

CANCER  
NATION  
SUMMIT

2026



CANCER  
NATION  
SUMMIT



June 24-26, 2026  
The Morrow Hotel | Washington, DC

**Welcome!**



# One Year as Cancer Nation

A new name. The same fight for survivors. Forty years strong.

- One year ago, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship became Cancer Nation
- 2026 marks our 40th anniversary
- The organization that first defined "cancer survivorship" is now built for the road ahead
- Same mission: advocating for quality cancer care for all people touched by cancer
- We are 18 million+ people living with, through, and beyond cancer



# Why We Changed

## 18 Million Strong

Survivorship has reached an all-time high. Our size makes us too powerful for any of our health care needs to remain unmet.

## Collective Voice

The new name reflects the power & scale of our community. We are in every town, in every family, in every heart.

## Survivor-Centered

"Cancer Nation" puts survivors front and center. It is bold, direct, and mission-driven – just like the people we represent.

## A Call to Action

We need a cure for care. This is a new era of urgency. We're demanding better care, smarter policy, and the right to thrive.



**CANCER  
NATION**

**WE ARE  
CANCER NATION  
AND WE ARE HERE  
TO BE HEARD!**

[wearecancer.org](http://wearecancer.org)



# Our Rebel Voice

We don't ask for sympathy. We demand change.

- Our voice is bold, collective, and survivor-centered
- We speak as "we" because 18 million of us, together, cannot be ignored
- The rebel voice represents all of Cancer Nation, not a single story
- A bigger name means we can be bolder. We need a cure for care.



# New Name, Same Great Programs



# Cancer Nation News

**CANCER NATION UPDATES**

**WHAT'S GOING ON?**

**WHAT WE'RE READING**

**WHAT WE'RE LISTENING TO**

**ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT**



# Merch Alert!

Limited Edition Cancer Nation Hats Now Available

- \$25 each
- Embroidered hat w/ Cancer Nation Logo
- Purchase via QR Code
- Pick up at Registration Desk



# 2025 SURVIVORSHIP SURVEY

Annual survey with **seven years of data** from cancer survivors and caregivers on their experience

Questions span the cancer journey, from diagnosis through treatment decision-making, treatment, and post-treatment

**Explore topics** (working through a cancer diagnosis), policy issues (Medicare Prescription Payment Program), and populations (young adults, caregivers)

Findings inform our policy priorities, programmatic efforts, and comment letters

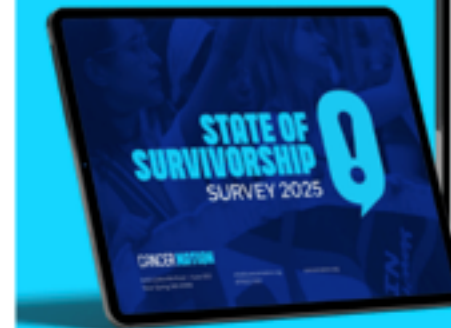
Data available to researchers upon request

**Two sample patient populations:** a national, representative sample and a “connected” sample (total >2000)

Goal is to **reach a diverse audience** and people who may not be connected to resources

Consistent, notable differences in treatment decision-making, empowerment, information seeking, and satisfaction with care

2026



# 2025 SURVIVORSHIP SURVEY

## Key Takeaways

### Trust in Care vs. Satisfaction in Care

While most survivors continue to trust their doctors, that trust is diminishing, especially among younger and underserved patients. At the same time, satisfaction with care, while still high, has declined across nearly every stage of the cancer journey. Greater financial strains and more patients struggling with mental health issues are the biggest drivers of the decrease in satisfaction.

### Mental Health & Loneliness

Emotional wellbeing remains a crisis point. One in three patients experiences depression or anxiety during treatment, and just a third of those feel adequately supported in managing mental health. While patients turn most often to family and friends for support, few report meaningful mental health help from their care teams. Cancer's mental health toll remains invisible in too many care settings, leaving survivors anxious, isolated, and exhausted.

