



Alina M. Allen, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Allen is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and a Transplant Hepatologist at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. Her clinical interests include chronic liver diseases, management of complications including end-stage liver disease requiring evaluation for liver transplantation, as well as long-term care of liver transplant recipients. Her liver disease research interests include the study of natural history and outcomes, liver diseases in women, and sex-based disparities in the pre- and post-liver transplantation settings.



David N. Assis, M.D.  
Yale University

Dr. Assis is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Yale School of Medicine. He treats patients with autoimmune liver diseases including PSC at the Autoimmune and Cholestatic Liver Disease Program at Yale. He also performs clinical and translational research in these diseases, in particular exploring new treatments for patients with PSC. He is Vice-Chair for the Special Interest Group devoted to autoimmune and cholestatic disorders for the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease.



Stuart Barnett

Stuart Barnett was diagnosed with PSC in 2013. After his wife Debra quickly and easily found PSC Partners on Facebook, he was amazed at the abundance of information and support that helped him cope with this mysterious disease. He attended his first conference in New Haven in 2016 and found the welcome amazing and comforting. That welcome never died down the entire conference and he and Debra left knowing that there was more to be done to help this cause and wanted to be involved immediately.

Stu graduated the University of Albany in NY in 1998 with a degree in Economics and is a Certified Financial Planner® and VP-Sr. Financial Consultant for Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. He has 20 years of experience in the financial industry. When he is not helping people with their finances he is spending time with his 3 kids Jadon, Kaila and Emma (aka Little Red), and his wife Debra on Long Island where they live.



Matthew A. Bartlett, M.B., B.Ch.,  
B.A.O., Mayo Clinic

Dr. Bartlett is an Internal Medicine Specialist in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. His clinical interests include the impact of complementary therapies and supplements on overall health and chronic medical conditions.



Vinay Chandrasekhara, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Vinay Chandrasekhara is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. His main interest is the diagnosis and treatment of biliary disease. He has been working to improve the diagnosis of indeterminate biliary strictures and optimize procedural outcomes after endoscopic therapy, particularly in patients with PSC.



Angela Cheung, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Cheung is the 1st Carlos Fellow for PSC at Mayo Clinic. She is a fully trained hepatologist with research expertise in the epigenomics and metabolomics/exposomics of PSC. She is committed to studying the pathogenesis of PSC in years to come.



Cindy Dunn

Cindy Dunn began her practice of T'ai Chi Chih in February, 2003 and attained her teacher's accreditation in March, 2005. Her teachers include Sandy McAlister and Justin Stone, the originator of T'ai Chi Chih. Cindy teaches college faculty and staff, young adults, children, senior citizens, the visually impaired and seated classes at rehabilitation centers. She is an instructor of T'ai Chi Chih at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas and has co-owned and managed The Vision and Wellness Center in Lubbock, Texas since 1984.



Dr. Michael Dunn

Dr. Dunn graduated from the University of Houston, College of Optometry in 1976 specializing in special needs patients. He took his first mindfulness training in 1971 in Nuremberg, Germany. Michael has taught mindfulness and stress management techniques to optometrists, physicians, physical therapists, teachers, guidance counselors, Christian congregations, and the general public.

John E. Eaton, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Eaton is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. He is a transplant hepatologist who also completed an additional 1 year training program focused on the clinical care and research of those with PSC. He is co-chair of the MRI working group within international PSC study group and is a member of the Cholestatic and Autoimmune Liver Disease SIG Committee and the Scientific/Medical Advisory Committee for PSC Partners Seeking a Cure. He is a past recipient of the PSC Partners Seeking a Cure Award and has authored over 25 peer reviewed articles or book chapters directly related to PSC. His research interests include PSC clinical trials and identifying new biomarkers to predict disease outcomes using artificial intelligence and advanced imaging.



Mounif El-Youssef, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. El-Youssef is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota.



Gregory J. Gores, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Gores is the Reuben R. Eisenberg Professor of Medicine and Physiology, and the Kinney Executive Dean for Research at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. He is an internationally recognized hepatologist and a physician-scientist who has considerable expertise regarding PSC both experimental and clinical. He is a coauthor of the current American Association for the Study of Liver Disease management guidelines for PSC and is an authority on PSC-associated cholangiocarcinoma.



