



DR. STEPHEN A. HARRISON
PATIENT
ADVOCACY
FELLOWSHIP

Advancing Patient Partnership in Liver Research and Drug Development

Elena Samsonova, CMP
Program Manager

Liver Forum 20
March 6, 2026





A Legacy of Science and Humanity



Col. Stephen A. Harrison, MD, FAASLD
1969 - 2024

“ *We cannot lose sight of the patients behind the science . Their stories and struggles drive our research and innovation .* ”

“ *Innovation does not happen in isolation . It requires collaboration, dedication, and a persistent focus on the needs of the community we serve .* ”



A Legacy of Science and Humanity



Col. Stephen A. Harrison, MD, FAASLD
1969 - 2024

Dr. Stephen A. Harrison's pioneering work in metabolic liver disease has reshaped the field by embedding patient perspectives directly into research, clinical care, and policy .

The Harrison Fellowship honors his vision by empowering patient advocates to become equal partners in advancing liver health innovation .



Why This Fellowship Was Created

Evolving Research Landscape

- Steatotic liver diseases like MASH and ALD are becoming central to liver research and drug development.
- New therapeutics are advancing rapidly through clinical trials and regulatory review.
- This dynamic environment requires up-to-date patient input to ensure research relevance and patient-centered outcomes.
- Meaningful patient engagement is crucial to improve trial design, recruitment, and regulatory decisions.

Gap in Patient Engagement

- Patients are often invited to discussions without adequate training in scientific or regulatory concepts.
- Lack of preparation limits their ability to contribute meaningfully to clinical trial design and policy discussions.
- This creates a disconnect between patient needs and research processes, weakening study relevance and impact.
- The Fellowship addresses this by equipping advocates with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage effectively.



From Voice to Partnership

Patient stories showed us where the road was difficult . Partnership allows patients to design the road ahead .

The future of patient engagement is an equal partnership .





Building a Fellowship for Impact

EDUCATION

- Foundations of regulatory science and clinical trial design
- Expert-led sessions with leading voices in liver health

01

MENTORSHIP

- Guidance from clinical research, regulatory science, industry, and advocacy leaders
- Personalized support to advance Fellows' goals

02

ENGAGEMENT & NETWORKING

- Participation in liver research meetings and industry forums
- Connections with research, policy, industry, and clinical trial communities

03

GROUP SUPPORT

- Collaborative network of Fellows
- Diversity of backgrounds and advocacy experience

