



St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital
Finding cures. Saving children.

Bridging Science and Compassion in Sickle Cell Disease

Celebrating the Legacy of Winfred C. Wang, MD

May 13, 2026

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Department of Hematology



In Memoriam

Winfred Wang, MD (1942–2024) was a pioneer in sickle cell disease research and a beloved member of the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital community. Joining St. Jude in 1979, Dr. Wang dedicated more than forty years to advancing clinical care and scientific discovery for children living with sickle cell disease. He served as Chief of the Division of Hematology (1996–2004) and Director of the NIH-funded Sickle Cell Center (2003–2008), helping position St. Jude as an international leader in the field.

Dr. Wang led several landmark studies, including the first NIH-supported natural history study of pediatric sickle cell disease (CSSCD), the HUSOFT cohort study, and the groundbreaking BABYHUG trial. BABYHUG was instrumental in demonstrating the safety and efficacy of hydroxyurea in infants with sickle cell disease work that ultimately contributed to its FDA approval and adoption as standard of care.

His research expanded beyond therapeutics to include preventing pneumococcal infections, developing MRI and transcranial Doppler ultrasound techniques for detecting central nervous system disease, and improving strategies to prevent childhood stroke. Dr. Wang also championed education programs designed to support academic success for children with sickle cell disease.

Beyond his scientific accomplishments—including more than 230 journal articles and 40 book chapters—Dr. Wang was revered as a compassionate clinician and a dedicated mentor. He guided countless trainees, fellows, pharmacists, nurses, and colleagues with patience, kindness, and generosity. His influence continues to shape the field and the many individuals he inspired.

Dr. Wang’s legacy lives on through the advancements he made, the colleagues he trained, and the children and families whose lives were transformed by his care.

AGENDA

8:00 – 8:15 AM	Breakfast
8:15 – 8:30 AM	Welcome James Downing, MD Member, St. Jude Faculty / President and Chief Executive Officer Donald Pinkel Chair of Childhood Cancer Treatment St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Tribute to Dr. Wang Mitchell J. Weiss, MD, PHD Chair, Department of Hematology Arthur Nienhuis Endowed Chair in Hematology
8:45 – 9:45 AM	Progress in sickle cell disease: Bending the arc towards health equity Alexis A. Thompson, MD, MPH Elias Schwartz MD Endowed Chair in Hematology Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Professor of Pediatrics University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
9:45 – 10:00 AM	SCD Parent/The Ripple Effect of one life in Medicine Audrey Davis SCD Parent
10:00 – 10:25 AM	Break
10:25 – 10:55 AM	The Evolution of a Sickle Cell Center of Excellence Ulrike M. Reiss, MD Associate Member, St. Jude Faculty Director, Hemophilia Treatment Center
10:55-11:05 AM	Leadership, Compassion, and Quiet Excellence Lynn W. Rodriguez, MSN, PNP-BC, APP (Ret.) Department of Hematology and Surgery Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo, MD Member, St. Jude Faculty Executive Vice President Chair, Department of Global Pediatric Medicine Director, St. Jude Global Co-Associate Director, Outreach Comprehensive Cancer Center
11:05-11:35 AM	A Study that Changed the Future: Impact of the BABYHUG Study on SCD Care Jeremie Estep, MD Senior Medical Director, Medical Affairs at Cogent Biosciences
11:35 AM-12:05 PM	A Mentor’s Role in Defining Lifespan Outcomes in Sickle Cell Disease: SCCRIP/TCD & Strokes Jane S. Hankins, MD, MS Member, St. Jude Faculty Director, St. Jude Global Hematology Program
12:05-1:05 PM	Lunch
1:05-1:35 PM	From the PROPS Study to National Standards: Honoring a Colleague’s Teamwork and Legacy in Sickle Cell Peter Lane Jr., MD Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics Emory University School of Medicine Past Director Sickle Cell Disease Program Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

AGENDA (CONT'D)

