

Dear Cancer Liaison Physicians:

I hope you had an opportunity to attend the Commission on Cancer (CoC) CLP meeting on October 17, 2023. If you weren't able to attend, we urge you to view the recording and slides, which will be posted shortly on the American College of Surgeons Cancer Programs [website](#). I hope you'll find this meeting summary and the additional CoC updates to be useful in your role as the CLP for your cancer program.

October 17 Cancer Liaison Physician Meeting

CoC Committee on Cancer Liaison Chair **Quyên Chu, MD, FACS**, welcomed CLPs to the meeting and shared updates from the CoC. Dr. Chu acknowledged the winners of the **2023 CLP Outstanding Performance Award**. This year, more than 60 nominations were submitted and after careful review of each submission by the CoC State Chair Education Advisory Group, chaired by Iowa State Chair **Ingrid Lizarraga, MBBS, FACS**, 10 CLPs have been chosen to receive this award:

Steven Curley, MD, FACS

Northeast Texas Cancer and Research Institute
Tyler, TX

Janet K. Ihde, MD, FACS

Comprehensive Cancer Center at Desert Regional Medical Center
Palm Springs, CA

Adam Lackey, MD

Jersey City Medical Center
Jersey City, NJ

M. Ellen Mahoney, MD, FACS

Providence St. Joseph Eureka
Eureka, CA

Marc Mandel, MD, FACS

Overlook Medical Center
Summit, NJ

Andrew D. Nish, MD

Iowa Methodist Medical Center (UnityPoint Health- John Stoddard Cancer Center)
Des Moines, IA

Jaspreet Singh, DO

Premier Medical Group
Newburgh, NY

Mark Sundermeyer, MD

CMH/OHSU Knight Cancer Collaborative
Astoria, OR

Lori Vanyo, MD, FACS

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center
Pomona, CA

Kenneth C. Wang, MD, PhD
Baltimore VA Medical Center
Baltimore, MD

The 2024 CLP awards program will open for nominations in the spring.

Dr. Chu also announced that registration is open for the **2024 ACS Cancer Conference**, which will be held **February 22-24 in Austin, TX**. More information on the conference, including pre-conference workshops on Quality Improvement and the new National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers standards, can be found on the ACS Cancer Programs [website](#).

Following the CoC update, **Anthony Villano, MD**, provided an update on the CoC Operative Standards, sharing information on recent publications, webinars, and added resources, including visual abstracts and the [Operative Standards Toolkit](#).

Elizabeth Holtsclaw, Director of Payors and National Partnerships at the American Cancer Society reviewed several of the Society's resources for CLPs, including:

- **[“I Love You Get Screened” campaign](#)**: This multi-channel campaign is designed to increase cancer screening awareness for those overdue, encouraging them to speak with their doctors and learn more about their cancer screening recommendations. We encourage you to share with patients, through social media and internally with teams to promote screening.
- **[Second Annual National Lung Cancer Screening Day](#)**: The American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Roundtable (ACS NLCRT), American College of Radiology (ACR), and Radiology Health Equity Coalition (RHEC) have partnered once again for the **second annual National Lung Cancer Screening Day (“National LCS Day”) on Saturday, November 11, 2023**. As part of Lung Cancer Awareness Month and in partnership with the ACR and the RHEC, we are promoting this lifesaving event to screen more individuals and raise awareness about lung cancer screening.
- **[ACS CARES™ App launch](#)**: ACS CARES™ (Community Access to Resources, Education, and Support) equips those facing cancer with curated content, programs, and services to fit their specific cancer journey. Patients and caregivers can download the app for customized guidance, information and resources along with 24/7 support from ACS staff or find a virtual support system from trained community volunteers.

ACS Cancer Programs Accreditation Senior Manager **Erin Reuter** kicked off the discussion on CoC accreditation site visit preparation with an update on standards and site visit protocols. Dr. Chu and Dr. Castaldi then welcomed a panel of CoC site reviewers to discuss best practices, common challenges, and tips for success. The site reviewers on the panel included **Peter Hopewood, MD, FACS; Maureen Killackey, MD, FACS; David Mullins, MD, FACS; and Kevin O'Donnell, MD, FACS**.

