



Charles D. Blanke, M.D., FACP, FASCO

Chair, SWOG Cancer Research Network

Professor of Medicine

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Charles D. Blanke is a professor of medicine at the Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and serves as chair of SWOG Cancer Research Network, an international group of nearly 6,000 physician-researchers that designs and conducts cancer clinical trials. As part of the National Clinical Trials Network of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), SWOG is a worldwide leader in rigorous, large-scale cancer trials, with results leading to the approval of more than 14 FDA-approved drugs since its founding in 1956. Dr. Blanke is committed to pathway-driven, patient-centered cancer research. Since taking over as chair of SWOG in 2013, he has advanced innovation, inclusion and integrity by launching a major lung cancer precision medicine trial; creating a leadership program for young investigators; forging partnerships with VA medical centers nationwide; and making the group more accessible and accountable by instituting term limits for committee chairs and launching *The Front Line*, a weekly blog available at www.swog.org. Dr. Blanke has also significantly aided the development of chemobiotherapy use in patients with advanced colorectal cancers. More recently, he has been involved with policy and research issues related to medical aid in dying (MAiD), including the decision-making process, demographic descriptions of users, and drug development. Dr. Blanke is a member of the Life's Door Hope Hub, an international collaborative group dedicated to engaging and inspiring people to live with hopefulness and meaning in the face of illness. Before joining OHSU, he was vice president of systemic therapy for the British Columbia Cancer Agency, professor and chief of medical oncology at the University of British Columbia, and head of medical oncology at Vancouver Hospital. Dr. Blanke graduated first in his undergraduate class at Northwestern University and then earned an M.D. degree with distinction from the same institution. He completed his residency at Gundersen Medical Foundation, where he served as chief resident, and he was a hematology/medical oncology fellow at Indiana University, where he served as chief fellow. Dr. Blanke then served as faculty at Vanderbilt University while heading its clinical trials research operation for a number of years.