



**Fall 2021 Virtual Cancer Retreat  
ALL ABOUT OUR  
Speakers and Panel Members**

**Michelle DuVal, MA**  
***The Mindful Center***

Michelle is the director of The Mindful Center, as well as the leading provider of Mindfulness Training in the Southwest United States, with her ongoing programs appearing in such top organizations as Presbyterian Hospitals, the University of New Mexico, Sandia National Laboratories, the New Mexico Heart Institute, the Albuquerque Public School system, the City of Albuquerque, the Department of Energy, and more. All of her programs and guided meditations are evidence based, steeped in research, and skillfully interweave the profundity of the practice with the humor of insight every step of the way. She has brought mindfulness meditation training into both clinical and hospital settings, cardiac rehab programs, various counseling and psychotherapy facilities, workplace environments as well as government agencies throughout the state. Michelle has been a meditation practitioner for years and has taught thousands of people the skills of mindfulness meditation to help cope with stress, especially the high-level stress associated with major illnesses and healing processes. Her programs have also been clinically proven to aid with sleep issues, pain management, and anxiety and/or depression.

**Adele Frances, MA**  
***Former Life Coach, Career Counselor and Breast Cancer Survivor***

Adele is now happily retired but has spent the last 16 years as a cancer support-group facilitator for two local organizations. After a five-year hiatus as closing speaker, she is grateful to be back, offering a whole new chapter on thriving following a second bout with breast cancer.

**Ramesh Gopal, MD, PhD**  
***Presbyterian MD Anderson Radiation Treatment Center***

Dr. Gopal received his medical degree from Grant Medical College, Mumbai, India. He was awarded a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology and Biological Chemistry by Northwestern University in Chicago. He completed a residency in Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Dr. Gopal is board certified in Radiation Oncology. He is currently an Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at MD Anderson based at the MD Anderson Radiation Treatment Centers at Presbyterian, and practices at the Kaseman Hospital campus location in Albuquerque.

**Fei Gu, MD**  
***New Mexico Cancer Care Associates***

Dr. Gu is a medical oncologist who has joined the New Mexico Cancer Care Associates in Santa Fe, NM since the beginning of 2016. She finished her Internal Medicine residency and Hematology/Oncology fellowship training at Tufts Medical Center in Massachusetts, followed by working at University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center as an Assistant Professor and Hematology/Oncology Attending. She also holds a PhD in Biophysics with years of experience in cancer drug discovery research prior to her clinical training. Dr. Gu loves the diverse patient population in her current practice. She is interested in clinical research in the community setting to truly reflect patient care needs and to promote better access to care in the communities.

**Lisa Gulotta, MS**  
***Yoga Instructor***

Lisa Gulotta is a dancer, Advanced Teacher of Therapeutic Yoga, personal trainer, cancer exercise specialist, and yoga for scoliosis trainer in Santa Fe, NM. She teaches yoga, fitness, and yoga therapy classes On Zoom and privately in her home studio.

**Susan Guo, MD**  
***New Mexico Cancer Center***

Dr. Guo received her BA in French from Columbia College and her MD from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. Dr. Guo completed residency in Radiation Oncology at the Cleveland Clinic, where she served as Chief Resident from 2011 through 2012. She is board-certified in Radiation Oncology. Fluent in three languages, Dr. Guo enjoys yoga, traveling, and running.

**Damara Kaplan, MD, PhD**  
***New Mexico Cancer Center***

**Kathleen Kreider**  
***Cancer Services of New Mexico***

Kathleen Kreider is President of Cancer Services of New Mexico (CSNM) and oversees day-to-day operations of the organization as a volunteer. Previously as the Vice-President and Grants Director, Ms. Kreider coordinated Cancer Services of New Mexico's grant writing activities and outreach activities. She became involved with the organization when she attended the Fall 2003 Family Cancer Retreat with her sisters. She started out as a volunteer as the Photography Team Leader for the Family Cancer Retreats from 2004 until 2010, and has been a CSNM Board Member since 2007. Kathy is a New Mexico native and is employed by a Federal Government agency.

