

action

ACCC Recommits to Cancer Moonshot

On May 11, ACCC Executive Director Christian G. Downs, JD, MHA, was invited to the White House to attend the “Cancer Moonshot: Goals Forum,” where the President and First Lady announced a call to action to jumpstart cancer screenings across the nation.

ACCC and AstraZeneca were recognized at the event for their joint effort—the Rural Appalachian Lung Cancer Screening Initiative—to develop and implement person-centered and sustainable approaches to increase lung cancer screening in underserved Appalachian communities. ACCC will bring together an Advisory Committee, composed of ACCC and Oncology State Society stakeholders, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) leaders, LUNGeVity and other patient advocacy representatives, Appalachian Region public health experts, and local lung cancer screening program staff to:

- Identify and address challenges in implementing lung cancer screening programs in rural communities.
- Implement innovative approaches to increase guideline-concordant lung cancer screening among rural Appalachian communities.



- Assess patient-centered screening education and communication strategies to overcome informational, literacy, and cultural barriers.

Success will be measured by changes in provider attitudes, their self-reported changes in behavior, and patient-reported outcomes. These efforts are part of ACCC’s broader Appalachian Community Cancer Alliance, which is made possible by support from Bristol Myers Squibb. Read more at accc-cancer.org/ACCA.

ACCC and ASCO Release Joint Recommendations

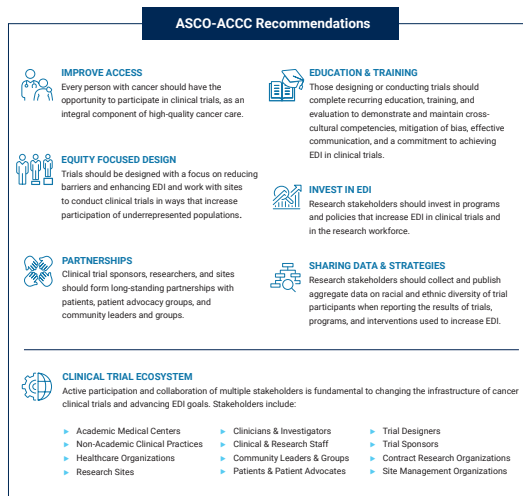
On May 19, ASCO and ACCC jointly released recommendations to address the lack of equity, diversity, and inclusion in cancer clinical trials. Published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, “Increasing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Cancer Clinical Trials: An American Society of Clinical Oncology and Association of Community Cancer Centers Joint Research Statement” details specific actions that would engage the entire cancer clinical trial ecosystem in expanding the participation of under-represented individuals in research to advance progress against cancer. Summarized in an infographic, these recommendations focus on key areas, such as:

1. Access to clinical trials
2. Equity-focused design
3. Partnerships among stakeholder groups
4. Continuous education and training
5. Equity, diversity, and inclusion investment
6. Sharing data and strategies.

Access the guidelines online at ascopubs.org/doi/full/10.1200/JCO.22.00754. Access the infographic online at accc-cancer.org/asco-acc-2022.

Increasing Racial & Ethnic Diversity in Cancer Clinical Trials

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) jointly released recommendations to engage the entire cancer clinical trial ecosystem in expanding the participation of underrepresented individuals in research that advances progress against cancer and increases the equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) of cancer clinical trials.



Learn more and read the full research statement in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. ascopubs.org/doi/full/10.1200/JCO.22.00754



2022 ACCC Virtual Hill Day

As Congress continues to consider legislation to improve access to care after the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to share with your congressional representatives the real-world impact that federal health policy has had on patients with cancer and care delivery. ACCC members from 14 states participated in more than 40 virtual meetings with their congressional representatives, sharing the challenges they—and their patients—face and allowing them to help ensure that future legislation reflects the reality of cancer care delivery. Among the 2022 policy asks ACCC members discussed were:

- The **Telehealth Modernization Act** to permanently expand access to Medicare telehealth services by removing geographic and originating site restrictions, which require a patient to live in a rural area and be physically in a doctor's office or clinic to use telehealth services.
- The **Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021** to standardize and streamline prior authorization processes within the Medicare Advantage program by establishing an electronic prior authorization system that can increase transparency and provide real-time decisions.
- The **DIVERSE Trials Act** to lessen financial burdens for patients participating in clinical trials.
- The **Safe Step Act** to protect patients from step therapy protocols that delay access to necessary anti-cancer treatments.
- The **Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act** to allow the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to cover these blood-based screening assays.

