

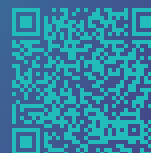
LET'S TALK COUGH

Unpacking what it's like
to live with chronic cough



Externally-Led Patient-Focused Drug Development Meeting on Chronic Cough

October 28, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Eastern U.S. Daylight Time



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Pulmonary
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Table of Contents

- 2 Agenda
- 3 Discussion Questions Topic 1
- 4 Discussion Questions Topic 2
- 5 About Chronic Cough
- 5 About Patient-Focused Drug Development and the Let's Talk Cough Initiative
- 6 Today's Panelists
- 6-8 About the Speakers
- 9 About the Host Organizations
- 10 Sponsors
- 11 Acknowledgements

Meeting Agenda *(all times are Eastern U.S. Daylight Time)*

Please submit written comments using the comment form at letstalkcough.org. This comment form will remain open until December 3, 2026.

TIME	MEETING SEGMENT	SPEAKER
10:00 am	Welcome Remarks	Tonya Winders, President, Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform
10:05 am	Opening Remarks from FDA: Value of PFDD in Chronic Cough	Stacy Chin, MD, Deputy Director, Division of Pulmonology, Allergy, Cough and Critical Care, FDA
10:10 am	Overview of Chronic Cough and Current Treatments	Matthew G. Drake, MD, ATSF, Division Head and Edwards Professor of Pulmonary Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University
10:20 am	Meeting Format and Introduction to Discussion Topic 1: Living with Chronic Cough – Symptoms and Daily Impacts	Kim McCleary, Kith Collective
10:30 am	Panel on Discussion Topic 1	Prepared remarks from selected patients and patient representatives
11:00 am	Facilitated Discussion on Topic 1 See discussion questions on page 3	Patients and patient representatives
11:55 am	Recap and release to lunch	Kenneth Mendez, President and CEO, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
12:00 pm	Break	
1:30 pm	Welcome Back	Amy Hajari Case, MD, FCCP, Chief Medical Officer, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
1:35 pm	Introduction to Discussion Topic 2: Perspectives on Current and Future Treatment Options for Chronic Cough	Kim McCleary, Kith Collective
1:40 pm	Panel on Discussion Topic 2	Prepared remarks from selected patients and patient representatives
2:10 pm	Facilitated Discussion on Topic 2 See discussion questions on page 4	Patients and patient representatives
3:10 pm	Closing Remarks	Jean Wright, MD, MBA, CEO, COPD Foundation
3:15 pm	Adjourn	

Discussion Questions

Topic 1: Living with Chronic Cough – Symptoms and Daily Impacts

- Of all the symptoms that you experience because of chronic cough, which 1-3 related symptoms or aspects have the most significant impact on your life?
- Are there specific activities that are important to you but that you cannot do at all or as fully as you would like because of chronic cough and its impacts?
- How does chronic cough and its negative impacts affect your daily life on the best days? On the worst days?
- How have chronic cough and other symptoms related to it changed over time?
- Would you define chronic cough as being well managed?
- What worries you most about chronic cough?

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Discussion Questions

Topic 2: Perspectives on Current and Future Treatment Options for Chronic Cough

- What are you currently doing to help manage chronic cough or its symptoms? This could include prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, therapies involving medical devices like supplemental oxygen, lifestyle adjustments, and non-drug therapies.
- How has your chronic cough management regimen changed over time, and why?
- How well does your current regimen address the most significant symptoms of your chronic cough? For example, how well do your treatments improve your ability to do specific activities?
 - How well have these treatments worked for you as your condition has changed over time?
 - What have you tried in the past that you might have discontinued?
- What are the most significant downsides to your current chronic cough management regimen, and how do they affect your daily life?
- Short of a complete cure, what specific things would you look for in an ideal treatment for your chronic cough?
- What would you consider to be a meaningful improvement (for example symptom improvements or functional improvements) that a treatment could provide for chronic cough?

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About Chronic Cough

Coughing is a normal reflex. It helps protect the body by clearing irritants, mucus, and germs from the airways. However, when a cough lasts longer than expected, it may become a long-term problem. Chronic cough is one of the most common reasons people seek medical care. Studies suggest that approximately 10% of people worldwide experience chronic cough, although rates may vary between different countries and regions.

A chronic cough is usually defined as a cough that lasts more than 8 weeks (about 2 months) in adults. Some coughs that last for weeks after an infection (such as RSV or whooping cough) can also be very distressing. Other coughs persist for years and pose significant physical and emotional burdens for persons living with chronic cough.