04

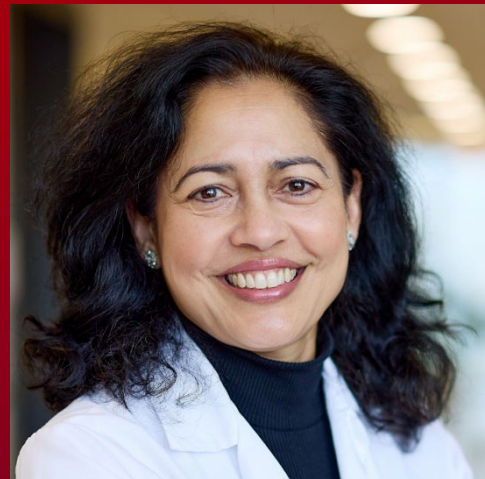


Powered by Collaboration

Mentors



Dr. Naim Alkhouri



Dr. Meena B. Bansal



Gina Bartes



Dr. Michael P. Cooreman



Jenn Leigh Jones



Dr. Fasiha Kanwal



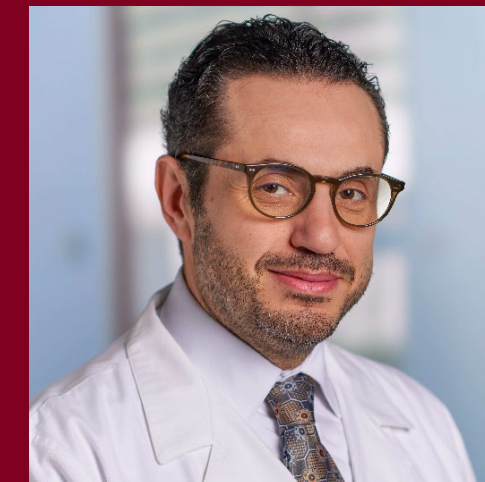
Dr. Tania Kamphaus



Dr. George A. Makar



Dr. Veronica Miller



Dr. Mazen Nouredin

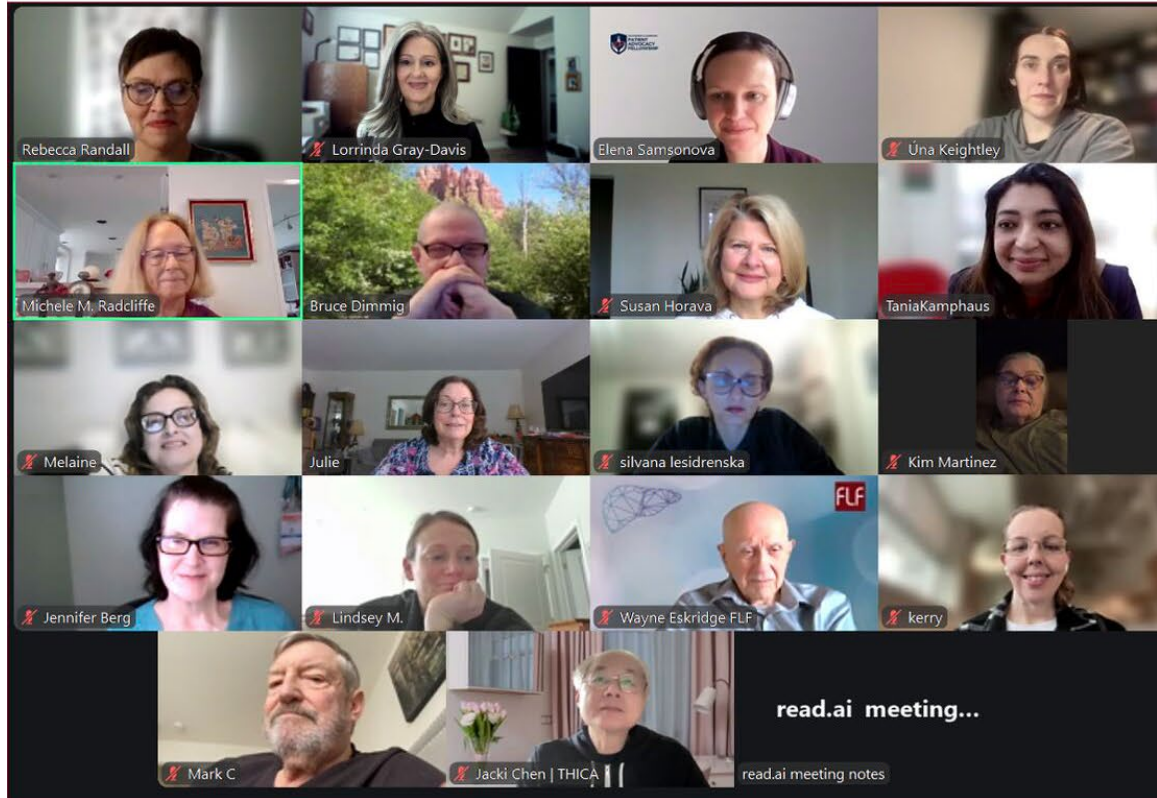


Dr. Maru Rinella



Powered by Collaboration

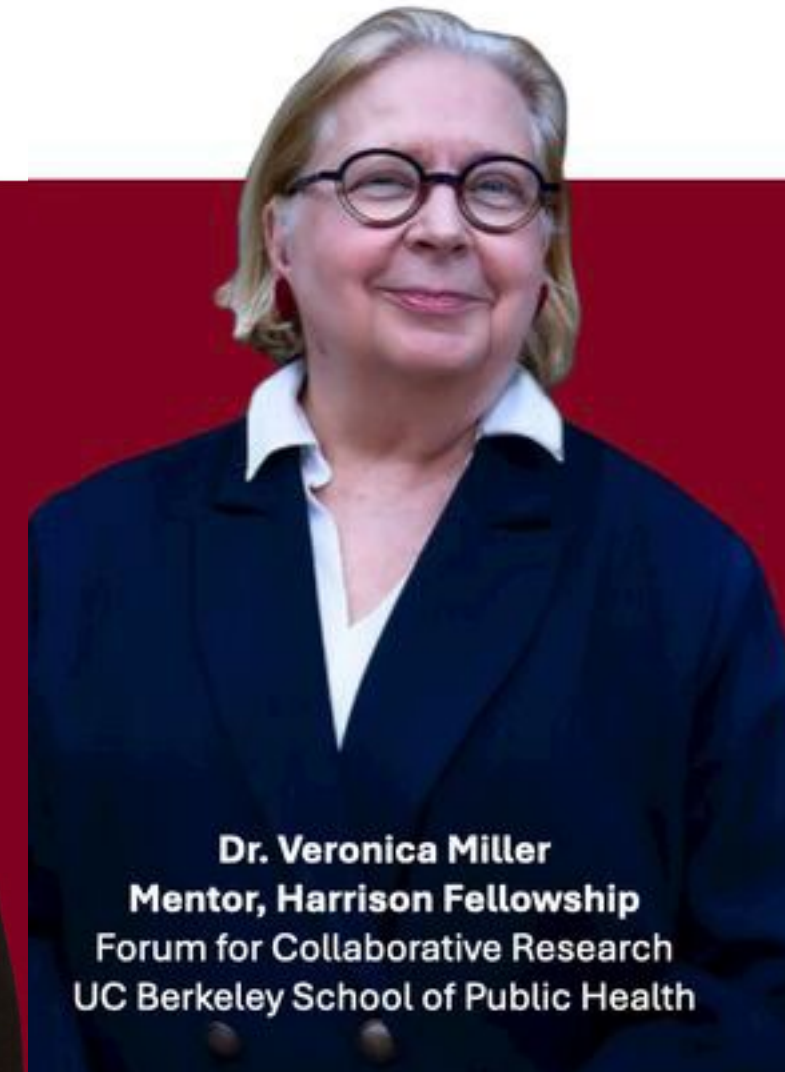
Mentors



The inaugural Fellowship is supported by Madrigal Pharmaceuticals.