**David M Lang, LMT 1442, COMT, MTPT**  
***David M. Lang LMT, LLC***

David is a Nationally Certified Oncology Massage Therapist and has been working as a massage therapist since 1992. After 20 years of teaching Dance & Movement in New York City, he naturally progressed into massage and movement therapy. He practices Myotherapy, Visceral/Neuro manipulation, Lymphatic Drainage, Active Isolated Stretching and is well-versed in many Energy Healing Techniques. He has been the Director of Advanced Manual at UNMH's Preventive and Integrative Medicine Clinic for the past 12 years and has recently left UNM to start his own private practice at [davidmlang.com](http://davidmlang.com)

**Blaire Larson**  
***RBL Products, LLC***

Blaire founded Cancer Services of New Mexico in 2001, and served as President until 2013. She continues on the board as Past President in an advisory role. She is currently the owner of RBL Products, LLC, an online specialty health and fitness retailer. Prior to launching CSNM, Blaire spent over fifteen years consulting to a wide variety of corporations and government agencies. She was President of Larson Consulting, LLC, where she specialized in helping CEO's and other senior executives design and lead large-scale change efforts and Vice President and Partner with CSC Consulting, where she developed extensive experience in business process reengineering, new venture development and large-scale program management. She currently She holds an A.B. in Applied Mathematics from Harvard University, an S.M. in Management from M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Management, a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of New Mexico, and is currently pursuing a Master's in Accounting at UNM. She is a founding member of the Executive Committee of the NM Cancer Council, the group that coordinates development and implementation of the NM state cancer plan.

**Devon Neale, MD*****UNM Department of Internal Medicine***

Dr. Neale is an Associate Professor in the Division of Palliative Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine at UNM. She graduated from Stanford University School of Medicine and came to UNM for Residency Training in Internal Medicine. Subsequently she pursued fellowship training in both Geriatric Medicine and Palliative Medicine at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY, NY. She returned to UNM in 2008 to join the Geriatrics and Palliative Care faculty. In 2014, Dr. Neale focused her practice exclusively in Palliative Medicine. She sees patients admitted to the hospital with serious illness as a member of the Palliative Care Inpatient Consult Service and she leads medical student education in Palliative Care.

**Sonya Pierce*****Cancer Services of New Mexico***

Sonya Pierce is the Program Manager for Cancer Services of New Mexico's Legal, Insurance, and Paperwork Assistance (LIPA) Program. She brings 26+ years of experience from the Human Services Department. She was a caseworker with Income Support Division and interviewed clients for eligibility related to SNAP, CASH and Medicaid. She transitioned to lead worker and then supervisor of the Institutional Care/ Waiver Unit in Bernalillo County. She held that position for 10 years supervising up to 10 employees and acting as Officer in Charge of the NW Bernalillo ISD office when needed. She was promoted to a Staff Manager at Medical Assistance Division where she oversaw the Disabled and Elderly Medicaid Programs which included policy revisions, answering questions from the ISD Field Offices. She partnered with Federal and sister agencies to maintain a great working relationship. She recently retired from the State of NM and comes to Cancer Services of NM with a wealth of knowledge.

**Surya Pierce, MD*****UNM Dept. of Family and Community Medicine***

Surya Pierce is an integrative family physician and Associate Professor at UNM School of Medicine. In addition to providing primary care at the 1209 University Clinic, he provides consultations at UNM Center for Life, UNM's Integrative Medicine specialty clinic. Dr. Pierce's approach to medicine has been greatly influenced by yoga therapy (yoga *chikitsa*), Ayurveda and Traditional Tibetan Medicine. As a certified and registered yoga teacher, he brings over 20 years of yoga and meditation practice to his patient encounters.

**Dulcinea Quintana, MD*****UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center***

Dr. Quintana was born and raised in New Mexico. She earned her medical degree from the University of New Mexico and did her residency in Internal Medicine as well as her fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at UNM. Dr. Quintana has a special interest in hematologic malignancies and is the adult physician for the Ted R. Montoya Hemophilia Program.

**Vinay Rai, MD*****UNM Department of Surgery***

Dr. Rai is an Associate Professor of Surgery at UNM. He practices colorectal surgery at UNM Cancer Center and hospital. His clinical interests include colorectal cancers and other benign colorectal disease. He specializes in laparoscopic resection for colon and rectum cancers and benign diseases. Dr. Rai completed his medical school training at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He went on to perform his surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. His specialty training in colorectal surgery was completed at Cook County and University of Illinois Hospitals in Chicago, IL.

