

# Driving Oncology Forward

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I want to start by sharing my gratitude for the honor of serving as your 2021-2022 ACCC President. I have loved every opportunity I've had to lead and develop programs that have their

members and the cancer community (including our patients with cancer) at the forefront, so working with ACCC is a natural fit. One of my favorite things about ACCC is the ability of this organization to bring the cancer community together in one place. To me, ACCC represents how we care for our patients—we need every member and every discipline, leader, payer, industry partner, and innovator working together to provide the best care possible in a sustainable way. My experience is grounded in oncology social work, my field of work for more than two decades. This experience has shaped my ACCC President's Theme and the lens in which I view cancer delivery and care.


This next year, as we emerge out of COVID-19's shadow and into a landscape that has been forever altered by the worldwide pandemic, it is important that we reflect on what we witnessed this past year—not only the suffering but the “wins.” Though we saw suffering among our patients, our communities, and our cancer care teams, we also saw innovation, resilience, and heroism within these same groups. As we heal and hopefully start to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must capture and learn from the important lessons of the past few years. To help us in this effort, I am pleased to announce my 2021-2022 ACCC President's Theme, *Real-World Lessons from COVID-19: Driving Oncology Care Forward*.

**Lesson 1. Health equity and social justice are critical drivers of quality cancer care. Practice-based solutions are needed to reduce barriers to access and treatment and improve health outcomes.** During the last year, ACCC worked with its members to reduce cultural and ethnic barriers and improve access to care, which includes an ongoing collaboration with the American Society of Clinical Oncology to improve racial and ethnic minority representation in clinical

trials. The ACCC Board of Trustees is committed to continuing its focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion through education programs, such as health literacy and shared decision making, and advocacy efforts moving forward.

**Lesson 2. The escalating need for high-reach, high-impact psychosocial and supportive care services requires innovative care delivery models that demonstrate measurable value to the oncology ecosystem.** ACCC will grow its existing series of discipline-specific business briefs, which demonstrate to internal (cancer programs and practices) and external (public and private payers) stakeholders the value of offering comprehensive cancer care services. This year we will focus on the critical need for oncology social workers and oncology pharmacists. ACCC will use the results of its 2019 Comprehensive Cancer Care Survey to guide policy, advocacy, and educational initiatives and inform value-based payment reform discussions.

**Lesson 3. A culture that supports professional well-being and resilience is essential to practice sustainability and both provider and patient satisfaction.** Distress and moral injury among the healthcare workforce are nearing catastrophic levels. Strengthening—and mobilizing—a culture that supports professional well-being and resilience is critical. We must use our experience throughout COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement to 1) tackle practice-based disparities, attitudes, and processes that impede equity; 2) create efficient and effective delivery of state-of-the-art psychosocial and supportive care that brings measurable value to care delivery; and 3) acknowledge that the oncology workforce is hurting at every level—personally and professionally. Trauma runs deep and requires immediate interventions that create a culture focused on compassion and resilience. Our cancer programs and practices cannot go on without recognizing and supporting those that care for patients with cancer and their communities.

As ACCC members, I hope that these lessons resonate with you and the work you do. This work is a partnership. Please let us know what you need and, most important, whether you are interested in being involved in developing solutions. Consider this an open invitation to join us in this important work to drive oncology forward. I thank you for all you do to support patients with cancer, the care team, our communities, and ACCC. 

## Coming in Your 2021 ONCOLOGY ISSUES

- ▶ Onboarding Experienced Non-Oncology Nurses to Address Staffing Shortages
- ▶ Improve Oral Oncolytic Workflow and Reduce Treatment Delays with a Pharmacist Collaborative Practice Agreement
- ▶ Reducing Readmissions After Chemotherapy with Predictive Modeling of Risk Factors
- ▶ Integration of Prehab, Rehab, and Prospective Surveillance into Interdisciplinary Teams
- ▶ Shifting Chemo Administration from Inpatient to Outpatient Setting Improves Care and Reduces Costs
- ▶ Integrating Spiritual Care in the Outpatient Oncology Setting
- ▶ Use of Pharmacy Informatics to Standardize Pharmacist Review of Oral Oncolytic Medications for Hospitalized Patients
- ▶ Medication Transitions in Hematologic Malignancy Patients at a Safety Net Hospital
- ▶ Timing Distress Screening in Surgically Resectable Esophageal Cancer
- ▶ An Investigation of Self-Determined Work Motivation Among Young Adult Central Nervous System Cancer Survivors
- ▶ This Lyrical Life: Music Therapy in Oncology
- ▶ Mixed-Method Study Examining Initial Interactions of Oncology Patients with Multidisciplinary Cancer Care