Dr. Tania Kamphaus
Mentor, Harrison Fellowship
Foundation for the National Institutes of Health



Dr. Veronica Miller
Mentor, Harrison Fellowship
Forum for Collaborative Research
UC Berkeley School of Public Health



Dr. Michael P. Cooreman
Mentor, Harrison Fellowship



Where Fellows Add Value

→ Patient Perspective

Fellows ensure clinical trials focus on outcomes that truly matter to patients, highlighting patient burden and priorities.

→ Trial Design

They contribute insights on endpoint selection and protocol feasibility to improve trial relevance and accessibility.

→ Recruitment and Retention

Fellows identify barriers to participation and help design strategies to boost enrollment and keep patients engaged.

→ Benefit –Risk & Regulatory Discussions

By sharing real -world patient experiences, fellows strengthen regulatory evaluations and foster transparent decision -making.



Meet the 2025–2026 Fellows

Jennifer Berg (Texas, USA)

Jacki Chen (New Jersey, USA)

Mark Curran (Massachusetts, USA)

Bruce D. Dimmig (Arizona, USA)

Lorrinda Gray-Davis (Texas, USA)

Susan Horava (Ohio, USA)

Marianthi Kavelidou (Massachusetts, USA)

Úna Keightley (Ireland)

Silvana Lesidrenska (Bulgaria)

Kimberly Alice Martinez (Oklahoma, USA)

Pamela S. Miller (Ohio, USA)

Rebecca Anne Randall (Ohio, USA)

Lindsey Ruth Moore (North Carolina, USA)

Julie Peyaut (Canada)

Gabriela Portugal -Bouza (Utah, USA)

Michele M. Radcliffe (California, USA)

Kerry Marie Sivia (Illinois, USA)

Melaine Smith (Kansas, USA)

Jennifer Thorp (Washington, USA)



Meet the 2025–2026 Fellows



Harrison Fellows and FLF Team at the Liver Meeting 2025. Photo by Taylor Mickal (www.TaylorMickal.com)



Meet the 2025–2026 Fellows

Disease Areas Where Fellows Bring Experience

MASLD / MASH

METALD / ALD

HBV & MASH

CIRRHOSIS

PRE- & POST-LIVER
TRANSPLANTATION



Program Governance

Inaugural Cohort Selection Committee



Mike Betel, MS, MSc
*Founder and President
Fatty Liver Alliance*



Wayne Eskridge, BSEE
*Co-Founder and CEO
Fatty Liver Foundation*



**Maraika Geisterfer-
Black, MScGH**
*Advocacy, Policy, and
Public Health
Programme Manager
European Association for
the Study of the Liver
(EASL)*



Jeff McIntyre, MA
*Vice President of Liver
Health Programs
Global Liver Institute*



**Michael Providence,
CAE**
*Director of Policy and
Planning
American Association for
the Study of Liver
Diseases (AASLD)*



Amy Trang, PhD, Med
*Founder and CEO
Social Capital Solutions, Inc.*



José Willemse, MSc
*Board Member
Liver Patients
International*



How Stakeholders Can Collaborate

Clinical Trial Sponsors

- Involve Fellows in protocol review to ensure patient-centric design and feasibility.
- Include Fellows on patient advisory boards to gather real-world insights.
- Collaborate on recruitment strategies to improve enrollment and retention rates.

Researchers

- Engage Fellows in study design discussions to align research with patient priorities.
- Incorporate Fellows' feedback on patient burden and endpoint selection.
- Partner with Fellows for dissemination of findings to patient communities.

Policy and Regulatory Leaders

- Include Fellows in advisory panels for regulatory guidance and patient engagement frameworks.
- Leverage Fellows' lived experience to inform benefit-risk assessments.
- Use Fellows to enhance transparency and trust in regulatory decision-making.

Advocacy Organizations

- Collaborate with Fellows to amplify the patient voice across liver disease communities.
- Co-develop educational materials and outreach campaigns.
- Support Fellows' participation in scientific and policy forums to strengthen advocacy impact.



Powered by Collaboration

Education Partner

The University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health

Inaugural Sponsor

Madrigal Pharmaceuticals



Join Us in Building the Future of Patient Advocacy

- ✓ **Support Sustainability** as a 2026 sustaining sponsor
- ✓ **Stay Connected** through the Fellowship website



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