

15TH ANNUAL MCW PANCREATIC CANCER SYMPOSIUM

Friday, January 16, 2026

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Leonid Cherkassky, MD



William Hwang, MD, PhD



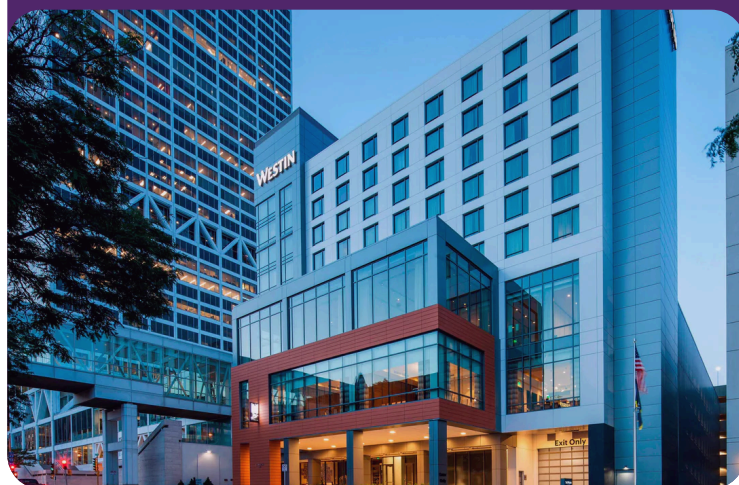
Jeremy B. Jacox, MD, PhD

INFORMATION

🕒 **7:30 AM – 3:45 PM**

📍 **Westin Hotel**

550 N Van Buren St,
Milwaukee, WI 53202



**LaBahn Pancreatic
Cancer Program**

REGISTRATION

Online registration is required to attend this symposium. CE credit can be claimed via the online platform. Please note that Google Chrome is the preferred browser.

1. Register at ocpe.mcw.edu/surgery. If you do not have an existing account click "Create Account" in the upper right corner.
2. After creating your account or logging in, select **15th Annual MCW Pancreatic Cancer Symposium** under Featured Courses.
3. Select Register and follow the prompts.

FEE SCHEDULE

LEARNER TYPE	REGISTRATION FEE
Physician	\$50
Advanced Practice Providers, Nurses, Allied Health Professionals	\$0
Trainees- Fellows, Residents, and Students	\$0

** Fee includes registration, meals, and CE certification.*

REFUND POLICY

Cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations submitted by January 1, 2026, and earlier will be fully refunded. No refunds are available for cancellations postmarked after this date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Melissa Mena at (414) 955-1835 or mmena@mcw.edu.





ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Leonid Cherkassky, MD

*Assistant Professor of Oncology, Department of Surgical Oncology
CCSG Member, Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy Research Program
Co-leader Gastrointestinal Translational Research Program*

Dr. Cherkassky completed his general surgery training at Brown University and a surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering. He joined Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2019 as a surgeon-scientist, specializing in liver and pancreatic malignancies and T cell immunotherapy. His research has demonstrated the benefit of locoregional administration of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells for solid tumors (Science Translational Medicine, 2014) and the potential to rescue exhausted CAR T cells through genetically programmed checkpoint blockade (Journal of Clinical Investigation, 2016). He received career development awards from the DOD, the American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy, and the Stephenson Global Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute to advance CAR T cell therapies for pancreatic & colorectal cancers.



Jeremy B. Jacox, MD, PhD

*Instructor of Medicine (Medical Oncology)
Faculty Scholar (KL2), Yale Center for Clinical Investigation
Attending, Smilow Comprehensive Cancer Center
Yale School of Medicine*

Dr. Jacox is a medical oncologist at Yale School of Medicine and Smilow Cancer Hospital specializing in gastrointestinal cancers. He earned his bachelor's degree from MIT and his MD and PhD in Immunobiology from Yale, where his doctoral work with Dr. Ruslan Medzhitov focused on growth factor-regulated macrophage and fibroblast interactions in homeostatic conditions and in melanoma. He completed his Internal Medicine residency and Hematology/Oncology fellowship at Yale. Under the mentorship of Dr. Mandar Muzumdar, his postdoctoral research studied how extremes in feeding behaviors may contribute to pancreatic cancer development, and how targeting the tumor microenvironment can enhance anti-tumor immunity in pancreatic cancer. His research has been supported by the National Cancer Institute (F30), ASCO Conquer Cancer Foundation, and Yale Cancer Center training programs (T32, KL2).



