Workshop Organizing Committee

Leslie B. Gordon, MD, PhD – Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee; Organizing Committee
Medical Director, The Progeria Research Foundation (PRF), Peabody, MA; Professor of Pediatrics Research, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Dept. of Pediatrics, Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Providence, RI; Research Associate, Department of Anesthesia, Boston Children’s Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Dr. Gordon, founder of The Progeria Research Foundation, and co-author of the Progeria gene discovery has served as Chair of PRF’s eight previous international scientific workshops. She serves as Principal Investigator for The PRF International Registry, Diagnostic Testing Program, Cell & Tissue Bank, and Medical & Research Database. Dr. Gordon has co-chaired four clinical treatment trials for children with Progeria, all conducted at Boston Children’s Hospital.

Tom Mistel, PhD – Scientific Advisory Committee; Organizing Committee
NIH Distinguished Investigator, Director, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Dr. Mistel and his team are elucidating the cell biological basis of HGPS and are developing novel therapeutic strategies for HGPS based on correction of the disease causing pre-mRNA splicing defect. He co-ordinated the 2013 and 2016 PRF international scientific workshop, and is a member of PRF’s Medical Research Committee.

Vicente Andrés, PhD – Scientific Advisory Committee; Organizing Committee
Senior Investigator, Laboratory of Molecular and Genetic Cardiovascular Pathophysiology, and Director of Department of Basic Research, Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares Carlos III (CNIC), Madrid, Spain

Dr. Andrés and his team are investigating the role of A-type lamins in the regulation of pathophysiological processes, including HGPS. Major efforts in his laboratory are directed towards the generation of new animal models of HGPS with the goal of elucidating mechanisms of the disease and testing novel therapies, with special emphasis on cardiovascular alterations. He is a member of PRF’s Medical Research Committee.
Mark Kieran, MD, PhD – Scientific Advisory Committee; Organizing Committee

Physician, Director, Pediatric Neuro-Oncology, Department of Oncology, Department of Pediatric Oncology, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Associate Professor in Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Kieran has served as the Principal Investigator for three Progeria clinical treatment trials at Boston Children's Hospital. He is the chair of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Program at DFCI, whose focus is the initiation of early phase trials for these tumors based on the improved understanding of their biology and incorporation of personalized approaches such as targeted therapies, biologic therapies, immune therapy and gene therapy.

Meryl N. Fink, Esq. – Organizing Committee

President and Executive Director, The Progeria Research Foundation, Peabody, MA

Ms. Fink is responsible for ensuring The Progeria Research Foundation’s financial growth, program development and day to day management. She earned a B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. She joined PRF in 2015 as the Director of Operations and brings extensive experience as a corporate and securities attorney and 10-plus years of experience in senior management of global law firms. She had also served as a consultant to the non-profit sector with ESC of New England.

Maria Sullivan – Organizing Committee

CME Director, Office of Continuing Medical Education, The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI

Donnalynn Gibson – Workshop Administrator

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