

## Clinical Trials for Lung Cancer: What They Are and Why You Should Ask Early

This episode explores the role of clinical trials in lung cancer care and why they are an essential part of how new treatments are developed and improved. Through a candid conversation between thoracic oncologist Dr. Ashish Saxena and patient advocate Wendy Brooks, we break down what clinical trials really are, who they are for, and how they fit into a patient's treatment journey.

From common misconceptions to the realities of participation, the discussion highlights how clinical trials are not a last resort, but often a pathway to cutting-edge therapies and more personalized care. It also sheds light on how patients can approach conversations with their care team and better understand whether a clinical trial may be right for them.

### Guests:

**Dr. Ashish Saxena**



### Speaker bio:

Ashish Saxena, MD, is a thoracic oncologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. He specializes in lung cancers and is actively involved in clinical research focused on precision medicine, immunotherapy, and novel therapeutics. Dr. Saxena is dedicated to helping patients navigate treatment options while advancing new approaches to care through clinical trials.

### Resources:

- <https://weillcornell.org/asaxena>
- <https://www.onclive.com/view/dr-saxena-on-shifts-in-treatment-with-targeted-and-immune-therapies-in-nscl>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1x1ZWH1W9Os>



## Wendy Brooks



### Speaker bio:

Wendy Brooks is a lung cancer patient advocate and member of LCFA's Speakers Bureau based in St. Louis, Missouri. Diagnosed with small cell lung cancer in 2023, she has become a strong voice for expanding treatment options and raising awareness about the importance of clinical trials. Wendy shares her experience to help others better understand their options and advocate for their care.

- Resources:
  - <https://lcfamerica.org/story/lung-cancer-screening-saved-my-life/>
  - <https://www.curetoday.com/view/facing-lung-cancer-together-a-patient-and-care-partner-share-their-journey>
  - <https://youtube.com/shorts/fLrS2U-h2ZY>

LCFA's mission is the improvement in survivorship of lung cancer patients through the funding of transformative science.

While raising funds to support lung cancer research, LCFA will raise the public's awareness and serve as a resource for patients or anyone seeking answers, hope, and access to updated treatment information, scientific investigation, and clinical trials.

You can also join the conversation with LCFA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).