**Leah Fox Roberts, MD*****Independent Consultant***

Dr. Roberts is a physician educator dedicated to teaching patients, other medical providers, and community members about medical cannabis. She is the former Medical Director of the Medical Cannabis Program for

the New Mexico Department of Health. She is also a board-certified Emergency Medicine physician who received her medical degree from West Virginia University and completed residency at East Carolina University's Vidant Medical Center. She has also completed coursework developed by the Portland, Oregon based Sativa Science Club. She speaks on Medical Cannabis for conferences hosted by Cancer Services of New Mexico and the University of New Mexico, among others.

**MJ Rodriguez, DPT**

***Cancer Services of New Mexico***

MJ Rodriguez currently serves as the Family Cancer Retreat Director for Cancer Services of New Mexico. MJ attended her first Family Cancer Retreat in the Spring of 2007 as a cancer patient and has been an active volunteer with CSNM since 2008. Her personal experiences with cancer coupled with her professional experiences in healthcare as a physical therapist sparked her passion for CSNM's mission to bring services and support to New Mexico families dealing with cancer. In 2009, MJ transitioned from a 20-year career in physical therapy to a career in education and currently serves as a Learning Architect for Pima Medical Institute, a health career college.

**Carmel Sanchez-Busby, BA**

***Wells Fargo, Learning and Development Facilitator***

Carmel Sanchez-Busby is a 6-year breast cancer survivor, lives in Albuquerque with her husband Ross and their two daughters Kathryn and Julia, and works as a corporate trainer in the banking industry. In August 2021, she was elected as the board president of Cancer Services of New Mexico Foundation. Carmel has been a committee member for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign and was the 2016 survivor ambassador for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. In addition, Carmel is a board member the Deputy James McGrane Officer Street Survival Training Fund. In her spare time Carmel enjoys running and workout at Orange Theory Fitness.

**Thomas M. Schroeder, MD**

***UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dept. of Radiation Oncology***

Dr. Schroeder is a radiation oncologist at UNM, and currently serves as the Medical Director of Radiation Oncology. He completed his residency at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. One focus of his studies was advanced radiation techniques for treating prostate cancer after prostatectomy. He also completed a fellowship sponsored by the American Brachytherapy Society to study radioactive seed implantation at the Seattle Prostate Institute. His interests include image guided radiation therapy and stereotactic body radiation therapy. Dr. Schroeder grew up in Santa Fe, and attended UNM medical school where he also completed an internship in internal medicine. Prior to medical school he earned a bachelor in physics at the Colorado College and a master's degree in aerospace engineering from Stanford University. He and his family, including twin daughters & a son, are thrilled to live in New Mexico where they occasionally get to enjoy hiking, camping, and fly fishing.

**Laura Shelhav, DOM, Dipl.OM**

***UNM Center for Life***

Dr. Shelhav became a Doctor of Oriental Medicine in 2000 and is Nationally Board Certified in Oriental Medicine. She currently provides acupuncture and Chinese Medicine services at the UNM Integrative Medicine Clinic Center for Life. Dr. Shelhav is also a New Mexico state examiner with the NM Board of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. She has served as a professor and clinic supervisor at the Southwest Acupuncture College and currently teaches UNM Medical Residents at UNM Center for Life. In addition to treating pain and anxiety related conditions, she has completed advanced studies in the areas of oncology, fertility and gynecology.

**Linda Ann Smith, MD*****Breast Surgery Associates of New Mexico***

Dr. Linda Smith wanted to be a physician since childhood. She began studying a pre-medical curriculum in high school and qualified for a six-year medical program at Northwestern University. Following graduation from Northwestern, Dr. Smith attended a 5-year General Surgery Residency and then completed a one-year Burn and Trauma Fellowship at the University of New Mexico. She entered private practice in New Mexico in 1984 and began her career as a General Surgeon. From the beginning of her practice, Dr. Smith has concentrated on breast care and in 1994, she elected to sub-specialize in the treatment of breast disorders. Since 1994 her practice has been 100% dedicated to the treatment of breast disease.