ACCC Showcases Six Abstracts at ASCO Annual Meeting

The ASCO Annual Meeting, June 3 to 7, 2022, showcased six ACCC abstracts that address some of the current barriers to and disparities in comprehensive cancer care:

1. Data for Screening, Offering, and Consenting Patients to Cancer Clinical Trials: Report from an ASCO-ACCC Collaboration
2. Generating Meaningful Peer-to-Peer Engagement Through a Mentor-Led, Small Group Social Learning Experience on the Evolving Standards of Care for Advanced HER2+ Breast Cancer
3. Building a Multidisciplinary Consortium in Iowa to Advance Genetic Counseling and Testing in Patients with Cancer
4. Assessing Feasibility and Utility of an Implicit Bias Training Program for Addressing Disparities in Cancer Clinical Trial Participation
5. National Organization Addresses Multidisciplinary Oncology Team Burnout and Resiliency Through Multifaceted Presidential Theme Education Initiative
6. Using Real-World Data to Assess Variations in Cost and Healthcare Utilization for Patients Diagnosed with Bladder Cancer.

National Organization Addresses Multidisciplinary Oncology Team Burnout and Resiliency Through Multifaceted Presidential Theme Education Initiative

Abstract # e23017
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Background

- The 2021-2022 Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) President's Theme centered on strengthening a work culture that supports professional well-being and workforce resilience.
- To support this theme and help ensure sustainable high quality cancer care delivery, ACCC—an education and advocacy organization for the multidisciplinary oncology care team (MDT)—designed a multifaceted professional development initiative.
- Educational interventions were designed to address team member burnout and building resilience—two critical issues facing members of today's oncology workforce.

Methods

- ACCC designed a collaborative and bi-directional peer-support educational initiative to reach the mission of the ACCC 2021-2022 President's Theme. The education initiative reached a diverse cohort of oncology care community members.
- Professional development opportunities included:
 1. Expert-led mindfulness meditation series of 10 guided exercises tailored to help MDT members manage through social, emotional, physical, and mental health challenges.
 2. Professional development themed virtual meetings, styled as "Coffee Chat Learning Sessions," facilitated by the ACCC President, addressing emergent challenges and opportunities facing MDT members. 76 unique professionals participated in the small group "Coffee Chat Learning Sessions" from 25 states and 72 cancer care institutions.
 3. Podcast series featuring timely topics related to MDT well-being and resiliency amid the COVID-19 Pandemic. The topics included the following:
 - Business Case for Hiring Oncology Social Workers
 - Leading with Gratitude
 - Coping with Pandemic Grief
 - Summer of Disconnect for Cancer Professionals
 - COVID-19 Self-Care
 - Real-World Lessons From COVID-19


Coffee Chat Discussion Topics

Implementing QOPI guidelines	CoC accreditation challenges
Training for new staff and mentorship	Clarity around staff roles
Expand capacity for research	Community service and giving
Integrative care for patients	Care coordination and communication
Address disparities in access to care	Strategies to address staff burnout

CONCLUSIONS

- Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive regarding this professional development initiative.
- In a climate of high burnout and health care worker fatigue, the ACCC 2021-2022 President's Theme Education program has served as a unique lifeline and resource to members of the oncology community to restore and develop resiliency, enhance well-being, and advance professional connections and peer-to-peer support to meet continued challenges.
- Coffee Chat series revealed more in-depth challenges facing oncology programs, providers, and institutions.


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Results


ACCC's Strategic Positioning and Real-Time Feedback Led to the Development of a Suite of Resources



Nelson and an expert working group piloted a benchmarking survey that provided supporting data for business case briefs for the hiring of social workers and oncological pharmacists. Research shows that both are associated with an increase in care quality and cost reduction.




Nelson hosted five virtual coffee chats with different interdisciplinary teams to facilitate engaging insight that will inform tools and resources to support cancer professionals, such as the ACCC Financial Advocacy Network. Over 2,900 learners accessed and engaged with the ACCC President's Theme resources across from March 2021-January 2022.



The inaugural episode of CANCER BLIZZ TV—ACCC's video podcast channel—featured Krista Nelson. She shared how her personal experiences during COVID-19—and those of her colleagues and patients—deeply impacted her 2021-2022 ACCC President's Theme.

- Her podcast series garnered 1,870 total learners.
- The podcast episode, "COVID-19 Self Care," was the third most accessed ACCC podcast episode of all time with more than 680 views.



ACCC President Krista Nelson and several experts in mindfulness released eleven episodes in a virtual series of mindfulness meditations to support cancer care team members' mental health through stress management.

- The meditation series engaged more than 1,100 users.