

**CANCER POLICY ROUNDTABLE**  
**Wednesday, March 30, 2022**

***The COVID-19 Pandemic and Health Care***

These materials include articles from 2020, during the early weeks and months of the pandemic. We are doing that intentionally, so that we can consider how the health care system observations, analysis, and recommendations of 2020 have weathered two additional years of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also sharing recent articles about the pandemic and health care reform.

In May 2020, Lev Facher of STAT News interviewed several health policy experts and wrote an article summarizing their observations and recommendations, [“9 Ways Covid-19 May Forever Upend the US Health Care Industry.”](#)

One year later, [NPR interviewed Dr. Shantanu Nundy](#) about his book recommending post-pandemic reforms of the US health care system.

In June 2020, National Cancer Institute Director Norman “Ned” [Sharpless editorialized about COVID-19 and cancer](#), presenting models of excess cancer deaths from COVID.

In February 2022, the [Kaiser Family Foundation and the Peterson Center on Healthcare reported on the pandemic’s effects on health outcomes, costs, and access to care.](#)

In a Health Affairs policy brief published in March 2022, a [group of health policy experts from Duke-Margolis Health Policy Center](#) identified pandemic-era reforms to address health needs and social equity that should be considered for permanent implementation.

In a [New England Journal of Medicine commentary](#), Dr. Justin Bekelman and his colleagues at Penn Medicine described the Cancer Care at Home (CC@H) program, launched in November 2019 to demonstrate that many infused or injected cancer drugs could be delivered safely at home.

***What Cancer Patients Need to Know About COVID***

As the pandemic continues, cancer care professionals are making information about COVID-19 available to cancer patients. The American Society of Clinical Oncology has posted materials [on “COVID and Coronavirus: What People with Cancer Need to Know.”](#)

The National Cancer Institute has also provided patient education materials, [“COVID-19: What People with Cancer Should Know.”](#)

### ***The Need for Culturally Competent Mental Health Resources***

On the first anniversary of George Floyd's death in May 2021, Hurdle released a white paper, "[Black Mental Health: The need for cultural humility in mental healthcare, before and after George Floyd's death](#)." The paper was co-authored Hurdle advisors, Dr. Harold "Woody" Neighbors and Dr. Norma L. Day-Vines.

### ***The Toll of the Pandemic on Health Care Professionals***

[STAT News has reported on a nurse who warned of the pandemic's toll](#) on health care workers prior to his death. Sadly, there are many more stories like this one.

### ***Karen Tumulty of Washington Post Describes Her Brother's Struggles with the Health Care System***

Karen Tumulty, Deputy Editorial Page Editor and Columnist for the Washington Post, wrote occasionally about her brother and his health care (and insurance) struggles as part of her coverage of the "repeal and replace" debate that occurred during the Trump Administration. She has now written following her brother's death to explain his struggles with the health care system. Her opinion article, "[Disease Took My Brother. Our Health-Care System Added to His Ordeal](#)" is not a pandemic story but is a tale worth reading for Tumulty's insights about our health care system.