

# 2026 Ascension Saint Thomas Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Conference

Presented by  
Ascension Saint Thomas Office of Continuing Medical Education



**Saturday, November 7, 2026**

Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital Midtown  
2000 Church Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37236



**Ascension Saint Thomas**

# 2026 Ascension Saint Thomas Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Conference

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## Course Information

Please join us for the inaugural Ascension Saint Thomas Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Conference, an educational event dedicated to advancing the early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of lung cancer. Attendees will explore best practices in screening, innovations in robotic and minimally invasive techniques, and emerging therapies shaping the future of lung cancer care. This conference aims to strengthen collaboration and improve care for patients across every stage of their journey. This education is designed for physicians, APPs, nurses, and all other healthcare professionals who are involved in the ongoing care of patients with lung cancer. Pulmonologists, oncologists, thoracic and cardiothoracic surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, radiation oncologists, oncology nurses, palliative care providers, administrators, and advocacy representatives will all benefit from this multidisciplinary program.

## Agenda

7:15 a.m. **Conference Check-In and Breakfast**

8:00 a.m. **Welcome & Course Introduction**  
*Otis B. Rickman, DO, DAABIP and*  
*John F. Lazar, MD*

### Session One: Finding Patients Before Cancer Finds Them

8:10 a.m. **Lung Cancer in 2026: Who's at Risk and Why?**  
*Johann Brandes, MD*

8:30 a.m. **Screening CT: Does it Work? How Can AI Improve Overall Survival?**  
*Florian J. Fintelmann, MD*

9:05 a.m. **Smoking Cessation: The Uncomfortable but Critical Conversation**  
*Becky Bonds, RN, MSN, OCN and*  
*Charla E. Walston, AGACNP-BC*

9:25 a.m. **A Patient's Story: Real Life Behind the Data**  
*Julie Travis, RN, BSN*

10:00 a.m. **Break**

### Session Two: Getting to the Diagnosis

10:15 a.m. **My Patient Has a Nodule: What's the Next Step?**  
*Robert P. Mildenhall, MD*

10:35 a.m. **"You Need a Biopsy": Where Should They Go and What Happens Next?**  
*John P. Simmons, MD*

10:55 a.m. **Staging Before Referring: What Needs to Be Done and Why It Matters**  
*Nicholas D. LeBlanc, MD*

11:15 a.m. **Lung Screening and Nodule Pre-Diagnostic Testing**  
*Victor H. Kha, DO, FCCP*

11:35 a.m. **Lunch**

### Session Three: Treatment Approaches That Are Changing the Game

12:30 p.m. **Who's a Surgical Candidate?**  
*Ryan J. Hendrix, MD*

12:50 p.m. **SBRT in Early Disease: When Less is More**  
*Mark P. Sittig, MD*

1:10 p.m. **Beyond Biopsy: Robotic Bronchoscopy Guided Treatment of Peripheral Lung Tumors**  
*Roberto F. Casal, MD*

1:45 p.m. **Innovations in Therapy: From Targeted to Immuno—What's Shaping the Future**  
*Wade Iams, MD, MSCI*

2:05 p.m. **Robotic Sublobar Resection: Rethinking Surgery for Early-Stage Lung Cancer**  
*Richard S. Lazzaro, MD, FACS*

2:40 p.m. **Break**

### Session Four: Life During and After Lung Cancer

3:00 p.m. **Survivorship: Who Owns Long-Term Follow-Up and How Should It Look?**  
*Kate Baker, MD, MMHC*

3:20 p.m. **Side-Effects Happen: Recognizing Treatment-Related Toxicities and Integrating Palliative Care Early**  
*Barton Sanders, MD, MS*

3:40 p.m. **Breathless and Beyond: Palliating Pleural and Airway Complications**  
*Otis B. Rickman, DO, DAABIP*

4:00 p.m. **Wrap-Up & Final Thoughts**  
*Otis B. Rickman, DO, DAABIP and*  
*John F. Lazar, MD*

4:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

## Accreditation and Credits

Ascension Saint Thomas is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Ascension Saint Thomas designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to 6.75 MOC points in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

Successful completion of this CME activity enables the learner to earn credit toward the CME requirements of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery's Maintenance of Certification program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABTS credit.

Allied Health Professionals and other learners will receive a Certificate of Participation following this course.



## Course Directors

### **John F. Lazar, MD**

Thoracic Surgeon  
Director, Thoracic Oncology  
Ascension Saint Thomas  
Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Medical Education  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

### **Otis B. Rickman, DO, DAABIP**

Interventional Pulmonologist  
Director, Interventional Pulmonology  
Ascension Saint Thomas  
Professor, Department of Clinical Medical Education  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

## Section Leaders, Planners, and Faculty

### **Kate Baker, MD, MMHC**

Medical Oncologist  
Medical Director, Value Based Care  
Tennessee Oncology

### **Austyn Barnes, MSHA, MBA**

Provider Relationship Manager  
Ascension Saint Thomas

### **Becky Bonds, RN, MSN, OCN**

Oncology Nurse Navigator, Lung  
Ascension Saint Thomas

### **Johann Brandes, MD**

Medical Oncologist  
Tennessee Oncology

### **Kamadi Camp**

Vice President, Oncology Service Line  
Ascension Saint Thomas

### **Roberto F. Casal, MD**

Interventional Pulmonologist  
Professor & Director of Clinical Research  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

