerate discovery and

fund ITOG's scientific initiatives. Their ongoing support strengthens our shared mission to improve outcomes for patients with thyroid cancer.

Looking ahead, ITOG aims to further integrate CLC partners into the organization's core activities, inviting participation in webinars, registry discussions, and correlative science initiatives.

Our partners include:

- Bayer
- Exelixis
- Eisai
- Lilly
- FORE



ITOG BOARD ANNUAL RETREAT:

STRENGTHENING FOCUS, COLLABORATION, AND GROWTH

The International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG) held its 2025 Board Retreat in June at Massachusetts Eye and Ear. The meeting brought together ITOG Board members, including ITOG President and meeting host **Gregory Randolph, MD, FCS, FACE**, Director of the Division of Thyroid and Parathyroid Endocrine Surgical Service at Massachusetts Eye and Ear and Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Harvard Medical School; Secretary **Laura Boucai, MD**, Endocrinologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Protocol Chair **Frank Worden, MD**, Clinical Professor of Medical Oncology, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics at the University of Michigan; Correlative Science Chair **Alan Ho, MD, PhD**, Medical Oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; San Francisco; and **Dwight Vicks, CFO** and Co-Founder of ITOG.

REAFFIRMING CORE MISSION

Dr. Randolph opened the meeting by expressing gratitude for the dedication of all members to ITOG's mission. The Board reaffirmed that **facilitating clinical trials**, advancing **ITOG registries**, and expanding **correlative studies** remain central to the organization's work. ITOG will continue to support the scientific and clinical collaborations that have defined the group since its founding, uniting experts to bring new treatments to patients with rare and aggressive thyroid cancers.

REGISTRIES AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Registries remain a vital component of ITOG's mission, serving as powerful complements to clinical trials. ITOG has committed **\$200,000 to the Medullary Thyroid Cancer Registry (MTCCoRe)** and recently approved funding for the **Neoadjuvant Registry**. Leaders emphasized that registries provide essential real-world insights, capturing patient experiences that may be underrepresented in clinical trials.

CORRELATIVE SCIENCE AND FUNDING INNOVATION

Support for correlative studies remains a top priority. These studies address key scientific questions often not funded by industry but critical to advancing new therapies. ITOG funded \$100,000 for the **Oncocytic Research Initiative**, led by **Ian Ganly, MD, PhD**, Head and Neck Surgeon, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer

Center, and **David McFadden, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center, with coordination by **Bryan Haugen, MD**, Endocrinologist, University of Colorado Anschutz, was highlighted as a model for collaborative research success.

REFINING ITOG'S MISSION

As part of the 2025 Board Retreat, the ITOG Board began work on a refreshed mission statement designed to clearly express the organization's purpose, focus, and collaborative spirit. Drawing from guiding themes of *discovery*, *collaboration*, and *translational clinical science*, the new mission reaffirms ITOG's commitment to uniting the world's leading experts in pursuit of innovative treatments and improved patient outcomes.

NEW MISSION STATEMENT

ITOG's updated mission captures who ITOG is today, an organization grounded in collaboration, inspired by discovery, and steadfast in its pursuit of a cure. We are proud to share our new mission statement:

A patient-centered, multidisciplinary team dedicated to discovering innovative treatments, facilitating clinical trials, promoting global scientific collaboration, and leading educational initiatives in advanced thyroid cancers.

ITOG proudly retains its enduring tagline: *Catalyzing a cure for thyroid cancer.*

A FOCUSED PATH FORWARD

The retreat concluded with a shared commitment to remain focused, collaborative, and mission-driven. As Dr. Randolph summarized, ITOG's future depends on its ability to *"match purpose with resources, and people with opportunity."*

Through renewed focus, expanded partnerships, and continued scientific excellence, ITOG is well-positioned to enter its next chapter of growth, advancing discovery, education, and patient care for those facing advanced thyroid cancer.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW ITOG MEMBERS!

We are delighted to welcome our newest members to the International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG)! Each new addition to our community brings unique expertise, perspective, and energy to our shared mission of advancing research and improving care for patients with thyroid cancer. Our strength is our people, the researchers, clinicians, advocates, and partners, who work collaboratively to accelerate discovery, translating science into meaningful impact. We look forward to engaging with our new members!