1:35 - 1:55 PM	<p><i>Patient Panel: Grateful Hearts: Patients Honor a Life in Medicine</i> Panelist: Tabatha J. Marmon Sickle Cell Warrior Activist Patient Advocate Consultant Public Speaker Founder of Interviews With Tab</p> <p>Moderator: Yvonne Carroll, JD, RN Dir-Program, Department of Hematology</p>
1:55-2:15 PM	<p><i>From Early Days to Enduring Impact: A Tribute to a Cherished Colleague</i> Judith Wilimas, MD Full Member (Ret.), Department of Hematology University of Tennessee Health Science Center</p>
2:15 - 2:45 PM	<p><i>Always a Pediatrician at Heart: Early Childhood Assessment in Children with Sickle Cell Disease</i> Banu Aygun, MD Professor of Pediatrics Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell Associate Chief of Hematology and Section Head of Sickle Cell Disease Cohen Children's Medical Center</p>
2:45 - 3:10 PM	<p>Break</p>
3:10 - 3:40 PM	<p><i>"You Should Study Sickle Cell Kidney Disease" Dr. Winfred Wang, November 2017</i> Jeffrey Lebensburger, DO, MSPH Hugh Morgan Endowed Professor of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Vice Chair, Faculty Development Co-Director, UAB Lifespan Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center Director, Pediatric Hematology Section Division of Pediatric Hematology Oncology University of Alabama at Birmingham</p>
3:40 - 4:10 PM	<p><i>The Mentor Who Became a Colleague and a Friend</i> Michael Jeng, MD Professor of Pediatrics Division of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Stem Cell Transplantation & Regenerative Medicine Stanford University School of Medicine</p>
4:10 - 4:25 PM	<p><i>Dr. Wang's Family</i></p>
4:25 - 4:30 PM	<p><i>Closing Remarks</i> Clifford Takemoto, MD Member, St. Jude Faculty Director, Clinical Hematology Lemuel Diggs Endowed Chair in Sickle Cell Disease</p>
4:30 - 5:30 PM	<p><i>Reception in Atrium</i></p>

SESSION SPEAKERS



James Downing, MD

Member, St. Jude Faculty
President and Chief Executive Officer
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Donald Pinkel Chair of Childhood Cancer Treatment

Welcome



Mitchell J. Weiss, MD, PhD

Chair, Department of Hematology
Arthur Nienhuis Endowed Chair In Hematology

Tribute to Dr. Wang



Alexis A. Thompson, MD, MPH

Elias Schwartz MD Endowed Chair in Hematology
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Professor of Pediatrics
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

Progress in sickle cell disease: Bending the arc towards health equity

SESSION SPEAKERS (CONT'D)



Audrey Davis
SCD Parent

SCD Parent/The Ripple Effect of one life in Medicine



Ulrike M. Reiss, MD
Associate Member, St. Jude Faculty / Director, Hemophilia
Treatment Center

The Evolution of a Sickle Cell Center of Excellence



Lynn W. Rodriguez, MSN, PNP-BC, APP (Ret.)
Department of Hematology and Surgery

Leadership, Compassion, and Quiet Excellence

SESSION SPEAKERS (CONT'D)



Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo, MD

Member, St. Jude Faculty
Executive Vice President
Chair, Department of Global Pediatric Medicine
Director, St. Jude Global
Co-Associate Director, Outreach, Comprehensive Cancer Center

Leadership, Compassion, and Quiet Excellence



Jeremie Estepp, MD

Senior Director, Medical Affairs at Cogent Biosciences

A Study that Changed the Future: Impact of the BABYHUG Study on SCD Care



Jane S. Hankins, MD, MS

Member, St. Jude Faculty
Director, St. Jude Global Hematology Program

A Mentor's Role in Defining Lifespan Outcomes in Sickle Cell Disease: SCCRIP/TCD & Strokes

SESSION SPEAKERS (CONT'D)



Peter Lane Jr., MD

Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics
Emory University School of Medicine
Past Director, Sickle Cell Disease Program
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

From the PROPS Study to National Standards: Honoring a Colleague's Teamwork and Legacy in Sickle Cell



Tabatha J. Marmon

Sickle Cell Warrior | Activist
Patient Advocate | Consultant
Public Speaker | Founder of *Interviews With Tab*
Panelist

Patient Panel: Grateful Hearts: Patients Honor a Life in Medicine



Yvonne Carroll, JD, RN

Dir-Program, Department of Hematology
Moderator

Patient Panel: Grateful Hearts: Patients Honor a Life in Medicine

SESSION SPEAKERS (CONT'D)



Judith Wilimas, MD

Full Member (Ret.), Department of Hematology
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

From Early Days to Enduring Impact: A Tribute to a Cherished Colleague



Banu Aygun, MD

Professor of Pediatrics at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/
Northwell and the Associate Chief of Hematology and Section Head
of Sickle Cell Disease at Cohen Children's Medical Center

Always a Pediatrician at Heart: Early Childhood Assessment in Children with Sickle Cell Disease



Jeffrey Lebensburger DO, MSPH

Hugh Morgan Endowed Professor of Pediatric Hematology Oncology
Vice Chair, Faculty Development
Co-Director, UAB Lifespan Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center
Director, Pediatric Hematology Section
Division of Pediatric Hematology Oncology
University of Alabama at Birmingham

"You Should Study Sickle Cell Kidney Disease" Dr. Winfred Wang, November 2017

SESSION SPEAKERS (CONT'D)



Michael Jeng, MD

Professor of Pediatrics
Division of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Stem Cell
Transplantation & Regenerative Medicine
Stanford University School of Medicine

The Mentor Who Became a Colleague and a Friend



Clifford Takemoto, MD

Member, St. Jude Faculty
Director, Clinical Hematology
Lemuel Diggs Endowed Chair in Sickle Cell Disease

Closing Remarks



**St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital**

Finding cures. Saving children.

ALSAC · DANNY THOMAS, FOUNDER