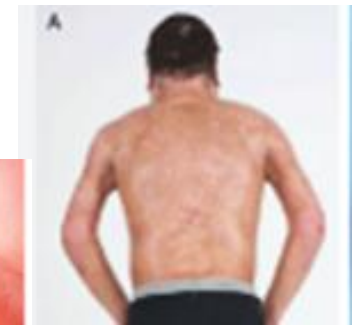


# Chronic Graft Versus Host Disease: Latest Treatments & Advances, Common Complications to Watch For & Coping Strategies

Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
Noon EST to 1:30 PM EST



# Presentation Outline

## Introduction to nbmtLINK

**Dr. Trent Wang** is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine within the Division of Transplantation and Cellular Therapy at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Lara Traeger, PhD**, a clinical-health psychologist, is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Miami and an Assistant Director of Clinical Research at the UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Michael Cramer**, Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma survivor, son, wind surfer influencer and more

## Question and Answer Period



## **Our Mission**

The National Bone Marrow Transplant Link (nbmtLINK) is dedicated to helping individuals and their families from diagnosis through survivorship. We work with hospitals, cancer centers, and other organizations to reinforce and complement medical care by providing resources, support and education.

We link you to experts across the country in all topics related to transplant and to others who have made it through the journey before you.

**nbmtLINK**  
**1- 800-546-5268**  
**or**  
**1-800-LINK-BMT**

Please feel free to email us for more information, slides, or assistance

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# Resources to Help Families Navigate the Transplant Journey

- Lunch & Learn Programs, podcasts, multiple webinars, and blogs from those who have been through the transplant process on all things related to transplant including disease specific information, survivorship issues, coping, and symptom management.
  - Survivors Thrive Book Club and other programs to connect our community
    - Peers Support Mentor Program for Patients and Caregivers
      - Second Birthdays Recognition Program
- Resource books, materials, emotional support from a licensed social worker and referrals
  - Resources and stories of support via our Facebook page



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**Our esteemed Link Partners for their continued  
support in all we do.**

**Today's presentation is meant to inform and support, it is not intended to replace individualized medical advice**

***nbmtLINK and the presenters do not recommend or endorse any specific products, therapies, websites or clinical trials. The treatments, therapies, products, trials and websites mentioned during the webinar are provided as a convenience to you and to promote dialogue between you and your health care team about supportive care approaches in chronic GVHD. Before adding any new approach or treatment to your regimen, you should discuss this with your health care provider to determine if that intervention is right for you.***

# Physician, Professor



Dr. Trent Wang is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine within the Division of Transplantation and Cellular Therapy. Since joining Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, his clinical focus has been treating patients with hematologic cancers who require allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and other cellular therapies.

Dr. Wang's research focuses on complications of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, including conducting interventional, behavioral and retrospective studies of graft-versus-host disease, infectious transplant complications, and transplant survivorship. Dr. Wang also studies the outcomes of immune effector cell therapies such as CAR-T cells for various oncologic indications.

# Clinical Health Psychologist



Lara Traeger, PhD

Dr. Traeger, a clinical-health psychologist, is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Miami and an Assistant Director of Clinical Research at the UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. She conducts patient- and family-centered research to enhance quality of life and quality of care among adults affected by cancer. Her work focuses on developing, testing, and disseminating strategies to enhance patient resilience, health behaviors, and patient-clinician communication. She received her graduate training from the University of Miami and completed her pre- and post-doctoral fellowships at the Mass General Hospital/Harvard Medical School.

# Michael Cramer, Survivor



Let me introduce you to Michael Cramer. He is a 23-year-old cancer survivor, bone marrow transplant recipient, social media influencer, motivational hero. Quick flashback, Michael was born in Paris, but grew up in Miami Beach. He has an older brother and a younger sister. He's the middle kid. Michael was a surfer, skater, and on the Olympic Development team for windsurfing. He traveled the world competing. He was the funny one on the team, had his own style off the water, made everyone laugh. He was full of adventure and as a teenager, he had already experienced so much life! Heartbreakingly, his dad died of cancer in 2016, but this only brought the family closer together. Love and the ocean kept the family afloat. On July 14, 2020, tragedy hit again. Michael was diagnosed with an insanely rare and aggressive cancer, Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma. Less than 200 documented cases ever. Average survival, 8 months. Miraculously, 4 years later, he is still here. Alive. Doing amazing things. Inspiring others through TikTok and IG. Leads a support group for cancer survivors. He's been through chemo, radiation, a bone marrow transplant (which included a 6 week hospital admission), near fatal GVHD (graft versus host disease) three separate times, one of those times staying 5 months straight in the hospital with little hope of ever going home. He has spent weeks in the hospital for gastroparesis (stomach paralysis), liver failure, AVN (avascular necrosis).... And it goes on....He has had deep, questioning moments of wanting to give up, stop all treatment, die peacefully, but somehow, someway, he always kept going. Through it all, Michael's mom never left his side, and their relationship became an unbreakable bond. Together the two have taken this heartbreak, the seemingly never-ending challenges, and found the "beauty in pain". It is their theme. That and "love". Oh, and connection. They started a podcast about their journey from the perspective of both patient/survivor and caregiver, a YouTube channel and blog, they even make funny, although poignant, rap videos about the cancer experience, also from both perspectives, caregiver and survivor, mom and son. Michael's social media is focused on his life, his perspective, his inspiration, lifting others, since his cancer diagnosis. An athlete brought too close to death multiple times, but always getting back up. He has built a loyal audience on social media, not only cancer survivors, but humans facing anything in life. We all go through stuff and Michael motivates you to keep going.