**Bob Stice, LPCC*****Psychotherapist***

For the past 40 years, Bob Stice has maintained a comprehensive practice in counseling and psychotherapy in addition to filling various clinical and administrative positions in behavioral healthcare. His practice has included extensive work with cancer patients and families at M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital in Houston, TX, and in Albuquerque. Along with a clinical practice, he keeps a busy schedule as a speaker and facilitator for workshops, retreats, and conferences. A Clinical Member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Bob also serves as CEO/Clinical Director for Outcomes, Inc., in Albuquerque, and is on the mental health faculty for the CREDO Institute, a national comprehensive wellness program. His academic background includes undergraduate and graduate degrees in the fields of theology, education, and counseling psychology.

**Bernard Tawfik, MD*****UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center***

Bernard Tawfik is board certified in medical oncology and hematology. He completed medical school at the Wake Forest University in North Carolina before staying there for internal medicine residency. He completed his medical oncology and hematology fellowship at University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, Texas before moving to Albuquerque to join the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. He specializes in breast cancer, gastrointestinal tumors and neuroendocrine tumors. His research focuses included cancer care delivery, quality improvement, health disparities and clinical trials. He strives to achieve the best outcomes with the lowest toxicity in a way that is accessible to all patients. He lives with his wife, also a physician at UNM, and their two young boys. They all enjoy hiking and going to the aquarium.

**John Trotter, PhD*****Cancer Services of New Mexico***

Dr. Trotter is professor emeritus of Cell Biology and Physiology, and Vice Chancellor Emeritus at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. He has served as the Retreat Coordinator for CSNM's semi-annual family retreats. He is currently directing the Caregiver Support Program that uses CSNM volunteers to provide one-on-one support for those newly in the role of caregiver to a cancer-survivor. Dr. Trotter received his BA degree from Johns Hopkins University and his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He retired from UNM in 2005 to have more time to spend with his family and to devote to photography, music, and doing volunteer work. He is a cancer survivor (2004).

**Ernestine Trujillo, MS, RD, LD*****UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center***

Ernestine Trujillo is a Licensed and Registered Dietitian in practice since 2001. A native New Mexican, she completed both her Bachelors and Master of Science degrees at the University of New Mexico. She has also earned her Certificate of Training in Adult Weight Management with the American Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics. Over the years, Ernestine has cared for patients with varying degrees of nutritional needs including hospital Intensive Care Unit, Cardiac care, Long term care, Outpatient counseling, Home Health & Hospice as well as transitioning patients on and off of enteral and parenteral feedings. Through these experiences she has developed a passion for oncology nutrition and is currently serving as the Senior Clinical Nutritionist at the UNM Cancer Research & Treatment Center.

**Valerie Valdez**

***NM Aging and Long-Term Services Department***

Valerie is a State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Director working with Aging & Long-Term Service Department. She graduated from New Mexico Highlands University and has a Bachelors in Social work. Previously she managed the Sandoval County Senior Program at Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho where she provided valuable services which included congregate meals and transportation to aging seniors who were homebound, to improve their quality of life., in her spare time she spends time traveling, cycling and spends quality time with grandchildren.

**Debra Winkeljohn, RN, MSN, AOCN, CNS**

***New Mexico Cancer Center***

Debra received her Bachelor Science of Nursing in 1987 from the College of Nursing at the University of New Mexico. She completed her Masters Science of Nursing in 1996 from the College of Nursing also at the University of New Mexico. Since graduating from her BSN program she has worked solely in oncology. For 14 years, she worked on the oncology unit at St. Joseph Medical Center with some of that time spent working part time in gynecology oncology. She previously worked with Lovelace Oncology for 17 years and recently transitioned to New Mexico Cancer Center. Debra has her Advanced Oncology Certification. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist and a member of the Oncology Nursing Society. She has been past Associate Editor for Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing and is published.

**Preya Wisner, MD**

***Southwest Women's Oncology***

Dr. Preya Wisner is a gynecologic oncologist. She received her medical degree from Touro University-College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her OBGYN residency at Midwestern University-Resurrection Healthcare Consortium in Chicago, IL. She specialized in Gynecologic Oncology graduating from her Fellowship at the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute in Orlando, FL. She is committed to giving her patients the best treatment plans possible. She offers her patients advanced techniques such as sentinel lymph node mapping and minimally invasive surgery. Devoted to researching the treatment of cancer, Dr. Wisner has had her work published in scientific journals including the Journal of Clinical Oncology, the Journal of Surgical Oncology and Best Practice and Research: Clinical Obstetrics & Gynecology. She has devoted her life to providing care and support to her patients.