Andrea A. Gossard, APRN, C.N.P.  
Mayo Clinic

Andrea Gossard is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. She has extensive clinical experience and research interest in adult cholestatic liver disease.



Aliya F. Gulamhusein, M.D., MPH  
Toronto Centre for Liver Disease  
University of Toronto

Dr. Aliya Gulamhusein is an Assistant Professor and Clinician Investigator at the University of Toronto. She completed an advanced hepatology fellowship in cholestatic liver diseases and liver transplantation at Mayo Clinic, Rochester and a master's degree in Public Health at John's Hopkins University being recruited back to the University of Toronto to lead the clinical program in Autoimmune Liver Diseases at the Toronto Centre for Liver Disease. Her academic focus is in outcomes based clinical research and optimization of risk stratification tools for patients with cholestatic liver diseases including PSC with a goal of improving patient outcomes using an individualized approach to care. She is actively involved in clinical trials in PSC and was awarded the Young Investigator Grant through the Canadian Affiliate of PSC Partners Seeking a Cure.



Julie K. Heimbach, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr Heimbach is a Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Division of Transplantation Surgery at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. She is an abdominal transplant surgeon who has focused on living donor liver transplantation and liver transplantation for hilar cholangiocarcinoma. Dr Heimbach has also been very active in organ allocation policy development at the national level, having previously served on the Board of Directors for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network and the United Network for Organ Sharing (OPTN/UNOS) from 2014-2017 and currently serving as the Chair of the OPTN/UNOS Liver Committee. In addition, Dr Heimbach serves as an Associate Editor of American Journal of Transplantation, and serves on the board of American Society of Transplant Surgeons, and was previously on the governing board of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD).



Dr. Sally Holland

Sally Holland has a PhD in clinical psychology. She is a psychotherapist, a former RN (public health and hospice nurse), and a caregiver for a PSC patient.



Robert C. Huebert, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Huebert is an Assistant Professor of Medicine, a Transplant Hepatologist, and a Consultant in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. His basic science research laboratory is focused on the epigenetic regulation of biliary fibrogenesis in the context of cholangiopathies, with a focus on Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC). His research program has also done pioneering work in the area of biliary regenerative medicine. His group developed and published a novel technique for directed differentiation of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) to cholangiocytes for modeling biliary diseases and testing new therapies. In collaboration with the Regenerative Medicine Biotrust, his program has built a large Biobank of these samples from patients with biliary disease. Other projects include the development of stem cell-coated biliary stents and recellularization of the biliary tree in decellularized livers.



Dilshad Kassam-Lallani

Dilshad Kassam-Lallani is a Nurse Practitioner at Holland Worldview Kids Rehab Hospital who provides leadership in the development and implementation of a transition model of care for adolescents with Spina Bifida moving from the pediatric to adult health care setting. She also provides leadership in the development of a comprehensive healthcare model for adolescents and adults with Spina Bifida in collaboration with inter-professional team members, clients and family members. She is a co-investigator in partnership with Holland-Bloorview Research Institute developing a "Database for Outcome Evaluation of Pediatric to Adult Health Care Transition Model for Youth with Spina Bifida." Dilshad is also a parent of a young adult with PSC.



Tammy M. Kremers, APRN, C.N.P.  
Mayo Clinic

Tammy is a Nurse Practitioner at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. She works in the Liver Transplant Clinic where she follows patients after their liver transplant surgery and for long-term follow-up care after liver transplantation.



Afsana Lallani

Afsana is a 19-year-old nursing student from Toronto, Canada, who has been living with Rheumatoid Arthritis since she was 18 months old, PSC since 2016, and Crohn's disease since 2017. Being diagnosed as a teenager, Afsana has experienced many encounters a normal teen wouldn't usually have to worry about, such as when to tell peers about her health and how to navigate the education system to obtain accommodations to help her succeed. She also has journeyed through the healthcare system and transitioned from the pediatric to adult-care hospital. While these adventures down a winding path in life have been difficult, Afsana has managed to pull through, see each obstacle as a learning opportunity, and do it successfully with a smile on her face. Afsana's PSC has pushed her to learn the ropes of how to advocate for herself and ask the right questions when necessary in order to be in charge of her own health and stay one step in front of her diseases.