### Treatment Side Effects

Over nine in ten patients experience side effects, yet few feel their care teams were very helpful in managing them. And these side effects don't always end when treatment does; they shape survivors' ability to work, parent, and live fully. Whole person cancer care demands attention to the long shadow side effects cast.

### Research & Politics

Survivors overwhelmingly believe cancer research benefits them (9 in 10). At the same time, more than half also believe research is influenced by politics. This skepticism underscores a growing crisis of trust –not in science itself, but in the systems that fund and communicate it. This is an urgent call for transparency, accessibility, and survivor-centered research communication.

# 2025 SURVIVORSHIP SURVEY

## Key Takeaways

### The Bottom Line

Across every theme the message is clear: survivors are surviving, but too many are not thriving.

This year's findings reaffirm why we exist: We need a Cure for Care—care that sees, treats, and covers the whole person, not just the cancer.

### Financial Toxicity

Financial distress has reached alarming levels. Half of all survivors report at least one financial hardship tied to their diagnosis, a 12-point increase from 2024. The rising cost of health insurance is now the number-one financial concern. For many, cancer care doesn't just threaten health—it threatens stability.

### Insurance & Prior Authorization

Insurance remains both a lifeline and a barrier. A quarter say insurance was a top consideration in their treatment choices. One in three patients encountered at least one insurance issue during treatment, most often denials, delays, or excessive out-of-pocket costs, often compounding both physical and emotional distress. Cancer care must never depend on the fine print of an insurance policy.

### Survivorship Care Plans

Despite years of advocacy, only one in three (36%) survivors reports receiving a survivorship care plan—down from 43% last year. Yet the impact of these plans is undeniable. Most survivors do not feel prepared in most aspects of managing their care post-treatment, but those who have a plan are significantly more confident managing their health, side effects, and mental wellbeing after treatment. Survivorship care planning remains one of the clearest, most actionable paths to improving post-treatment quality of life.

# 2026 SURVIVORSHIP SURVEY

Patient survey will be in the field this summer and presented in the fall.

Topics will include:

- How survivors are coping with increased insurance premiums and the loss of subsidies for ACA marketplace plans
- Patient-doctor communication
- Perceptions of the use of AI in cancer care
- Emotional health



# PROVIDER SURVEY

New in 2026

Provider survey of oncologists and primary care physicians

Started with a focus group to shape questionnaire

Goal is to understand barriers to delivering post-treatment survivorship care and inform solutions



CANCER NATION  
SURVIVORSHIP SURVEY

**“ PRIMARY CARE  
PHYSICIANS DO NOT  
HAVE THE EXPERIENCE  
OF ONCOLOGISTS.**

I'm not confident that a recurrence would be caught early enough for treatment to be effective.”

# CANCER NATION POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Convening policymakers, industry, survivors, and advocates to drive quality cancer care.

## Spring 2026 Roundtable - Recap

- Opening Remarks & 2025 Survivorship Survey Data
- Falling Through the Cracks: Insurance Changes and the New Coverage Crisis
- Reforming Payment to Support Quality Cancer Care
- Survivor Perspective: The Rev. Loris Adams, MDiv
- Congressional Address: Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
- AI in Cancer Care: What Patients Deserve to Know
- Honoring the Service of Dr. Richard Pazdur

## Fall 2026 Roundtable - Preview

- After the Votes: What the Midterm Results Mean for Cancer Care and Health Policy
- Value, Accountability, and Cancer Care:
- Can Accountable Care Organizations Work for Survivors?
- AI at the Frontier: Leading Voices on Technology, Cancer, and What Comes Next
- The State of Cancer R&D: Federal Policy, Funding Uncertainty, and the Road Ahead
- Left Out: Removing Barriers to Clinical Trials Enrollment for All Survivors



**Save the Date**  
**Fall 2026 Policy Roundtable**  
**November 19 | Washington, DC**

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# VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

