

A career in breast oncology offers profound meaning, intellectual stimulation, and the privilege of walking alongside patients through their journey with breast cancer. While the white coat symbolizes clinical expertise and compassion, there are challenges that medical training does not prepare future women in the field for. A complex landscape of challenges exists that disproportionately affects women early in their careers: navigating established systems that can be both physically and emotionally strenuous, balancing personal and professional aspirations, and finding mentorship in a competitive and evolving field.

This talk will draw on recent data and personal narratives to highlight the challenges that exist and potential solutions to sustaining a rewarding career. We will highlight the unique strengths women bring to oncology, including collaboration and leadership. We'll also discuss strategies for building a sustainable and fulfilling career, from cultivating mentorship and peer networks to advocating for institutional change and work-life integration.

Designed for early career oncologists, this session aims to inspire and equip the next generation of breast oncologists to embrace their “why”, confront challenges with confidence, and shape a career that reflects both their values and their vision.