Nicholas F. LaRusso, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. LaRusso is the Charles H. Weinman Endowed Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry/Molecular Biology at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. He is a renowned physician-investigator with expertise in PSC as well as liver epithelial cell biology in health and disease. His laboratory has pioneered the field of cholangiocyte biology, with research efforts focusing on molecular mechanisms underlying cholangiocyte dysfunction in liver disease.



Konstantinos N. Lazaridis, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Lazaridis is a Professor of Medicine, a consultant Hepatologist, and the Hauch Associate Director, Center for Individualized Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. He is internationally recognized for his work on the genomics of PSC. He has established and actively directs the largest nationwide translational study that examines the genetic and environmental underpinnings of PSC. This study aims to improve the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of PSC using multi-omics platforms and artificial intelligence.



Keith D. Lindor, M.D.  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the University Provost  
Arizona State University

Dr. Keith Lindor is Senior Advisor to the Provost at Arizona State University (ASU). He joined ASU in January 2012 and was the founding Dean of the College of Health Solutions. Before coming to ASU, he served as Dean at Mayo Clinic Medical School and Chair in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. He also served as editor-in-chief of Hepatology and president of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) in 2016.



Dr. Veronica Miller

Dr. Veronica Miller is the Executive Director of the Forum for Collaborative Research, and Professor (Adjunct) at UC Berkeley School of Public Health. She is a leading expert in regulatory science, engaging stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic to resolve and advance regulatory science and policy to advance the development of therapeutics and diagnostics in areas of unmet medical need. She led the expansion of the Forum's collaborative model in HIV to 5 new disease areas: HCV, HBV, CMV, NASH and PSC. As a Professor (Adjunct), Miller teaches a graduate-level course she developed on FDA and drug development. She mentors interns and fellows pursuing regulatory, biotech, and translational medicine careers. She joined the Forum for Collaborative Research in 2001 after having directed the interdisciplinary HIV Research Group at the HIV Outpatient Clinic of the JW Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. Together with Joep Lange, she co-founded and chaired the Euro-Guidelines Group on HIV Drug Resistance, the first pan-European group established for the purpose of assuring a common standard-of-care for patients in all European states. Miller served on numerous industry and government advisory boards throughout her career, publishing over 100 peer-reviewed publications on HIV treatment strategies, and regulatory strategies for HIV.



Britt Moore

Britt Moore, secretary of the PSC Partners Board of Directors, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and works with families of children diagnosed with developmental disabilities. She completed her undergraduate degree at Luther College in Day Decorah, Iowa and her Master's Degree at Western Michigan University, both in Psychology. Britt currently works with families and caregivers teaching them to use behavior analytic principles to enhance their children's appropriate behavior and learn new skills in their home environment. Britt was diagnosed with PSC in the fall of 2011 and was able to attend her first conference in the spring of 2012 in her very own Minnesota. She was blown away by the friendships and knowledge she gained while at the conference and has been involved ever since. She lives in Saint Paul with her husband and two children where they love to get out when the weather allows it; gardening, golfing, skiing, camping, and listening to music.



Randy Oates

Randy graduated with a B.A. in Accounting from Grove City College in 1984. His 29-year working career was spent in the insurance industry, with the first 12 years working for Aetna Health Plans in various sales and management positions. It was during this time that he achieved the Certified Employee Benefits Specialist professional designation. He then was a co-founder of two medical malpractice insurance companies which provided professional liability insurance to hospitals, nursing homes, physician groups and managed care organizations. Randy and his wife Cathy now reside in Daniel Island, SC.



