

CANCER POLICY ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

APRIL 22, 2021

NOON - 12:15 P.M. ET | OPENING REMARKS AND PATIENT KEYNOTE

Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP | National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

Julia Maués | Co-Founder, GRASP (Guiding Researchers and Advocates to Scientific Partnerships)

12:15 - 1:15 P.M. ET | EXPERIMENTATION IN CANCER CARE: INSPIRED (OR FORCED) BY THE PANDEMIC?

Melissa Dillmon, MD | Harbin Clinic Cancer Center

Julia Maués | Co-Founder, GRASP

Asmita Mishra, MD | Moffitt Cancer Center

Brenda M. Nevidjon, MSN, RN, FAAN | Oncology Nursing Society

Deborah Schrag, MD, MPH | Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD | Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP (Moderator) | National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

One of the immediate health care responses to the pandemic was providing telehealth services. Providers embraced the possibility of providing certain services by telehealth, patients welcomed the potential for virtual services, Congress and regulators granted flexibility by waiving certain telehealth requirements, and payers ensured that a payment stream would be available. Experimentation with telehealth was not the only health care delivery response to the pandemic.

Although these health care delivery changes were born of necessity, some believe that several of them – including but not limited to telehealth – should be retained after the pandemic. A concern that has arisen in connection with all of these reforms and experiments is whether the reforms can help address cancer care disparities or instead whether they may worsen disparities.



1:15 - 2:30 P.M. | MENTAL HEALTH AND CANCER SURVIVORS

Tamryn Gray, PhD, RN, MPH | Massachusetts General Hospital / Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Wenora Johnson | Patient Advocate, NCCS Elevate Ambassador

Susan Hedlund, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C | Oregon Health and Science University

Patsy Hinson | Patient Advocate, NCCS CPAT Member

Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP (Moderator) | National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

Cancer survivors — including those in active treatment, those with metastatic disease, and those in long-term survivorship — report significant mental health challenges, including depression and anxiety. They also report that the cancer care system is not always responsive to their mental health needs, or that there is poor coordination of care and communication among providers even if they receive quality mental health care services. The pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues for some, and the isolation of the pandemic has posed a challenge for all cancer survivors.

2:30 - 3:15 P.M. | KEYNOTE ADDRESS: COVID-19, CANCER CARE, AND CANCER RESEARCH

Norman (Ned) Sharpless, MD | Director, National Cancer Institute

Early in the pandemic, Dr. Sharpless warned about the devastating effects of the pandemic on cancer care and research. He urged action to address the interruptions in care and research, and he led by constructive example, providing supplemental funding to support researchers losing private sector funding. He has also identified research opportunities “created” by the pandemic and encouraged investigation of these intriguing pandemic-related questions. Dr. Sharpless will share his perspective on Covid-19 and cancer, how the National Cancer Institute (NCI) is coping with the pandemic, and pandemic-related initiatives that should continue after the pandemic.

