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It's a Wrap! Highlights from the ACCC 48th Annual Meeting and Cancer Center Business Summit

March 2-4, 2022, ACCC convened approximately 400 members, sponsors, and industry partners in person for its 48th Annual Meeting and Cancer Center Business Summit (AMCCBS) in D.C., with an additional almost 300 individuals choosing to livestream sessions.

A day before the official opening of AMCCBS, expert panelists took to the stage to discuss the current landscape of survivorship care in oncology and how cancer programs and practices across the United States should rethink their current models of care. Panelists agreed that the key to effective survivorship care is smooth collaboration between a patient's oncologist and primary care provider. Panelists also agreed that though multidisciplinary team-based models of survivorship care are more financially feasible than others, considerable barriers exist to employing them. Resolving obstacles to obtaining reimbursement for survivorship care services and defining different provider roles (e.g., the responsibilities of primary care providers versus oncologists) are key to improving how cancer programs and practices transition their patients from treatment to survivorship care.

ACCC 2021-2022 President Krista Nelson, MSW, LCSW, (right) opened the meeting by thanking attendees for their dedication to quality cancer care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. "I believe that the magic is in welcoming," she said, explaining, "It's not that welcoming means that we must accept everything or that we can't advocate for what is right. But we can welcome life's challenges as a part of this complex world and strive to uncover what might work for us to cultivate some sense of peace."



Keynote speaker Cary Gross, MD, professor of medicine and director of the Cancer Outcomes Public Policy and Effectiveness Research Center at Yale School of Medicine, (top right) addressed the many ways in which the American healthcare system has failed patients. Our healthcare system distributes its resources inequitably, he said, leading to wide disparities in treatments and outcomes. Dr. Gross closed his keynote address by discussing what he believes is oncology's top issue when addressing poor patient outcomes: a strict focus on a cure and a skewed government-funded research agenda that does not place patients at the center. Dr. Gross suggested doubling down on prevention, developing more targeted screenings and new vaccines, lowering drug prices, and employing alternate payment models that reward payers for efficient, effective care.

Dr. Gross joined co-authors, Randall A. Oyer, MD (shown signing books for attendees), and Barbara McAneny, MD, MACP, FASCO, for a special book signing of *A New Deal for Cancer Care: Lessons from a 50-Year War*.

On March 4, 2022, ACCC announced David R. Penberthy, MD, MBA, medical director of radiation oncology at Bon Secours Southside Medical Center in Petersburg, VA (bottom right), as its 2022-2023 president. Dr. Penberthy took to the podium and announced his President's Theme, which will frame his leadership activities during his one-year term. The theme, "Leveraging Technology to Improve Cancer Care Delivery and the Patient Experience," will focus on 1) using data and digital health tools equitably to identify ways to reduce health disparities and 2) creating strategies to use technology to help mitigate workforce shortages and improve efficiency of care.





Krista Nelson, MSW, LCSW (far right), led the 2021-2022 ACCC President's Panel, Making the Business Case for Comprehensive Cancer Care Services. Nelson was joined by (left to right) Incoming ACCC President Olalekan Ajayi, PharmD, MBA, chief operating officer, Highlands Oncology Group, PA; Courtney Bitz, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, director of Clinical Social Work and Spiritual Care, Department of Supportive Care Medicine, City of Hope; Jennifer Bires, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, executive director, Life with Cancer and Patient Experience, Inova Schar Cancer Institute; and Al B. Benson III, MD, FACP, FASCO, professor of medicine, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern Medicine. Although oncology programs and practices across the U.S. recognize the importance of the comprehensive cancer care that is recommended in many oncology guidelines and that is essential for some accreditations, gaps exist in all practice types and geographic locations.

New this year, AMCCBS included planned networking opportunities between providers and industry on a wide range of topics, including digital health and artificial intelligence in cancer care, oncology practice transformation, precision medicine, financial navigation, technology platforms, revenue cycle and reimbursement, workforce issues, pharmacy and infusion operations, and more.