Dr. Lisa Pedicone

Lisa received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Smith College, MA and her doctorate degree in neuropharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Lisa spent 16 years at Schering-Plough Corporation and Merck & Co. During her 16 years, she worked in Global Regulatory Affairs, Clinical Research (Phase II/III), Global Medical Affairs and Global Scientific Affairs. While in Clinical Research, she oversaw the clinical development of late-stage products including the approval of two new chemical entities. In Global Medical Affairs, she was Vice President and managed a team of 15 regional medical directors overseeing global medical strategy for all specialty products. Her primary focus since 2006 has been liver disease and she was responsible for the global strategy for all Phase IV, continuing medical education (CME), scientific publications and global advisory boards for liver disease. In 2012 she became an independent consultant and focuses her time on medical education and life cycle management in liver disease for specialty medical practices and the pharmaceutical industry. Lisa is a member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and has co-authored more than 35 publications in journals including *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Gastroenterology*, *Hepatology*, *Journal of Hepatology*, and *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.



Laura E. Raffals, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Laura Harrell Raffals is Associate Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. Her primary research interests include the interactions of gastrointestinal dysmotility, the intestinal bacterial community, and inflammatory bowel disease. Her practice focuses on the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, pouchitis, and pouch dysfunction.



Sumera H. Rizvi, M.B.B.S.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Rizvi is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. Her clinical focus is hepatobiliary neoplasia and cholestatic liver diseases including PSC. Her research efforts are centered on the immunobiology of cholangiocarcinoma and development of combination immune-directed therapies for the treatment of cholangiocarcinoma.



Ricky Safer, CEO, PSC Partners



Don Safer

After having led the life of a health nut for decades, Ricky Safer was shocked to receive her PSC diagnosis in 2003, and then to discover that there was little accurate information or support available for PSC patients. Still reeling from her recent diagnosis, Ricky decided she didn't want to wait around to see if things would improve. In 2005, with the help of her doctor, friends and family, especially husband Don, a (now retired) dentist, Ricky founded PSC Partners Seeking A Cure. She feels extremely lucky to have her family as her loyal support group and constant helpers.

One of Ricky and Don's greatest joys is spending time with their family—daughter and son-in-law (Elissa and Steven), son and daughter-in-law (Adam and Sue), and grandkids (Sam, Lily, Rowan and Hudson). While Don is thriving in retirement, Ricky enjoys her role as CEO of PSC Partners. Both continue to be passionate about finding a cure for PSC, and making life better for all PSCers. Ricky can be reached at [contactus@pscpartners.org](mailto:contactus@pscpartners.org).



Dr. Jerome Schofferman

Dr. Jerome Schofferman is an internist who has practiced pain medicine and the management of chronic pain illnesses for more than 30 years. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Pain Medicine. Perhaps equally important, he has had PSC for many years and in 2014 had a liver transplant. As a result, Dr. Schofferman has the perspective of having been on "both sides of the bedside." He brings this perspective to his speaking about the effect of PSC on the patient, family, other caregivers, and the physicians who treat PSC patients.



Douglas A. Simonetto, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Simonetto is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. He is a transplant hepatologist with clinical and research focus in management of portal hypertension and complications of cirrhosis.



Jennifer Sims

Jennifer Sims, treasurer of the PSC Partners Board of Directors, had never heard of PSC until the day her son was diagnosed in 2011. From that day forward, she has poured her heart and soul into taking care of her son and learning more about PSC. Jennifer's first experience with PSC Partners was at the annual conference in 2014. She was immediately drawn to the organization and its mission to find a cure for PSC. Jennifer earned her BBA in Accounting from Baylor University and is a CPA. She is an estate planning specialist who helps donors maximize their charitable gifts to their favorite organizations. Jennifer and her husband, Scott, live in Colorado with their two children.



Amit Sood, M.D.  
Mayo Clinic

Dr. Sood is a former Professor of Medicine at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota, and served as Chair of Mayo Mind Body Initiative. He completed degrees in medicine from Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York.



Nickie Francisco Ziller, RDN, LD  
Mayo Clinic

Nickie is a Registered Dietitian at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. She has worked at Mayo Clinic Rochester in the area of nutrition in liver disease/liver transplantation, for 25 years. She has been involved in various research projects in the PSC patient population regarding malnutrition and obesity.