 Friday, September 4, 2026  1:00 - 4:00 PM EST



[WeAreCancerNation.org](https://www.WeAreCancerNation.org)

# Cancer Nation Board & Staff

Lise Rice, Vice-Chair, Board of Directors

Stephen Whisnant, Board of Directors

Woulita Seyoum, Senior Director, Finance and Operations

Veronika Panagiotou, PhD, Director, Advocacy & Programs

Kara Kenan, Director, Marketing & Strategic Partnerships

Zach Biondo, Senior Manager, Digital Media

Nadine Dorvelus, Operations & Events Manager

Andrea Hans, Public Policy Manager

Karen Wilson, Development Manager

Etsegenet Tekeste, Senior Accountant

Elleni Adhanom, Web Development Associate

Amelia Granato, Intern

Charlotte Smith, Social Media



# Cancer Nation Advocates Steering Committee



**Bethany  
Ross**



**Desirée  
Walker**



**Rachel  
Ferraris**



**Diane  
Heditsian**



**Susie  
Leigh**



**Lee  
Jones**



**Jamie  
Ledezma**

# In Memoriam



April Donaldson  
1979 - 2025

# In Memoriam



2026



# In Memoriam

CANCER NATION

*In Loving Memory*

**Susie Leigh**

Cancer Nation Co-Founder

**1947 - 2026**



**2026**

# In Memoriam

2026



*In Loving Memory of our Friend*

**Kirby Lewis**

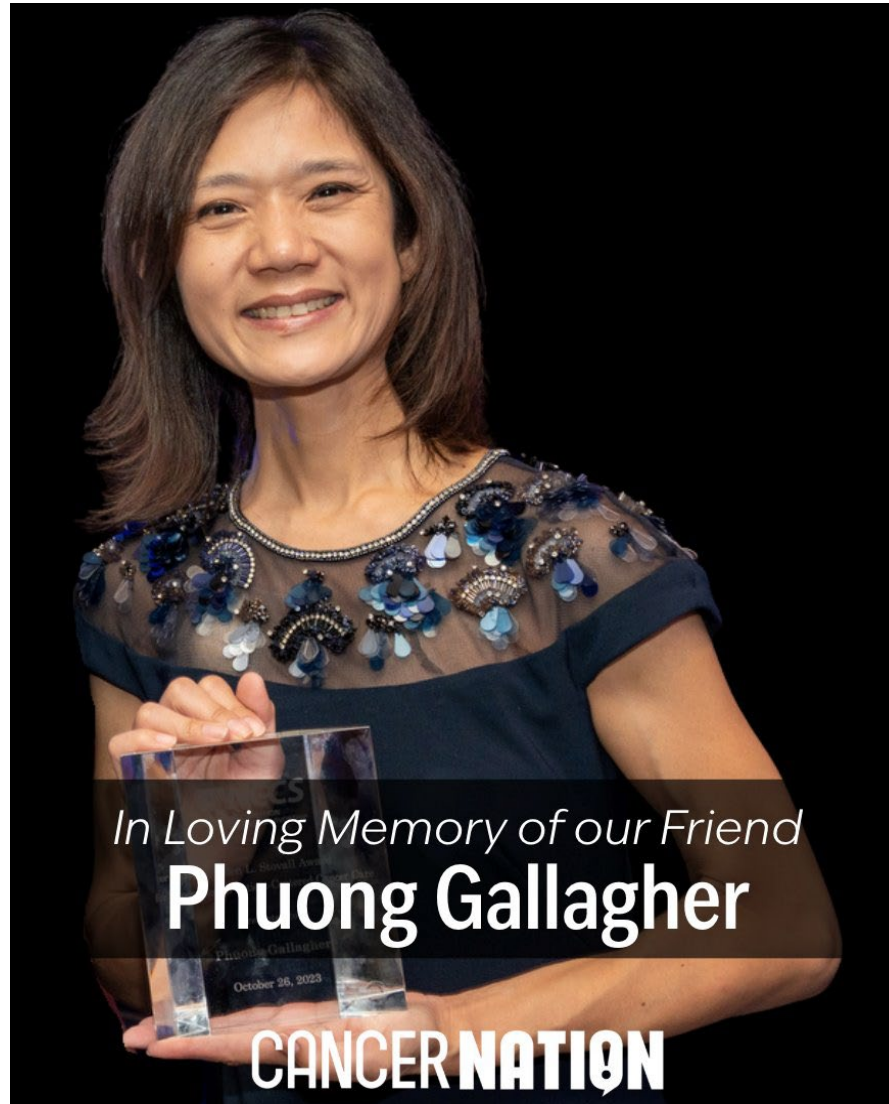
1960 - 2026

**CANCER NATION**



# In Memoriam

2026



*In Loving Memory of our Friend*  
**Phuong Gallagher**

CANCER NATION

# Survivorship Challenge Top Fundraisers

2026



Arlene Kuteroff



Katie Jones  
Top Fundraiser



Sandra Calloway Fields





# DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

2:00 pm

Registration & Networking

2:30 pm

Opening Session

- **Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP**  
CEO, Cancer Nation
- **Kara Kenan**  
Director of Marketing & Strategic Partnerships, Cancer Nation

3:00 pm

Networking Activity

3:30 pm

Hill Day Preparation

- **Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP**
- **Andrea Hans**  
Public Policy Manager, Cancer Nation
- **Veronika Panagiotou, PhD**  
Director of Advocacy and Programs, Cancer Nation
- **Molly Burns**  
Legislative Assistant to Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI)
- **Reed Powell**  
Legislative Director to Representative Greg Steube (R-FL)