Many people describe chronic cough as a dry, irritating cough, or a feeling of a “tickle” or urge in the throat that is hard to control. Others with airway damage may have thick, discolored mucus in varying amounts. Some people experience both dry and productive types of cough.

Conditions may be linked to chronic cough, such as:

- Lung diseases like asthma, bronchiectasis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) lung infections, and pulmonary fibrosis
- Acid reflux or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- Airway damage
- Certain medications
- Post-nasal drip or sinus problems
- Smoking

Sometimes the cough does not improve, even after testing and treatment. This is called refractory chronic cough. Refractory means the cough does not get better with usual treatments. Refractory chronic cough is understood to be a condition where the nerves in the throat become overly sensitive. This means the cough reflex is triggered more easily than normal.

About Patient-Focused Drug Development and the Let's Talk Cough Initiative

In 2013, the FDA began holding meetings to hear directly from patients, caregivers, advocates and other key community stakeholders about living with various medical conditions and how well available treatments meet patients' needs. This meeting series, called the “Patient-Focused Drug Development” initiative, or PFDD, was very beneficial to FDA staff and the agency. In 2015, FDA expanded the program to enable patient organizations to host “externally-led” PFDD meetings (EL-PFDD meetings) in parallel with the FDA. To date, there have been [more than 160 PFDD and EL-PFDD meetings](#) combined.

The [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America \(AAFA\)](#), [COPD Foundation](#), [Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform \(GAAPP\)](#), and the [Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation \(PFF\)](#) have united to bring the voice of the chronic cough community directly to the FDA. This meeting initiative aims to capture the full impact of chronic cough across many conditions, current management strategies, unmet medical needs, and treatment outcomes that matter most patients—with the goal of informing the development of new therapies.

A “Voice of the Patient” report will summarize insights gathered during the Let's Talk Cough meeting and throughout the planning process, creating a lasting resource for researchers, drug makers, regulators, healthcare professionals, and the broader chronic cough community.

Today's Panelists

This meeting is designed to better understand a range of lived experiences with chronic cough. The featured panelists have dedicated considerable time preparing to speak to the challenges, expectations, and hopes of the chronic cough community as a way of inviting others to share their experiences through the moderated discussion and written comments. We deeply appreciate their contributions, courage, and commitment.

Topic 1

Donna R. Dinkin, North Carolina

Byron Goldstein, Pennsylvania

Kathy Przywara, California

Dionn Tunis, New Jersey

Renée Washney, Georgia

(listed in alphabetical order)

Topic 2

L.A., Florida

John Marino, California

Mickey McPartland, Utah

Nancy Marie Turello, New Jersey

Bonnie Welch, Texas

About the Speakers *(listed in the order they appear on the agenda)*

Tonya Winders, MBA—Welcome and Meeting Introduction

President & Chief Executive Officer

Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform (GAAPP)

With more than 25 years of experience in leadership roles within the respiratory and immunology field, Tonya Winders has contributed to more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and international guidelines development. She serves on several expert panels including for the World Health Organization Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases, the Global Initiative for Asthma, and ERS International Respiratory Coalition Steering Committee. Before being appointed to lead GAAPP, Winders served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Allergy & Asthma Network for 10 years.



Stacy Chin, MD—Opening Remarks from FDA

Deputy Director, Division of Pulmonology, Allergy, and Critical Care (DPACC)
Office of Immunology and Inflammation, Office of New Drugs
Center of Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Dr. Chin earned her MD from Georgetown University Medical School and completed pediatric residency training at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC, followed by an Allergy and Immunology fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. She joined the FDA in 2012 as a medical officer, became lead medical officer in 2018, and now serves as Deputy Director, overseeing clinical development programs for drugs treating respiratory and allergic conditions, including chronic cough.



Matthew G. Drake, MD, ATSF—Overview of Chronic Cough and Current Treatments

Division Head and Edwards Professor of Pulmonary Medicine,
Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine,
Oregon Health & Science University

Dr. Drake is the Division Head for the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care and a Principal Investigator in the OHSU Asthma Lab. His research program focuses on the role of neuroimmune interactions in the pathogenesis of airway diseases, including asthma and chronic cough. Dr. Drake is also a graduate faculty member in the D3 hub (Development, Differentiation, and Disease) for the Program for Biomedical Sciences (PBMS) Graduate Program.



K. Kimberly McCleary—Moderator

Founder & CEO
The Kith Collective

Kim McCleary has been at the forefront of patient engagement for more than 30 years. She is a nationally regarded subject matter expert on patient-focused medical product development, patient-centered benefit-risk assessment, and organizational change. Kim has authored scores of publications, served dozens of steering committees and advisory boards, and been involved in numerous PFDD and EL-PFDD meetings. Her passion for this work is rooted in personal experience, lived and as a family caregiver.