- Myriem N. Boufraqueh, MD, PhD – NCI – MD, USA
- Matti L. Gild, MD, PhD – Royal North Shore Hospital – Sydney, Australia
- Sarah Hamidi, MD – MD Anderson Cancer Center – TX, USA
- Tania Jaber, MD – Hamad Medical Corporation – Doha, Qatar
- Ken Kazahaya, MD – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia – PA, USA
- Hisham Mehanna, MD, PhD – University of Birmingham – Birmingham, UK
- Theodora Pappa, MD, PhD – Brigham and Women’s Hospital – MA, USA
- Jong-In J. Park, MD, PhD – Medical College of Wisconsin – WI, USA

- Jennifer Rosen, MD – Georgetown University School of Medicine – DC, USA
- Mona Sabra, MD – Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center – NY, USA
- Kartik Sehgal, MD – Dana Farber Cancer Institute – MA, USA
- Steven Waguespack, MD – MD Anderson Cancer Center – TX, USA
- Johnathan Wasserman, MD – The Hospital for Sick Children – Toronto, CA
- Siddharth Sheth, MD – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – NC, USA

Membership in ITOG is open to clinicians, researchers, and professionals committed to improving outcomes for patients with thyroid cancer. Members gain access to ITOG committees, working groups, and collaborative research opportunities, as well as updates on the latest studies, clinical trials, and educational events.



2025-2026

ITOG LEADERSHIP

The International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG) Executive Committee and Board of Directors provide strategic leadership and oversight to advance ITOG’s mission of catalyzing a cure for the most challenging thyroid cancers. The Board brings together leading clinicians, scientists, and advocates from renowned institutions worldwide, representing a range of disciplines including endocrinology, medical and surgical oncology, pathology, and translational research.

ITOG Board of Directors Includes:

Member	Institution	Title
Gregory W. Randolph, MD, FACS	Massachusetts Eye and Ear / Harvard Medical School	President
Laura Boucai, MD	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Secretary
Alan Ho, MD, PhD	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Correlative Science Committee Chair
Francis Worden, MD	University of Michigan	Protocol Committee Chair
Dwight Vicks, MBA	Vicks Print / ITOG Board Member	Chief Financial Officer
Patrick Fiorenza, PhD	International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG)	Chief Executive Officer
Lindsay Bischoff, MD	Vanderbilt University Medical Center	Member at Large
Naifa Busaidy, MD	MD Anderson Cancer Center	Membership Committee Chair
Ian Ganly, MD, PhD	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	Member at Large
Carmelo Nucera, MD, PhD	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School	Website & Communications Committee Chair
Julie Ann Sosa, MD	University of California, San Francisco	Finance Committee Chair
Sarimar N. Agosto Salgado, MD	Moffitt Cancer Center	Member at Large
Victor Bernet, MD	Mayo Clinic	Member at Large
Christine Spitzweg, MD	University Hospital Munich, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich	International Member Seat
Laura Fugazzola, MD	University of Milan / Fondazione IRCCS Ca’ Granda	International Member Seat



ITOG IN ACTION

The ITOG Annual Meeting is the premier event in thyroid oncology, sharing the latest scientific advancements in the field. Below are some additional photos from the 2025 Annual Meeting.



SUPPORT ITOG'S MISSION

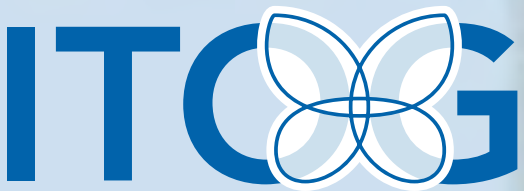
Your generosity helps fuel ITOG's mission to catalyze a cure for the most challenging thyroid cancers. Every contribution directly supports our collaborative research efforts, educational programming, and research initiatives that bring new hope to patients and families worldwide. By giving to ITOG, you invest in a community of scientists, physicians, and advocates dedicated to advancing discovery and improving outcomes. To make a tax-deductible donation or learn more about how your support makes a difference, please visit <https://itog.org/page/Philanthropy> or scan the QR Code.

INFORMATION FOR PLANNED GIVING

Some families are in a unique position to make ongoing contributions to ITOG. Please contact us by email to discuss planned giving: patrick@itog.org.

If you prefer to send a personal check, please mail donations to:

Treasurer, ITOG
P.O. Box 270
Yorkville, NY 13495



When Jean Vicks learned of her metastatic thyroid cancer, she turned her fear into action. She inspired leading medical experts to create the organization known as the International Thyroid Oncology Group.



YOU CAN HELP

DONATE NOW

