

# The ImmunOptimize Network



## Winter 2026 Update

**Dear Friends of the ImmunOptimize Network,**

On behalf of the Advisory Committee, we are thrilled to share the first edition of our newsletter with you! We have been working diligently since the Inaugural Workshop held on September 10, 2024, to develop a National Clinical Trials Network (the ImmunOptimize Network) focused on preventing and treating infectious diseases in people with immunocompromising conditions, and we look forward to sharing our progress with you.

### Meet the ImmunOptimize Network Advisory Committee



**Jeffery J. Auletta, MD**  
NMDP  
The Ohio State University



**Lindsey R. Baden, MD**  
Harvard Medical School



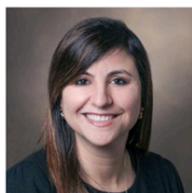
**Michael J. Boeckh, MD, PhD**  
Fred Hutch Cancer center



**Roy F. Chemaly, MD, MPH**  
University of Texas  
MD Anderson Cancer Center



**Limei Fan, MBA**  
Fred Hutch Cancer Center



**Natasha B. Halasa, MD, MPH**  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



**Joshua A. Hill, MD**  
Fred Hutch Cancer Center



**Holly Janes, PhD**  
Statistician  
Fred Hutch Cancer Center



**Kaley Childs Karaffa, JD**  
Patient Advocate  
Fred Hutch Cancer Center



**Deepali Kumar, MD, MSc**  
University of Toronto



**Steven A. Pergam, MD, MPH**  
Fred Hutch Cancer Center

## PROGRESS

Our team has made great strides in 2025, including ongoing discussions with stakeholders across the public and private sectors. Working with our advisors and Fred Hutch's institutional experts in government affairs, patient and family advisory council, philanthropy, and communications, we built momentum to increase public awareness, advocacy and foundational support. We organized and participated in meetings and events to engage and inspire peers, patients, supporters, funders, and other stakeholders to join this effort. It was a true display of people and teams united by a shared vision.

## ADVOCACY

On September 11, 2024, the ImmunOptimize Network took our mission to Capitol Hill! We had meaningful conversations with members of Congress who clearly recognized the urgency for establishing a clinical trials network dedicated to serving immunocompromised individuals. Since this visit, we have worked closely with colleagues in the Government and Community Relations division and are planning for another visit to the Hill in 2026.



Front row: Alicia Ayler, Sabrina Richards, Michael Boeckh, Natasha Halasa  
Back Row: Steve Pergam, Josh Hill, Kaley Karaffa, Limei Fan, Rebecca Bryant



Michael Boeckh, Kaley Karaffa, Steve Pergam, Josh Hill, Natasha Halasa

## COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

### Obliteride

Obliteride is an annual Fred Hutch fundraiser that includes a 25-, 50-, or 100-mile bike ride and 5K walk/run that raises money for cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and cures. This year on August 9, [Team ImmunOptimize for All!](#) pedaled, walked, and ran their way to raise over \$22,000 in support of the ImmunOptimize Network. Thank you to the 33 participants, 191 donors, and 14 volunteers who helped make this happen!



## Team ImmunOptimize for All!

Front Row: Whitney Passmore, Kaley Karaffa, Rebecca Bryant, Jeff Ayers, Terry Stevens-Ayers, Jason Goldman, Josh Hill, Bailen Hill, Emily Rosen, Cassandra Callas, Christi Capazzo, Katerina LaMarche

Back Row: Brett Hanscom, Manoj Menon, Claire Hudson, Aye Diallo, Joanna Diallo, Limei Fan, Jessica Lawler



Advisory Committee Members Natasha Halasa (left), Limei Fan (middle), and Josh Hill (right) cross the finish line at Obliteride!

## GET INVOLVED

We invite you to join this crucial effort and help shape the next steps:

**Participate:** Please fill out our interest form to get involved. You can:

- Participate as an enrolling site
- Propose research ideas
- Work with the Network to implement clinical trials
- Engage with us through advocacy and fundraising

## Spread the word:

Do you know a researcher, clinician, patient advocate, or policymaker who may want to support this mission? Please share this newsletter, [our website](#), and our [interest form](#) with your contacts!

## Support our work:

Your support helps us better connect patients' needs to research priorities, accelerate scientific discovery, and broaden access to evidence-based medical solutions. [Tax-deductible donations can be made here](#) and bring us closer to launching the critical trials necessary to treat and prevent infections in immunocompromised individuals.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please send us an email at [idnetwork@fredhutch.org](mailto:idnetwork@fredhutch.org)

## NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

### Hot off the press!

- More than 6% of Americans are immunocompromised, yet most clinical trials exclude them. [Read more about how the ImmunOptimize Network is trying to fix that here.](#)
- The establishment of a clinical trial network to improve the study and implementation of therapies and strategies to treat and prevent infections in immunocompromised individuals would address a large gap in research infrastructure. [Read the JAMA Network Open special communication here.](#)

Additional news and details can be found on [our website](#), which will be moved to a new domain in Spring 2026.

This past year has been filled with meaningful progress and big steps forward, and we look forward to the continued growth that 2026 holds!

With gratitude,

## The ImmunOptimize Network

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