Scot Ebbinghaus, MD

Dr. Scot Ebbinghaus has made a lifelong commitment to cancer research and finding new treatments for cancer. Currently, Ebbinghaus is in clinical research at Merck, where he leads the product development team for pembrolizumab (KEYTRUDA®) in melanoma. Ebbinghaus has been involved in cancer research and the discovery or development of new treatment strategies for cancer for 25 years since the beginning of his residency. After completing an academic internal medicine residency and hematology/oncology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, Ebbinghaus held faculty positions at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and the University of Arizona, where he focused on molecular biology research in addition to patient care and clinical research. Ebbinghaus joined Merck in 2007 and has been the clinical lead for two important programs spanning Phase I to III clinical research.

Most recently, Ebbinghaus played a key role in the development of the anti-PD-1 antibody, pembrolizumab, a new immunotherapy for cancer that was designated as a breakthrough therapy by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2013 and approved on an accelerated basis in 2014 for the treatment of patients with melanoma. Ebbinghaus is committed to seeking regulatory approvals to make this important new drug available to cancer patients around the world and to finding future combination strategies to further improve on this important breakthrough.

Gregory Michael Lubiniecki, MD

Dr. Gregory Michael Lubiniecki is a senior principal scientist at Merck Research Laboratories where he has been employed for more than seven years in oncology clinical research. Lubiniecki has worked on many clinical trials ranging from Phase I to III and has been a product development team leader and oncology investigator studies chair. Lubiniecki has worked to register Zolinza and KEYTRUDA® in various international markets.

Lubiniecki earned his medical degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and attended the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine for his internship and residency in internal medicine. He completed his hematology and medical oncology fellowship training at the University of Pennsylvania. Lubiniecki sees patients with thoracic malignancies at the Temple Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.
Merck KEYTRUDA® Team

Eric Rubin, MD

Dr. Eric Rubin's interest in cancer therapeutics began as an oncology fellow and faculty member at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. It was there where he studied DNA topoisomerase I as a target, and was the first to demonstrate that resistance to topoisomerase I-targeting drugs occurs through mutations that affect DNA binding by the enzyme. He was recruited subsequently to lead the Investigational Therapeutics Division at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ), Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. At this institution he led both drug discovery and development activities. Under his leadership, CINJ obtained a Phase I Trials Contract with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and collaborated with several pharmaceutical companies in the development of anti-cancer drugs with varied mechanisms of action. His laboratory also cloned a novel topoisomerase I- and p53-interacting tumor suppressor gene, TOPORS.

In 2008, Rubin was recruited to Merck as vice president and therapeutic area head of oncology clinical research. He led the development of the anti-PD-1 antibody pembrolizumab, which was the first PD-1 inhibitor approved in the U.S., and in the identification of the significant activity of this antibody across several additional tumor types. Under his leadership, the Merck oncology group underwent a transformational change in an effort to realize the potential of cancer immunotherapy, more than doubling in size from 2008 to 2015, and increasing the number of clinical studies of pembrolizumab from one in 2011 to more than 70 in 2015.

Rubin has authored more than 100 original, peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. He has served frequently on NCI and American Cancer Society study sections, as well as on program committees for the American Association for Cancer Research and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. In addition, he serves on several editorial boards, and is a deputy editor for *Clinical Cancer Research*. Rubin obtained his medical degree from the University of South Florida and completed residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Kevin Gergich, M.A.

Kevin Gergich began his career in Clinical Research in 1999, joining Merck in 2000. From 2000 through 2009, he worked in several therapeutic areas including cardiovascular, respiratory and vaccine clinical development. In 2009, Gergich transitioned to Merck Oncology and from 2010 has been supporting the development of KEYTRUDA®, a new immunotherapy for the treatment of cancer (anti-PD-1 antibody). In this capacity, he supports KEYTRUDA’s® clinical development programs in both melanoma and non-small cell lung cancer. Gergich played an important role in the development and accelerated approval of this breakthrough therapy in 2014 for the treatment of melanoma.
Kenneth Emancipator, MD, DABP

Dr. Kenneth Emancipator is a nationally-renowned pathologist who currently leads all companion diagnostics programs at Merck Research Laboratories and serves on the board of directors of the American Society for Clinical Pathology. He is also a regular reviewer for the American Journal of Clinical Pathology. He has in-depth experience with in vitro diagnostics from every perspective, having served previously as medical director both for academic clinical laboratories and for diagnostics manufacturers, and having been a reviewer for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Emancipator received his A.B. degree from Harvard University and his MD from St. Louis University. He completed his medical internship at Westchester County Medical Center and his pathology residency at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Prior to joining Merck in 2011, he held appointments at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, Cornell University, Beth Israel Medical Center, Bayer Healthcare, Siemens Healthcare and Abbott Molecular. He also has held various leadership positions with ASCP since 1994. He has published 86 articles and abstracts and has given 90 extramural presentations.

Emancipator’s primary interest has always been the role of diagnostic tests in driving clinical decisions. His current focus is personalized medicine and precision diagnostics, with a special emphasis in oncology. When not in his office at Merck, he is most likely to be found along the beaches and coastal waterways of Eastern Long Island.

Gargi Maheshwari, Ph.D.

Dr. Gargi Maheshwari started her career at Merck Research Laboratories in 2000, in the vaccine bioprocess research and development area. While there, she worked on all aspects of upstream bioprocess development of mammalian cell culture based viral vaccines. She was part of the team responsible for development of the manufacturing process for the adenovirus based HIV vaccine product in Phase II clinical development. Following that, Maheshwari and her team were responsible for the development of the second generation Varicella bulk manufacturing process, enabling the manufacture of Varicella containing vaccines, Zostavax and ProQuad, now a billion dollar franchise. She led the technology transfer of this process into manufacturing, and won the inaugural Merck’s prestigious Chairman’s Cup award in 2013 for this effort.

Maheshwari moved to Merck Manufacturing Division in 2009, to support establishment of the biologics commercialization area. Through May 2013, she led the process development and commercialization department in Biologics Manufacturing Sciences & Commercialization, managing teams at multiple sites, and was responsible for late stage bioprocess development for biologics. As the co-lead of the Integrated Development and Supply Team for KEYTRUDA®, she is currently responsible for managing the chemistry manufacturing and controls aspects of KEYTRUDA®, accelerating the product through development stages to commercialization, in response to the breakthrough therapy designation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Maheshwari received a Ph.D. degree in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she was awarded the Poitras fellowship for outstanding biomedical engineering research. She graduated at the top of her class and was awarded the President’s Silver Medal in receiving her Bachelor and Master of Technology degrees in Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Maheshwari has more than 15 peer reviewed publications, has authored numerous internal Merck technical product reports, and has presented many invited lectures and chaired sessions at international technical conferences.