William Hwang, MD, PhD

*Assistant Professor Professor of Radiation Oncology
Mass General Cancer Center and Harvard Medical School*

Dr. Hwang is a physician-scientist in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Mass General Cancer Center and Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School. He specializes in gastrointestinal cancers, with research focused on how pancreatic cancer cells interact with their microenvironment using single-cell and spatial genomics, mouse models, and 3D organoid systems. His work explores tumor-nerve interactions, cell-state plasticity, and how therapies reshape the tumor microenvironment to improve treatment outcomes. A Rhodes Scholar and Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow, Dr. Hwang earned his MD (summa cum laude) and PhD in Biophysics from Harvard University. His research has been recognized with multiple national awards, and he was named a 2022 NextGen Star by the American Association for Cancer Research.

Friday January 16, 2026

7:30 AM Registration, Exhibitor Sessions, Breakfast

SESSION I Chair: Douglas B. Evans, MD

8:00 AM	Welcome	Douglas B. Evans, MD
8:15 AM	GI ASCO 2026 Updates	Mandana Kamgar, MD, MPH
8:45 AM	Surmounting barriers: Enhancing anti-tumor immunity in pancreatic cancer	Jeremy B. Jacox, MD, PhD
9:30 AM	Question & Answer	
9:45 AM	Break	

SESSION II Chair: William Hall, MD

10:00 AM	MEKi in G12R	Tommy McFall, PhD
10:20 AM	Redefining the role of radiation therapy in pancreatic adenocarcinoma, local control is just the beginning	William Hall, MD
10:40 AM	Question & Answer	William Hall, MD Tommy McFall, PhD
10:50 AM	Mechanisms of cancer-nerve crosstalk in pancreatic cancer	William Hwang, MD, PhD
11:35 AM	Question & Answer	
11:50 AM	Lunch - Vendor Exhibition	
12:10 PM	Intercepting metastasis by targeting the pro-tumor niche	Nikki Lytle, PhD

SESSION III Chair: Kathleen Christians, MD

12:30 PM	Chimeric Antigen Receptor T cell Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer	Leonid Cherkassky, MD
1:15 PM	Question & Answer	
1:30 PM	AI in Diagnostic Imaging	Parag Tolat, MD
1:50 PM	The Future of CAR T Cell Therapy in Solid Tumors	Nirav Shah, MD
2:10PM	Break	
2:20 PM	Case Discussion	Douglas Evans, MD & Kathleen Christians, MD
3:35 PM	Concluding Remarks	Douglas Evans, MD

The 15th Annual Medical College of Wisconsin LaBahn Pancreatic Cancer Symposium will be held on Friday, January 16, 2025. The symposium will take place at the Westin Milwaukee Hotel at 550 N. Van Buren St, Milwaukee, WI, 53202.

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING: The symposium will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Westin Milwaukee Hotel, located at 550 N. Van Buren St, Milwaukee, WI, 53202. Parking information will be forthcoming.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Surgeons (surgical oncologists, general surgeons, residents, and fellows)
- Medical oncologists
- Primary care providers
- Basic and translational scientists
- Advanced practice providers

PURPOSE: This symposium will highlight advances in pancreatic cancer research and treatment, emphasizing how discoveries in tumor biology, model systems, and immunotherapy are driving progress toward improved patient outcomes.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, attendees will be able to:

- Describe molecular mechanisms driving perineural invasion in pancreatic cancer and apply emerging insights to clinical care.
- Explain how the NINJA PDAC organoid model informs anti-tumor immune responses and advances immunotherapy strategies.
- Summarize emerging CAR T-cell approaches for pancreatic cancer and assess their potential to enhance treatment outcomes.

EDUCATIONAL METHOD: The format will include lectures from leaders in the field. Upon completion of each speaker's talk there will be an opportunity for open discussion.

COURSE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Y. David Seo, MD, Course Director | Douglas B. Evans, MD Physician Planner

EXHIBITORS: If you would like to exhibit at symposium, please contact Melissa Mena at 414-955-1835 or surgeryevents@mcw.edu. The Medical College of Wisconsin appreciates the support provided by our exhibitors.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT: The Medical College of Wisconsin is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Medical College of Wisconsin designates this live activity a maximum of 6.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

HOURS OF PARTICIPATION FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:

The Medical College of Wisconsin designates this activity for up to 6.50 hours of participation for continuing education for allied health professionals.

FACULTY DISCLOSURE/DISCLAIMER: Everyone who is in a position to control the extent of educational activity must disclose all relevant financial relationships with any commercial interests. They will disclose any unlabeled use or investigational use of pharmaceutical and medical device products. Determination of educational content for this program and the selection of speakers were solely the responsibility of the planning committee. Firms providing financial support did not have input in these areas. Agendas are subject to change, as necessitated by illness and/or scheduling conflicts.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE: Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all MCW sponsored events. If you require special accommodations in order to attend this event, please contact Melissa Mena at 414-955-1835 or surgeryevents@mcw.edu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Melissa Mena at 414-955-1835 or email surgeryevents@mcw.edu.