2022 CLP Survey

The CoC is continuing to evaluate educational and informational resources and develop new materials that we hope will improve your experience and effectiveness as a CLP. Please take a few minutes to complete the [annual CLP survey](#), to provide the feedback needed to develop these resources. **The deadline to complete the survey is Tuesday, October 31, 2023.**

Download the New CLP Best Practices Guide

The CoC has developed a new Best Practices Guide for CLPs. This collection of best practices, submitted by CLPs from across the country, is now available for download and can be found under the Additional CLP Resources section on the [CLP webpage](#).

The CoC thanks these individuals for contributing to the guide:

Richard Anderson, MD, FACS, CLP Outstanding Performance Award Winner 2022
OSF St Francis Medical Center, Peoria, IL

Tina J. Hieken, MD, FACS
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Seth Krantz, MD, FACS, CLP Outstanding Performance Award Winner 2022
NorthShore University HealthSystem, Evanston, IL

Mary Legenza, MD, FACS
Cabell Huntington Hospital, Huntington, WV

Robert Lincer, MD, MBA, FACS
Garnet Health , Middletown, NY

Hitomi Momose, MD, MBA
Providence Mission Hospital, Mission Viejo, CA

Jason Paul Wilson, MD, MBA, CPE, FACS, CLP Outstanding Performance Award Winner 2021
BayCare | Morton Plant Mease HealthCare, Clearwater, FL

Hear What's New with the CoC

In a recent episode of the [House of Surgery](#) podcast, National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer Chair **Steven Wexler, MD, PhD(Hon), FACS, FRCSEng, FRCSEd**, talks with CoC Chair **Timothy Mullett, MD, MBA, FACS**, about recent activities and accomplishments of the CoC, how everyone can get involved in cancer prevention and cancer care initiatives, and upcoming changes to the National Cancer Database (NCDB).

Call for Abstracts for the ACS Cancer Conference 2024

ACS Cancer Programs is seeking abstracts for posters that will be displayed at the ACS Cancer Conference: Improving Cancer Care for All, February 22–24, 2024, in Austin, TX. The deadline to submit an abstract is **12:00 am CT on Tuesday, October 31**.

Abstracts are requested from physicians, advanced practice providers, allied healthcare professionals, administrators, nurses, program coordinators, and cancer registrars at programs that are accredited by the Commission on Cancer (CoC), National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), and

National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC). More information on submission guidelines and topics can be found on the Cancer Programs [website](#).

Standard 2.1 Update for Network Cancer Committees

The CoC recently approved a change to the requirements for Standard 2.1: Cancer Committee for Integrated Network Cancer Programs (INCP): A representative of the American Cancer Society is no longer a required member of the network cancer committee for INCP network programs. This change will be reflected in the next published revisions of the [CoC Standards](#).

Questions regarding the cancer programs accreditation standards should be submitted through the [CAnswer Forum](#).

2021 Data Now Available in NCDB Reporting Tools

The NCDB reporting tools have been updated to include cases diagnosed in 2021. This update also includes newly diagnosed or updated cases for earlier diagnosis years submitted by CoC-accredited cancer programs during the 2023 NCDB Call for Data. Updated data has been published in:

- NCDB Hospital Comparison Benchmark Reports
- NCDB Data Completeness Reports
- Site by Stage Case Distribution Report
- Survival Report

Your Success Stories Needed!

Has your program succeeded in addressing patients' financial toxicity or health literacy issues during the cancer care journey? We want to hear about it! Please share your experiences by completing this [CoC survey](#) by **October 31**. Your experience may be shared in a forthcoming toolkit developed by the CoC Health Equity Taskforce. Two toolkits are in development for use by CoC accredited programs: one is focused on financial toxicity related to cancer care and one is focused on health literacy during the cancer treatment journey. The toolkits will provide education and resources to assist CoC programs in patient care, program development, and utilization of these topics for compliance with CoC accreditation standards. Questions? Please email coc@facs.org