

Putting the Future of Cancer in Focus: The Moonshot Summit

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The Cancer Moonshot is all of us who are trying to understand and defeat cancer.

—Vice President Biden at the Cancer Moonshot Summit Washington, D.C., 2016

The quote above encapsulates the overarching theme of collaboration that was present at the Cancer Moonshot Summit held in Washington, D.C., in June 2016. I had the privilege to attend the summit as a representative of ACCC.

The Moonshot Summit brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including cancer patients, advocacy groups, researchers, providers, and members of industry, including technology, IT, and drug development. This group was tasked with developing action items to address a number of challenges in cancer care:

- Access to clinical trials
- Ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic disparities
- Data sharing and interoperability of medical records
- Use of precision medicine
- Regulatory issues impeding research
- Value and cost of care
- Cancer prevention and control
- Survivorship needs.

Summit responses to these action items will be presented to the Cancer Moonshot Taskforce and incorporated into the overall Moonshot initiative.


As we addressed these issues in working groups, it was clear that the expectation of the Cancer Moonshot is for the cancer community to take ownership for solutions to these issues and to collaborate in new ways. The role of the federal government will be to facilitate and support—but not necessarily regulate—the path to success.

The Summit provided a venue for networking and conversation that promoted such collaboration among cancer care

stakeholders. Already, an impressive number of initiatives from federal agencies, private companies, and public-private partnerships have formed to further the goal of the Cancer Moonshot: “to make a decade of advances in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care in five years.”

To date, much of the Cancer Moonshot focus has been on research and academic medicine. However, to reach many of its goals, the Cancer Moonshot team needs to engage with community oncology, where the majority of cancer care is delivered. This is where ACCC members come in. ACCC is well suited to be a partner in this endeavor. We are a collaborative organization with diverse, multidisciplinary representation from the cancer community. Our members continue to develop innovative solutions to the same challenges in cancer care that were addressed during the Cancer Moonshot Summit. Many of these innovations will be highlighted at the ACCC National Oncology Conference, Oct. 19-21, 2016, including access to clinical trials, enhancing survivorship, early detection in the underserved, and managing population health.

In addition, ACCC Director of Health Policy Leah Ralph and I are working closely with the Cancer Moonshot Taskforce to explore ways that ACCC can be the voice of community oncology for the Cancer Moonshot initiative, including a virtual focus group with ACCC members held August 17, 2016, and a special session during the ACCC National Oncology Conference in St. Louis.

I am excited about the momentum and possibilities that the Cancer Moonshot creates for ACCC and for all of us who are trying to understand and defeat cancer. 

- ▶ The Evolution of Clinical Pathways & Their Role to Identify Quality and Cost Effective Care
- ▶ High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) Treatment for Prostate Cancer
- ▶ Building Supportive Care Programs through Philanthropy
- ▶ Forming Partnerships to Bring Clinical Trials to the Community
- ▶ Developing a Nurse Practitioner Productivity Measurement Tool
- ▶ Lessons from the Trenches on Strategic Planning for Oncology
- ▶ Tele-Health Technology Connects Patients with Nutrition Services
- ▶ The Study of High-Cost Oncology Patients to Improve Care & Curb Costs
- ▶ Enhancing Survivorship through Improved Provider Communication, Care Coordination & Professional Education
- ▶ Early Detection of Cancer for the Medically Underserved
- ▶ Establishing Personal Pain Goals in Oncology Patients to Improve Care & Decrease Costs
- ▶ HPV Vaccination: Engaging Community Partners for Success
- ▶ Building a Palliative Care Program from the Inside Out

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