

action

ACCC Supports White House Efforts to Reignite Cancer Moonshot Initiative

On February 2, the White House announced plans to revamp the federal Cancer Moonshot program. To support the relaunch, ACCC made available to the White House resources and tools from its member programs, with a specific focus on cancer prevention for underserved and marginalized patient populations.

That same day, the President's Cancer Panel released the report *Closing Gaps in Cancer Screening: Connecting People, Communities, and Systems to Improve Equity and Access*. The report found that “too many Americans—particularly those in communities of color and socially and economically disadvantaged populations—are presenting with more advanced disease at the time of diagnosis, enduring aggressive treatment, or dying from cancers that could have been detected at earlier, more treatable stages.” Download the report in its entirety at prescanpanel.cancer.gov/report/cancerscreening.



Cancer Screening and Prevention

The report identifies four crucial goals and related recommendations to ensure that the benefits of cancer screening reach all populations. Among these was the recommendation to “facilitate equitable access by providing and increasing funding for community-oriented outreach and support, including robust engagement of community health workers and increasing patient access to self-sampling.” This recommendation supports existing efforts at ACCC member programs, such as Yuma Regional Medical Center Cancer Center in Yuma, Ariz., which leverages traditional Hispanic *promotoras*, or community health workers, to reach at-risk and underserved patients. In 2019, Yuma received an ACCC Innovator Award for implementing genetic cancer screening and testing in a medically underserved community.

The report also calls for “strengthening workforce collaborations by empowering all members of the healthcare team to support cancer screening and expand access to genetic testing.” Increasing the number of people screened for cancer—especially those most at risk—has long been a priority for ACCC member programs. In 2012, ACCC awarded OhioHealth Grant Medical Center, Grant Cancer Care, in Columbus, Ohio, an ACCC Innovator Award for its ConvenientCare Mammography program, which transports women to cancer screenings from their places of work during their lunch hour. More recently, ACCC recognized the Prevention on the Go Program at Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Baton Rouge, La., which goes one step further and partners with community organizations to bring education and early detection services to where community members live, work, worship, shop, and play. Equity is a pillar at Mary Bird Perkins, and the cancer program won a 2016 ACCC Innovator Award for its work to improve early detection in at-risk and underserved patient populations.

In the next *Oncology Issues*, read more about what ACCC member programs across the country are doing today to improve equitable screening and outreach in “The Long Road to Recovery: A Snapshot of Cancer Screening in the United States.”

Genetic Testing and Counseling

Improving equitable access to genetic testing has also been a key focus of ACCC for many years. As early as 2013, ACCC Innovator Award Winner St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute (now St. Luke's Cancer Institute) in Boise, Idaho, addressed two major barriers—access to qualified genetic specialists and patient identification—through a two-pronged approach: telehealth and weekly chart review.

In 2020 ACCC developed the resource *Making the Case for Hiring a Certified Genetic Counselor* to demonstrate how the provision of these services can improve patient health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction. The resource also discusses how genetic counseling offers a return on investment by helping cancer programs avoid unnecessary costs, decrease liability, and generate downstream revenue. Access this tool online at accc-cancer.org/business-briefs.

In March 2021, ACCC joined other stakeholders in stating its support for H.R. 2144, the Access to Genetic Counselors Services Act of 2021, “to update Medicare law and improve access to genetic counselors for Medicare beneficiaries.” Now, ACCC is supporting the Senate version of the bill, S. 1450, which would authorize the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to recognize certified genetic counselors as healthcare providers.

In 2021, the Iowa Oncology Society convened a multidisciplinary consortium to advance genetic counseling in oncology. This year, the Society will release a white paper of its findings with actionable opportunities to improve cancer genetic testing by, for example, referring patients to genetic counselors who can provide clear information about insurance coverage for genetic testing.

Share Your Success in *Oncology Issues*

One benefit of ACCC Cancer Program Membership is the opportunity to have your cancer program or practice recognized in our peer-reviewed journal, *Oncology Issues*. Whether through a feature article or highlighted in our Spotlight column, we want to share your successes—and what it took to get there—with our multidisciplinary readership. ACCC members who recently took advantage of this member benefit include:

- Avera Cancer Institute: A Psychological First Aid Program in the COVID-19 Era
- Cancer Centers of Colorado at SCL Health St. Mary's Medical Center: Improving the Culture of Your Cancer Center, One Idea at a Time
- Mount Sinai Beth Israel Cancer Center: Integrating Spiritual Care in the Outpatient Oncology Setting
- Helen F. Graham Cancer Center and Research Institute of ChristianaCare: Patients with Cancer, Comorbidities, and No Primary Care Provider
- San Juan Cancer Center: *Oncology Issues* Spotlight.

Contact Maddelynn Parker, ACCC content manager, at mparker@accc-cancer.org to learn more.

Passion for Financial Advocacy? Then Get Involved Today

ACCC is actively looking for individuals to serve on the ACCC Financial Advocacy Network Committee. Lend your insights and know-how to this committee and help other cancer programs and practices upgrade their financial advocacy services. This is an opportunity to support other professionals who are just starting to revamp (or in the midst of revamping) their current financial advocacy services. There are several ways to get involved, including contributing to ACCC blogs, articles, education resources, town halls, and more! Email cmangir@accc-cancer.org to learn more.

ACCC Welcomes Its New Members

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic Cancer Center

Houston, Tex.

Bobby Lester MHA

Website: kelsey-seybold.com/medical-services-and-specialties/cancer-center

Toledo Clinic Cancer Center

Toledo, Ohio

Delegate Rep: John Stout

Website: toledoclinic.com/cancercenter