### **Florian J. Fintelmann, MD**

Thoracic Radiologist & Interventional Oncologist  
Medical Director, Thoracic Radiology  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Associate Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School

### **Ryan J. Hendrix, MD**

Thoracic Surgeon  
Ascension Saint Thomas  
Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Medical Education  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

### **Wade Iams, MD, MSCI**

Medical Oncologist  
Director of Lung Cancer Research  
Tennessee Oncology

### **Victor H. Kha, DO, FCCP**

Pulmonologist  
MidState Pulmonary  
Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Medical Education  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

### **Joan Lafranchise, MSN, RN**

Director Clinical Programs, Oncology Service Line  
Ascension Saint Thomas

### **Richard S. Lazzaro, MD, FACS**

Thoracic Surgeon  
Chief of Thoracic Surgery, Southern Region  
Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health

### **Nicholas D. LeBlanc, MD**

Thoracic Surgeon  
Ascension Saint Thomas

### **Robert P. Mildenhall, MD**

Pulmonologist  
Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford

### **Barton Sanders, MD, MS**

Palliative Care  
Tennessee Oncology  
Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Medical Education  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

### **John P. Simmons, MD**

Pulmonologist  
Saint Thomas Medical Group  
Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Medical Education  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine

Continued on next page



## Section Leaders, Planners, and Faculty, Continued

### Mark P. Sittig, MD

Radiation Oncologist  
Tennessee Oncology  
Cancer Center Director, Ascension Saint Thomas

### Julie Travis, RN, BSN

Oncology Nurse Navigator, Breast  
Ascension Saint Thomas

### Charla E. Walston, AGACNP-BC

Interventional Pulmonology Nurse Practitioner  
Ascension Saint Thomas

## Financial Disclosures

Ascension Saint Thomas is committed to providing CME that is balanced, objective, and evidence-based. In accordance with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, all individuals who have the opportunity to control content are required to disclose any financial relationships within the past 24 months with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. Ascension Saint Thomas has established mechanisms to mitigate relevant financial relationships. Disclosure of relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies will be provided to learners prior to the activity.

## Special Accommodations

Ascension Saint Thomas believes that participation should be available for all individuals. If you are in need of individualized accommodations, please contact the Ascension Saint Thomas Office of Continuing Medical Education at [astcme@ascension.org](mailto:astcme@ascension.org).

## Nashville Lodging

**Registrants are responsible for making their own reservations.** Below is a list of hotels near Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital Midtown.

### Tempo by Hilton Nashville Midtown (0.2 Miles)

110 20th Ave N, Nashville, TN 37203 - 629-312-2601

### Hyatt House Nashville at Vanderbilt (0.3 Miles)

2100 Hayes St, Nashville, TN 37203 - 615-320-9000

### Holiday Inn Express and Suites Nashville West End (0.3 Miles)

2221 Elliston Pl, Nashville, TN 37203 - 615-919-9910

### Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel (0.4 Miles)

2100 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37203 - 615-320-1700

### Hutton Hotel (0.5 Miles)

1808 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37206 - 615-340-9333

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**Register Online**  
**ast.cloud-cme.com**

To register, please scan the QR code or visit our website, [ast.cloud-cme.com](http://ast.cloud-cme.com). If you had an account on our previous site and are accessing this site for the first time, please click "Sign In" and "Forgot Your Password?" to reset your password.



If you have never received credits from AST CME, please create a new account. Registration fees include food, beverages, and educational presentations. If you do not receive a confirmation email upon registration, please email [Caroline.Whitehead@ascension.org](mailto:Caroline.Whitehead@ascension.org). **We will not be able to accommodate walk-in registrations.**

# 2026 Ascension Saint Thomas Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Conference

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**Registration Form  
for Email or U.S. Mail**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ MD \_\_\_ DO \_\_\_ NP \_\_\_ PA \_\_\_ RN

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200.00 Physician  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$150.00 Other Learner (NP, PA, RN, Other)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 Resident/Fellow/Student  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$0.00 UTHSC Nashville Resident Physician/Fellow  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$0.00 \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number  
Ascension Saint Thomas Non-Physician Associate\*

\* If you register as an Ascension Saint Thomas Non-Physician Associate for \$0.00 and you are not able to attend, you must cancel your registration by Friday, October 23rd. **If you do not cancel by October 23rd, you will be invoiced a fee of \$25.00.** If you wish to cancel, please email [astcme@ascension.org](mailto:astcme@ascension.org).

**Charge to:**

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Number (CVV) \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different than above)

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Options:**

- **Scan and Email form to** [Caroline.Whitehead@ascension.org](mailto:Caroline.Whitehead@ascension.org)
- **Make check payable to Ascension Saint Thomas and mail with form to:**  
Continuing Medical Education  
Ascension Saint Thomas Hospital West  
4220 Harding Road  
Nashville, TN 37205

**Cancellation Policy**

If it is necessary to cancel your registration, please email [astcme@ascension.org](mailto:astcme@ascension.org) by Friday, October 23rd. We will refund your fee less \$25.00. No refund will be given after Friday, October 23, 2026.

*If you happen to receive more than one brochure, please share with a colleague. Thank you!*



Continuing Medical Education  
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