



*I am a three time Cancer Survivor
Research/Patient Advocate and Navy Military
Veteran. Being a Lynch Syndrome patient, I
advocate for genetic testing and clinical trial
awareness. I serve on various panels and review
boards to provide extensive feedback on my role
as a patient and advocate researcher.*

Wenora Johnson Cancer Research & Patient Advocate

Influence

While no one wants to get cancer, I must say that cancer has influenced my life by making me appreciate every moment I have and that my spirit is stronger than I think!



The Human Spirit is stronger than anything that can happen to it.....c.c. scott

Facing it Head On

When someone has cancer,
the whole family and
everyone who loves them

do to!

Anonymous



Learning I Had Lynch Syndrome Helped Save My Life

June 2020 Vol 6 No 3

Lynch syndrome is a hereditary genetic abnormality that can cause several types of cancer. Wenora Johnson discovered that it ran in her family after she had treatment for colon cancer. Knowing that she was at a high risk for certain cancers, and having 2 children already, she had her ovaries and uterus removed, as prevention.

<https://conquer-magazine.com/>



My Biomarker Story, and Why I Advocate for Genetic Testing

March 2019 Volume 5 – Patient Stories

Wenora Y. Johnson, 3-time survivor, shares her cancer story and encourages patients to ask their care team about biomarker testing.



Cancer

We have two options,
medically and emotionally:
Give up or Fight like Hell!

'I woke up with an 8-inch scar'

By DENISE M. BARAN-UNLAND [Email](#) [Follow](#)
Jan. 19, 2020

Joliet woman's routine physical changed her life

When Wenora Johnson of Joliet went to her yearly physical in 2011, she never dreamed she'd become an advocate for people with cancer and rare genetic diseases.

This past summer, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) added Johnson as a member of its advisory panel on clinical trials.

Johnson, as well as other members of the panel will use their experiences to help PCORI "refine and prioritize the research it funds," so that the outcomes matter not only to those who make decisions about health care but to the patients themselves, according to a news release. However, Johnson has put to work her passion for advocacy since 2014, when she became a research advocate trainee with Fight Colorectal Cancer (FightCRC) in as a research advocate trainee,

In addition, Johnson has participated in genetic studies and has provided experience-based feedback to such organizations as the College of American Pathologists, Department of Defense, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship the American Association for Cancer Research's Scientist>Survivor Program, the news release also said.

And it's all because Johnson's doctor, in 2011, suggested she take a fecal occult blood test, one of several screening tests for colon cancer.

The
HERALD-NEWS

Mountains

You have been assigned this mountain, to show others that it can be moved!

Patient Perspective: The Forgotten and the Pandemic of 2020

Wenora Y. Johnson is a three-time cancer survivor; volunteer research and patient advocate with [Fight Colorectal Cancer](#), caregiver/provider, and US Navy veteran.

As the COVID-19 pandemic races around the globe, it is upending life and disrupting routines for all of us. For more than a few, it has taken away loved ones and livelihoods, presenting those of us who thought we were “normal” with a new normal.

But what about those who suffer from mental illness? For them, the new normal is magnified and much more frightening. Even during the best of times, individuals with mental illness are either forgotten or, perhaps worse, suffer the indignity of being thrown in jail, or placed into nursing homes or mental facilities because of their inability to cope with life as well as the rest of us do.

According to the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#),



Chapter

Cancer is only going to be a chapter in your life, not the whole story!

Joe Wasser

When FORCE volunteer, Wenora Johnson, a colorectal cancer survivor, learned that her brother and grandfather had previously been diagnosed with colorectal cancer, she underwent genetic testing and learned that she had a mutation in a Lynch syndrome gene. Wenora's blog, ["Learning I Had Lynch Syndrome Helped Save My Life."](#) shares her story of how this information led to changes in her approach to other cancer risks and to an early diagnosis of endometrial cancer and melanoma before symptoms occurred.

"In the African American community, you don't talk about it. We are very secretive and private. Every month when I go to my hairdresser, I talk about being a cancer survivor and try to dispel some of those myths. Color is a barrier, but at the end of the day having knowledge can save your life."

– Wenora Johnson, three-time cancer survivor



Journey

A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey.....But a woman of strength knows that it is on the journey that she will become strong!

