

# Know Your Genes:

Knowledge. Power. Action.

## Keynote Speaker: Melanie Hardy, MS, CGC, Director of Genetic Counseling at J Screen at Emory University

Melanie Hardy (she/her) is the Director of Genetic Counseling Services for the JScreen program at Emory University. JScreen provides patient-initiated clinical testing for expanded carrier screening and cancer screening to people across the US. She is manager of the genetic counseling team and works on multiple research projects along with her clinical genetic counseling duties. She has also served as a clinical supervisor to students in the Virginia Commonwealth University, Emory University, and UNC Greensboro genetic counseling programs. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology from Michigan State University in 1998 and followed with a 9-year career as a high school biology, chemistry, and forensics teacher. She received a master's degree in Biology from Georgia Southern University in 2009 and a master's degree in Genetic Counseling from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2011. She was certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling in 2012. Before joining the JScreen team, Melanie worked as a prenatal genetic counselor in a Maternal Fetal Medicine clinic in Richmond, VA. Her professional interests include community outreach and education, mentorship, provision of telehealth, and enhancement of the healthcare experience.

## Panelist: Laurie Flynn, MD, Surgical Oncologist, Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute

Specializing in breast surgery, Dr. Laurie Flynn earned her medical degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center and her bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. She completed her residency in general surgery at the Baptist Health System of Alabama, where she served as chief resident, and her fellowship in breast surgical oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; she then completed an intensive course in cancer risk assessment with the City of Hope. Dr. Flynn has been appointed as a member of the Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council by Governor Kevin Stitt and approved by the OK State Department. Previously, she served as the surgical director at the Leta Chapman Breast Center, a cancer liaison physician at St. John Medical Center and the medical director for the St. John Breast Center. She is a member of eight various scientific and medical societies and has published and spoken on a variety of topics. Dr. Flynn has also been awarded The Breast Journal Award by the American Society of Breast Disease

## Panelist: Michael Gold, MD, Gynecological Oncologist, Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute

Dr. Michael A. Gold received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College and completed his residency in gynecology and obstetrics at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. After residency, he completed his fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, where he remained on the faculty for nine years. He then moved to Vanderbilt University Medical Center to serve as the Director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. Dr. Gold is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the OU School of Community Medicine. He is active in clinical research focusing on gynecologic cancers, specifically the imaging of cervical and uterine cancer. He is an active member of the Gynecologic Oncology Group, the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, the American Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, and the American College of Radiology Imaging Network.

## Panelist: J. Martin Beal, DO, OB/Gyn, Ascension St. John

Dr. Beal completed his medical degree in 1993 from Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, a general rotating internship at Tulsa Regional Medical Center in 1994, and his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1998 at Tulsa Regional Medical Center. Dr. Beal passed the American Osteopathic Board Of Obstetrics And Gynecology in 1999 and became board certified in 2003. In 1998, Dr. Beal accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. From July 2003 to May 2008, he served as a tenured Associate Professor at OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. During that period of time, he was also the Residency Program Director of TRMC.

## Panelist: Anne Kozlowski, DO, MSW, Radiologist, Tulsa Radiology Associates

Dr. Anne Kozlowski is a diagnostic radiologist at Ascension St. John Medical Center in Tulsa, OK. She attended medical school at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences and completed her internship and residency training at OSU Medical Center. Kozlowski is a board certified general radiologist with a special interest in breast imaging. Prior to becoming a physician, Kozlowski earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Oklahoma and was a professional ballet dancer with several ballet companies including Tulsa Ballet Theatre.

## Moderator: Jill Wenger, MD, Ascension St. John, Maimonides Society Chair

Jill Wenger MD currently works in primary care. She graduated from University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1993. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Missouri, Kansas City in 1996. She is currently chairperson of the Maimonides Society in Tulsa.

## Guest Speaker: Jodi Finer Zalk

Tulsa native, member of the Jewish community, board member at the Jewish Federation of Tulsa. Jodi tested positive for BRCA in 2023, and will share her story of taking preventative care into her own hands.

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