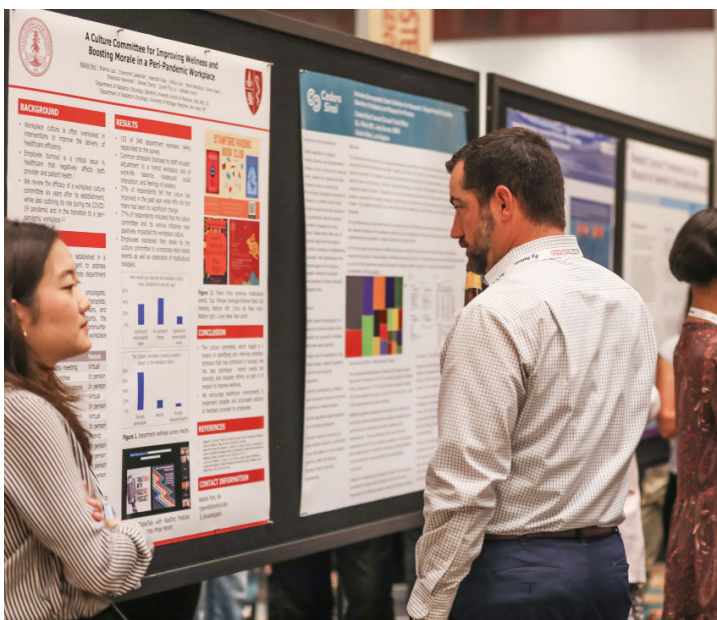


action

ACCC 40th National Oncology Conference



The Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) welcomed more than 600 attendees over a 3-day span (October 4-6) in Austin, Texas, for its 40th National Oncology Conference. Day 1 of the meeting included a pre-conference focused on the ACCC Financial Advocacy Network (left), an enlightening discussion on the importance of delivering value-based care while juggling alternative payment models, and an invite-only summit on electronic health record (EHR) integration to facilitate timely and comprehensive biomarker testing (right).



For the first time in its history, ACCC hosted poster presentations at the Opening Exhibit Reception on October 4. These presentations, which covered a wide range of topics from employee engagement programs to strategies to decrease medical mistrust to steps to take to improve compassion fatigue and quality of life for cancer care providers, were well-received by attendees, generating conversation and networking opportunities.



Innovation was the major theme on the second day of the conference. The opening keynote speaker of the day, Ted A. James, MD, MHC, FACS, medical director and vice chair of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, New York, New York, (left) delivered an insightful session on driving innovation and excellence in cancer care. “We can’t deliver cancer care the same way we have always done. Times are changing. It is the age of information, convenience, and control,” Dr. James said. “Change is hard, and I believe it’s because it requires energy and action, and it also takes a lot of effort from a leader to effect change.” Immediately following the opening keynote were presentations from the 6 2023 ACCC Innovator Award winners (right).



After lunch, attendees had 2 tracks of content to choose from, including a series of workforce development sessions developed as part of ACCC President Lekan Ajayi’s 2023-2024 President’s Theme: (Re)Building the Oncology Workforce to Deliver Next Generation Care. Topics ranged from developing an oncology pipeline for the oncology workforce to recruitment and retention strategies to leadership sustainment and engagement during challenging times.



The last day of the ACCC 40th National Oncology Conference kicked off with a powerful session on “Women Leaders in Oncology.” The rapt attendees listened as panelists discussed the challenges they had experienced as women leaders in a stratosphere largely inhabited and dictated by men. “As a woman of color in a leadership role, one of my biggest challenges has been being the only one at the table,” said Renea Duffin, MPA, vice president, Cancer Support and Outreach, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center (right, speaking). “But I’ve learned to be confident in myself.”