Luke Easter

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2020 Elevate Ambassadors

Learn more about each of the 2020 NCCS Elevate Ambassadors

ELEVATING
SURVIVORSHIP

[Joli Bartell](#) | Woodinville, WA

[Woodrow Brokenburr](#) | Agoura Hills, CA

[Jennifer Campisano, JD](#) | Phoenix, AZ

[Crystal Champion, MD, PT, DPT, CLT-ALM, DN](#) | Duluth, GA

[Lesley Glenn](#) | Central Point, OR

[Kimberly Harrison](#) | Bowie, MD

[Nancy Howe](#) | Phoenix, AZ

[Wenora Johnson](#) | Joliet, IL

[Joslyn McArdle](#) | Wynantskill, NY

[Debbie Setuain](#) | Sunny Isles Beach, FL

[Raquel Smith](#) | Hoover, AZ

[Amy LeAlice Oliver Steinkuhl, MA](#) | Wilmore, KY

[Susan Strong](#) | Firestone, CO

[Christi Turnage, MSN, RN](#) | Madison, MS

NCCS CPAT Chronicles December 2019

Advocate Spotlight

Wenora Johnson

Wenora Johnson is a three-time cancer survivor and Lynch Syndrome patient. She is an enthusiastic patient advocate who works with many organizations to promote policy and research around cancer. She is a PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute) Ambassador and Peer Reviewer, and she was recently selected as a member of the National Quality Forum's Cancer Standing Committee.

Wenora recently served as a consumer reviewer, nominated by NCCS, in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs' (CDMRP), [Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program \(PRCRP\)](#). As a consumer reviewer, she was a



Wenora Johnson

Face
Cancer does not have a face
until it's yours or someone
you know.
Anthony Del Monte

About Us

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Governance

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Our Staff

Wenora Johnson

Wenora Johnson is a three-time cancer survivor and Lynch syndrome patient. She has gained a full understanding of policy, research, and clinical trials through her work with such organizations as PCORI as a Peer Reviewer, Fight Colorectal Cancer, and National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. Armed with valuable information and statistics, she advocates with



FEBRUARY 3, 2020, [PRESS COVERAGE](#)

CRI employee and cancer survivor advocates for patients on Capitol Hill

ARGONNE

After overcoming cancer not once but three times, Wenora Johnson, a Navy veteran and administrative assistant for Chain Reaction Innovations (CRI), has taken to Capitol Hill to advocate for patients and families battling the same disease.

In December 2019, Johnson served as a consumer reviewer in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program's (CDMRP) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP). The opportunity gave her a chance to chime in on future cancer research and represent the voice of the patient in those discussions.

"As a cancer survivor and patient advocate, it



Your Story

Your life is your story.

Write well.

Edit often.



Fight

You have to fight through some bad days to earn the best days of your life!



2019 Advocate Activities



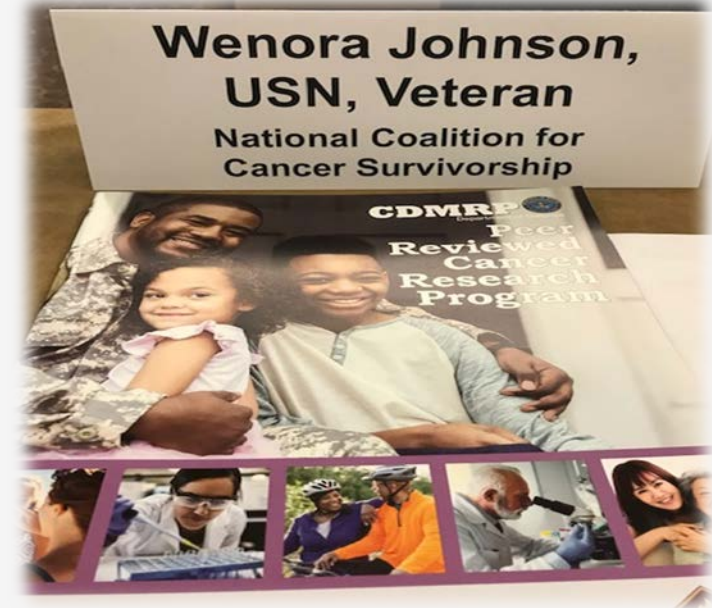
Wenora Johnson on participating on the Advisory Panel on Clinical Trials: *"While this position is new for me and I have much to learn, I am grateful for the chance to make a difference in research. This was day one and just the beginning of many more productive meetings that will make a large impact on research."*





Research

Translating research more quickly into interventions can make a big difference in all our lives!



Courage

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says "I'll try again tomorrow"!

Mary Anne Radmacher



I'm ready for the fight.....are you?

Wenora