

Small Cell Lung Cancer: Breakthrough Treatments and Why Clinical Trials Offer Hope Show Notes

This episode explores the rapidly evolving landscape of small cell lung cancer (SCLC) treatment, the explosion of new immunotherapies and targeted approaches, and the critical role clinical trials play in extending lives. Through a candid conversation between Dr. Ashish Saxena and patient advocate Wendy Brooks, we break down what newly diagnosed patients need to know, why clinical trials are NOT a last resort, and how to advocate for the best possible care from day one.

Guests:



Dr. Ashish Saxena

Dr. Ashish Saxena is a medical oncologist at Weill Cornell Medicine specializing in thoracic cancers. His clinical and research work focuses on advancing treatment options for lung cancer patients, with a particular emphasis on immunotherapy, targeted therapies, and clinical trial development for small cell lung cancer.



Wendy Brooks

Wendy Brooks is a dedicated patient advocate and lung cancer survivor living with small cell lung cancer. As a host and voice for the LCFA community, she uses her personal experience, including her time as a clinical trial participant, to bridge the gap between complex medical research and the patient experience, ensuring that survivors have the tools they need to advocate for their own care.

Episode Highlights:

- **Understanding SCLC Today:** A deep dive into why small cell lung cancer moves quickly, but also why it responds well to initial treatment—and why there's more hope than ever before.



- **The Immunotherapy Revolution:** Dr. Saxena explains how checkpoint inhibitors and newer bispecific T-cell engagers are transforming outcomes for SCLC patients.
- **Clinical Trials Demystified:** Why today's standard treatments started as clinical trials, why trials offer "tomorrow's treatment today," and why patients should ask about them at their very first oncology appointment.
- **The Future of Targeted Therapy in SCLC:** Discussion of emerging subtype-specific treatments, small molecule inhibitors, and anti-angiogenic combinations on the horizon.
- **Biomarker Testing in Small Cell:** Where it stands today and how it may guide treatment decisions tomorrow.
- **Managing Side Effects:** Why honest communication with your care team protects both your treatment plan and your quality of life.

Resources

- Learn more about clinical trials and how to find one
- [LCFA's First 7 Days](#): A Roadmap for the Newly Diagnosed
- [Understanding Small Cell Lung Cancer](#)
- [Living With Lung Cancer: Ask Me Anything Series](#) - survivor-led podcast strips away the clinical jargon to reveal what living with lung cancer really looks like.
- [Find a Clinical Trial](#): Small Cell Lung Cancer to search for —
 - Bispecific T-cell engager studies (including tarlatamab/Imdelltra trials)
 - Checkpoint inhibitor combination trials
 - Subtype-specific targeted therapy studies for SCLC

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](#).