

# BCRFA MEDICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

As of May 2023



## OVERVIEW

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama's Medical Advisory Council is a group of volunteer scientists that assist in raising awareness for the organization's mission, especially within the breast cancer research community, ensuring the most-promising research initiatives from across Alabama are submitted for consideration to the BCRFA upon its annual Request for Proposals. All experts in their field, members assist with a scientific review of the proposals received, guaranteeing that the resources invested by the BCRFA are advancing innovative, dynamic ideas.

## MEMBERS



**Deepa Bedi, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Tuskegee University** (Tuskegee, AL)

*Associate Professor, Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine*

**Research Focus Area:** Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC)



**Joel L. Berry, Ph.D.**

**Astound Research, Inc.** (Birmingham, AL)

*Chief Scientific Officer*

**Research Focus Area:** Design and development of 3D tissue engineered systems for human tumor development



**Rebecca J. Boohaker, Ph.D.**

**Southern Research** (Birmingham, AL)

*Associate Fellow, Oncology*

**Research Focus Area:** Biochemical mechanisms that drive cancer initiation and progression.



**Karim I. Budhwani, Ph.D.**

**CerFlux** (Birmingham, AL)

*CEO-Scientist*

**Research Focus Area:** Micro and nanomedicine



**Sara Cooper, Ph.D.**

**HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology** (Huntsville, AL)

*Faculty Investigator*

**Research Focus Area:** Understanding mechanisms of cancer pathology, progression, and chemoresistance



**Andres Forero-Torres, M.D.**

**Seagen** (Bothell, WA)

*Global Development Lead, Early-Stage Clinical Development*

*Innaugural holder of the O'Neal-Sokol BCRFA Endowed Chair at UAB*

**Research Focus Area:** Breast cancer and hematology, specializing in translating lab successes to patient care via clinical trials



**Manoj K. Mishra, Ph.D.**

**Alabama State University** (Montgomery, AL)

*Professor and Director, Cancer Biology Research and Training Program*

**Research Focus Area:** The role of dietary compounds, microbial metabolites, and immune cells in cancer development and progression



**Omar Moukha-Chafiq, Ph.D.**

**Southern Research** (Birmingham, AL)

*Principal Scientist*

**Research Focus Area:** Medicinal chemistry, small molecules organic synthesis and nucleoside analogs chemistry



**Shreyas S. Rao, Ph.D.**

**University of Alabama** (Tuscaloosa, AL)

*Associate Professor, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering*

**Research Focus Area:** The role of microenvironment in cancer progression, therapeutic response, and resistance



**Gabrielle Rocque, M.D., MSPH**

**University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)** (Birmingham, AL)

*Associate Professor of Medicine in the Divisions of Hematology & Oncology and Gerontology, Geriatrics, & Palliative Care*

**Research Focus Area:** Healthcare delivery for cancer patients with an emphasis on quality, patient-reported outcomes



**Seema Singh, Ph.D.**

**Mitchell Cancer Institute, University of South Alabama** (Mobile, AL)

*Professor of Pathology; Professor of Oncologic Sciences; Head, Inflammation and Immunobiology Laboratory; Senior Member, Cancer Biology Program*

**Research Focus Area:** The role of inflammatory signaling in cancer progression, angiogenesis and metastasis, cancer stem cells and cancer health disparities



**Bruce F. Smith V.M.D., Ph.D.**

**Auburn University** (Auburn, AL)

*Director, Auburn University Research Initiative in Cancer; Professor of Pathobiology*

**Research Focus Area:** Molecular biology, genetics, genetic approaches to therapy for cancer