**Speaker:** Joseph Mikhael, MD, MEd, FRCPC  
Professor in the Applied Cancer Research and Drug Discovery Division at TGen  
Chief Medical Officer of the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)

**Presentation Q&A:**  
9:35 – 10:25 AM  
10:25 – 10:30 AM

**Title:** “Drug Development in Multiple Myeloma – from the Clinic to the Planet”

**Abstract:** Very few cancers have undergone the transformation and evolution that Multiple Myeloma has had in the last 20 years. Once a terminal illness with a life expectancy of 1-2 years, now myeloma for many patients is a chronic disease with expected survival of more than a decade. This has been the result of intense and international research into the complex mechanisms of this disease, especially in its unique role in the bone marrow microenvironment. Understanding the nature of this cancer has produced a series of therapeutic agents, biological in nature, that has not only prolonged patients’ lives but has facilitated better quality of life.

In this lecture we will review this incredible progress of drug development in myeloma over the last 20 years, with particular focus on immunotherapy. Multiple Myeloma is a template disease for leveraging the immune system to attack the plasma cells that ravage the body in this awful disease. We will discuss the introduction of monoclonal antibodies, CAR T cell therapy and bispecific therapies.

Drug development is vastly different worldwide – in his role as Chief Medical Officer of the International Myeloma Foundation, Dr. Mikhael spends a quarter of his time in the third world supporting research collaborations and drug access for novel therapies in poor countries. We will discuss ways in which this can be accomplished and the implications for efforts here in the USA.