5:15 pm

Advocacy Skills Breakouts and Networking

- Telling your Story
- Social Media
- Exploring AI in Advocacy

6:00 pm

Dinner by State





## DAY 2

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

7:00 am

Breakfast

7:30 am

Hill Day Kick-off & Group Photo

- Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD) *providing remarks*
- Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) *providing remarks*
- Senator Katie Britt (R-AL) *(invited)*

9:00 am

Hill Meetings

Lunch on your own

5:00 pm

Capitol Hill Debrief

- Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP
- Andrea Hans

5:30 pm

Dinner

6:30 pm

"LET'S LAUGH!"

- Saranne Rothberg  
Founder & CEO, The ComedyCures Foundation





**DAY 3**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 26

8:30 am

Breakfast

9:00 am

**Together Through Grief: Honoring and Responding to Loss in Cancer**

- **Joslyn Trovati, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C**  
Oncology Behavioral Therapist, Inova Life With Cancer

10:15 am: Break

10:30 am

**Breath Break with Loris Adams**

- **Rev. Loris N. Adams**  
Owner/Operator, BMB Coaching and Consulting

11:00 am

**Beyond Treatment: Building a Whole Person Care Team That Works for You**

- **Andrew Bazemore MD, MPH**  
Senior Vice President, Research & Policy, American Board of Family Medicine
- **Maureen Hennessey, PhD, CPCC, CPHQ**  
Senior Vice President, Director of Value Transformation, Precision AQ
- **Tara Suntum, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Veronika Panagiotou, PhD**
- **Shelley Fuld Nasso, MPP (Moderator)**

12:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm

**Partners in Progress: Building the Survivorship Research Agenda**

- **Ashley Wilder Smith, PhD, MPH**  
Chief, Outcomes Research Branch, National Cancer Institute
- **Nina Kadan-Lottick, MD, MSPH**  
Director, Survivorship Research Initiative, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Youngjee Choi, MD, FACP**  
Program Director, Johns Hopkins Primary Care for Cancer Survivors Clinic, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- **Veronika Panagiotou, PhD (Moderator)**

1:45 pm

Farewell and Evaluations

