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Press Release

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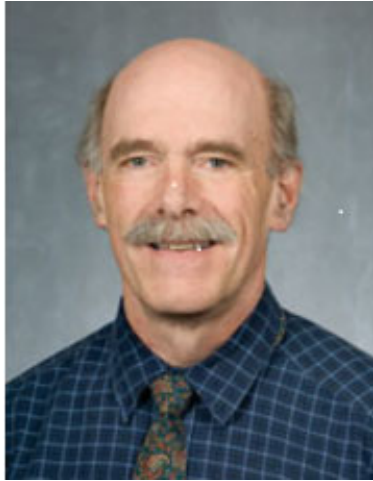
ASPHO Awards Honor Breakthrough Discoveries and Clinical Advancements

Chicago, January 2025: Investigators and clinicians whose groundbreaking discoveries and contributions have significantly advanced pediatric hematology/oncology science and treatment will be honored with prestigious subspecialty awards at the [2025 ASPHO Conference](#), taking place May 7-10 in Louisville, KY. “Not only do these American Society for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology awards honor stellar contributions that improve patient outcomes,” says ASPHO Board President Jeffrey Hord, MD, LOPen Charities Chair and Mawaka Family Chair in Pediatric Hematology Oncology at Akron Children's Hospital, “they also recognize important holistic contributions like mentoring, teaching, and leadership. This combination is how individuals truly advance the field and is what we celebrate at the ASPHO Conference.”



Internationally renowned physician scientist **William L. Carroll, MD**, NYU Langone Health, New York, NY, is the recipient of the Society's [2025 Distinguished Career Award](#). Carroll is recognized for his collaborative approach, creativity, discipline, and generosity as a leader and his deep personal commitment to the care of his patients and families that trainees and colleagues at all levels seek to emulate. Colleagues who nominated Carroll for the Society's most prestigious award, noted his “seminal discoveries in the molecular origins, clinical biology, and treatment of childhood

acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)” and that his work has “illuminated the molecular mechanisms driving relapse, linking specific genetic and epigenetic alterations to drug resistance. Notably, his discovery of NT5C2 mutations as a resistance mechanism to 6-mercaptopurine, a critical drug in ALL maintenance therapy, has had a direct impact on clinical treatment strategies.” *A reception honoring Dr. Carroll will follow the Distinguished Career Award presentation on Friday, May 9, at the conference.*



The [2025 George R. Buchanan Lectureship Award](#) will be presented to **James H. Feusner, MD**, of UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland, CA, whose work in hepatoblastoma has “significantly advanced and will continue to advance our ability to provide better outcomes and improved quality of life for children with this diagnosis,” according to colleagues, who continue that Feusner has also “made seminal contributions to the understanding and treatment of pediatric renal and liver cancers. However, it is in mentorship where Jim has truly left a legacy, consistently taking the time to nurture the professional development of fellows and early career faculty. Jim provided not only unparalleled clinical and research guidance but also invaluable personal support.” *Dr. Feusner will give a lecture during the George R. Buchanan Lectureship Award presentation Thursday, May 8, at the ASPHO Conference.*



Physician scientist **Ayesha Zia, MD MSCS**, of UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX, is the recipient of the [2025 Frank A. Oski Memorial Lectureship Award](#), which is awarded to an outstanding clinical or laboratory investigator in pediatric hematology/oncology whose cutting-edge research is of the caliber of the investigations made by Dr. Oski. Award nominators write of Dr. Zia, “Unsurprisingly—given her extraordinary success in leadership, clinical program growth, and mentorship—she is a highly accomplished physician scientist. Such is her capacity to learn, ambition to improve the lives of children, and both talent and skill to lead and contribute to discovery, Dr. Zia opened the multicenter FUVID study: Functional Characterization of Children with Chronic Venous Thromboembolic Disease—an enormous undertaking. Dr. Zia is a pediatric champion in thrombosis with a strong portfolio of mentorship and teaching, bringing forward the next

generation into this research area.” *Dr. Zia will give a lecture during the Frank A. Oski Memorial Lectureship Award presentation on Friday, May 9.*



ASPHO is proud to continue partnering with [Northwestern Mutual Foundation for the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Award for Excellence](#) and recognize 2025 honoree **Lucie M. Turcotte, MD MPH MS**, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. In its eighth year, the award recognizes professionals who focus on helping pediatric cancer survivors live full and healthy lives and whose work reflects a growing portfolio of research and project funding. The \$10,000 honorarium augments the investigator’s current work to enhance the lives of childhood cancer survivors through innovative

projects. “Dr. Turcotte is being funded to enhance mentee exposure to and experience within the field of cancer survivorship. She has demonstrated interest and engagement in mentoring early careerists in both their clinical practice and research endeavors,” affirm colleagues commending Dr. Turcotte’s work, continuing, “Her ongoing research includes investigating the impact of donor socioeconomic status and immune function after marrow transplantation and evaluating outcomes among female childhood cancer survivors with subsequent breast cancer, exemplifying her tenacity. Nominators are uniformly impressed by the outstanding quality, high scientific and clinical impact, multidisciplinary nature, and highly collaborative approach that characterizes her work.” *Dr. Turcotte will be presented with the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Award for Excellence on Friday, May 9.*

Other highlights of the spring conference include spotlighting recent developments with Blinatumomab and ALL; presentations by luminary speakers Mignon Loh, MD, of Seattle Children’s Hospital, and Denise Adams, MD, of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, on oncology and hematology/vascular anomalies research, respectively; and the 2025 Presidential Symposium, "Innovation in PHO Practice Addressing Workforce Challenges," with President Jeff Hord, MD, and panelists Whitney Lerch, PA-C, Susan Kearney, MD, and Wayne Liang, MD.

The premier conference supporting the unique needs of pediatric hematologists and oncologists, the [ASPHO Conference](#) brings critical basic, translational, and clinical research and recommendations, education, mentoring, and networking opportunities to investigators and practitioners from every sector of the field including hospitalists, physician assistants, advanced nurse practitioners, other advanced practice providers, and allied healthcare professionals. The 2026 ASPHO Conference takes place April 29 – May 2, in Minneapolis, MN. Nominations and applications for

[ASPHO Awards](#) that will be presented at the 2026 ASPHO Conference are being accepted through **September 30, 2025**.

The [American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology \(ASPHO\)](#) is the professional medical society of pediatric hematology/oncology subspecialists and other healthcare professionals dedicated to promoting the optimal care of children, adolescents, and young adults with blood disorders and cancer. Founded in 1981, ASPHO serves 2,000 members including physicians, researchers, advanced practice providers, and fellows in training by sponsoring educational and professional development programs, promoting discovery, advocating on behalf of its patient base and members, advancing professional practice and supporting partnerships to further its goals. Learn more: [2025 ASPHO Conference](#), [About Us](#), [Educational Offerings](#), and [Community](#).

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