Kenneth Mendez, MBA—Recap of Topic 1

President and Chief Executive Officer
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)

Kenneth Mendez has built his career in the senior leadership of nonprofits by growing the reach of those organizations, a track record he has extended since joining AAFA in 2018. He is a respected thought leader in the asthma and allergy community and has led multi-year initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of asthma and allergies on the underserved. Under Mendez' guidance, AAFA has participated in numerous initiatives with other patient advocacy organizations to advocate for issues important to the asthma and allergy community.



Amy Hajari Case, MD, FCCP—Afternoon Welcome

Chief Medical Officer
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation

Dr. Case holds board certifications in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine, specializing in the diagnosis and management of patients with interstitial lung disease (ILD) and as a principal investigator for clinical trials for pulmonary fibrosis. She joined PFF as Senior Medical Advisor for Education and Awareness in 2020 and was appointed as Chief Medical Officer in 2024. She continues to care for patients at Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta, where she is director of the ILD Program and Pulmonary and Critical Care Research Department.



Jean Wright, MD, MBA—Closing Remarks

Chief Executive Officer
COPD Foundation

Dr. Wright is a health care leader known for driving innovation, advancing patient-centered care, and leading organizational transformation. Under her leadership, the organization has expanded its reach to identify the millions of people living with undiagnosed COPD, strengthened strategic partnerships across industry, government, and advocacy, and elevated COPD as a national health priority. She has been recognized as one of the Top 30 Chief Innovation Officers in America and was nominated as one of the 25 Most Powerful Women in Health IT.



About the Host Organizations

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)

Founded in 1953, AAFA is the oldest and largest non-profit patient organization dedicated to saving lives and improving the quality of life for people affected by asthma and allergic diseases through support, advocacy, education, and research. AAFA offers extensive support for individuals and families affected by asthma and allergic diseases. AAFA is the first asthma and allergy patient advocacy group certified to meet the standards of excellence set by the National Health Council. For more information, visit aaafa.org.



Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of America

COPD Foundation

The COPD Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help millions of people live longer and healthier lives by advancing research, advocacy, and awareness to stop COPD, bronchiectasis, and NTM lung disease. The Foundation does this through scientific research, education, advocacy, and awareness to prevent disease, slow progression, and find a cure. For more information, visit copdfoundation.org.



Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform (GAAPP)

Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform (GAAPP) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to globally support and empower patients with allergies, airways, and atopic diseases by protecting their rights and insisting on the duties of governments, healthcare professionals, and the general public. With more than 200 organizations throughout 80 countries, GAAPP works to create a world where people live & breathe better. For more information, visit gaapp.org.



Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (PFF)

The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (PFF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to accelerating research, empowering the pulmonary fibrosis and interstitial lung disease community, and transforming care so that everyone with pulmonary fibrosis can live a better life. Its ultimate goal is to find a cure for pulmonary fibrosis. For more information, visit pulmonaryfibrosis.org.



Sponsors

Thank you to these generous sponsors for unrestricted educational grants in support of the Let's Talk Cough initiative:

Platinum Level



Silver Level



Bronze Level



Acknowledgements

The host organizations are grateful to the following individuals for their contributions to Let's Talk Cough:

Let's Talk Cough Planning Team

These representatives of the host organizations actively participated in shaping the initiative, planning across every phase, recruiting speakers and sponsors, and engaging with their respective communities to elevate the initiative with individuals affected by chronic cough.

- **Sanaz Eftekhari**, Chief Business Development Officer and Vice President of Research, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- **Alan Hamilton, PhD**, Senior Director of Research, COPD Foundation
- **Tara Kloehn**, Director, Community Strategy & Operations, COPD Foundation
- **Jennifer Mefford**, Chief Partnerships Officer, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
- **Kimberly Rafferty**, Marketing & Communications Production Director, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- **Leah Sorini**, Director of Corporate Partnerships, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
- **Linda Walsh**, Chief Mission Officer, COPD Foundation
- **Tonya Winders**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Global Allergy & Airways Patient Platform
- **Elisa Zizza**, Director of Development, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

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Lauren Kenney, Samantha Mayberry, and Kim McCleary of the Kith Collective for support with strategic direction, project management, content development, panelist preparation, and communications.

Julie Rathjens of Hello Brand for the design of the Let's Talk Cough logo and production of other creative materials, including this meeting program.

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