



MA & ME Cancer Advocacy Call March 24, 2021

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Updates and Action Items
- Ambassador Action Center Deep Dive
- State Team Time



Updates & Action

- Ambassador Action Center
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Fundraising
- April Call

Ambassador Action Center:

- Shout out to Bethany & Mikala in Maine, and Dan, Dana, Patti, Kate and Steve logging actions in the Ambassador Action Center since our February call
- Don't have access to the Ambassador Action Center? Email Melissa (melissa.stacy@cancer.org) and she'll hook you up!

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Last month, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network® ([NCCN](http://www.nccn.org)) www.nccn.org, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network ([ACS CAN](http://www.fightcancer.org)) www.fightcancer.org and the National Minority Quality Forum ([NMQF](http://www.nmqf.org)) www.nmqf.org presented new ideas for overcoming inequality in oncology. The recommendations—developed by a group of 17 national experts, representing patients and advocates, caregivers, healthcare providers, researchers, and industry—directly address how medical systems in the United States often disproportionately fail minority patients, particularly those who are Black and/or Indigenous, and draws on extensive polling data from a recent poll fielded by Public Opinion Strategies on behalf of the organizations to make clear the case for urgent action. Among the notable survey findings: 63% of African American and 67% of Latinx patients, survivors, and caregivers said they had a negative experience with their oncology care team, such as having assumptions made about them or their financial situation, or trouble

getting questions answered; in contrast to 43% of white respondents who reported such experiences. As for oncologists, 2/3 of those surveyed believed that non-white patients experienced worse outcomes from cancer care but only 1/3 felt those patient populations were receiving worse care or poorer communication during care.

To address the inequalities in access to cancer care, the three organizations convened the Elevating Cancer Equity Working Group. Workgroup recommendations include a new [Equity Report Card \(www.nccn.org/policy\)](#) to help providers, payers, and accreditation entities advance equitable care delivery. The report card includes 17 measurable practice changes, such as having health systems provide and require annual implicit bias training for all employees, offer culturally and linguistically representative patient navigators or community health workers through internal hiring or contracting with community-based organizations, and offer flexible hours for screening and treatment appointments. The full list of practice recommendations are broken down into the following categories: Community Engagement, Accessibility of Care and Social Determinants of Health, Addressing Bias in Care Delivery, Quality and Comprehensiveness of Care.

The organizations also created a series of policy change recommendations targeted toward: The United States Congress, CMS and Commercial Payers, Federal Agencies, State and Local Policymakers. Policy examples include measures to remove barriers to clinical trial participation and requiring the Food and Drug Administration to consider clinical trial diversity as part of a drug approval process, providing resources to historically black colleges and universities and other minority serving institutions with the goal of fostering a more diverse health care workforce, funding public awareness campaigns around cancer prevention that are linguistically and culturally reflective of diverse audiences, and ensuring access to and reimbursement for patient navigators to assist patients with all kinds of insurance.

The groups plan a series of ongoing engagements for providers, patients and lawmakers as a means to advance this work and improve patient care. A deeper analysis of the Public Opinion Strategies data— which was captured in two surveys, one geared toward patients, survivors, and family caregivers with an oversampling to assure minority representation, and another of oncologists— will be addressed in a future, peer-reviewed article.

To learn more about the working group and next steps, visit [NCCN.org/policy](#): . Melissa will include links to the equity report card and NCCN policy in the meeting minutes.

Fundraising:

- Trivia night: Dan is hosting a Trivia Night on April Fools Day at 7pm! There is a suggested donation of \$10 per device (please limit teams to six devices). We are working on getting prizes donated for the winning teams (bragging rights only go so far). Please feel free to invite anyone else! Sign up through <http://action.fightcancer.org/goto/TriviaNight> Find and share the event on Facebook from our State pages and Melissa will include the link in the meeting minutes.
- New England Cookbook: Calling all recipes! Maine and Massachusetts will be leading the New England team on creating a New England wide cookbook by state! Submit your favorite state specific recipes – whoopie pies, boiled dinner, blueberry pie, clam chowder – they can be traditional recipes or a twist on an old favorite. Submit your recipe to

ACSCANNewEnglandCookbook@gmail.com!

April Meeting Date and Topic:

- Our next volunteer meeting will be focused on updates and federal grassroots actions, media advocacy, and then we'll be splitting into state groups to talk about actions we all can take to move our states 2021 priority legislation forward.
- We want to know what evening of the week, time of day works best for you to join our monthly calls. Watch for a link with the meeting minutes to let us know.

Massachusetts Conversation

- Still time to get co-sponsors
- Budget
- Massachusetts Lobby Day Update
- 2021 Fundraising Goal



Time to get Co-sponsors!

- Thank you to those of you that have reached out via email and asked your lawmakers to co-sponsor our priority legislation. If you haven't done this yet, you can take action today in 2 minutes via our easy action form. If you did take action, please take a few minutes to THANK your lawmakers if they have co-sponsored our legislation. You can look up the co-sponsors by typing in the bill number (see below) on <https://malegislature.gov>. It means so much when they hear thank you from us! You can thank them via email, a quick phone call, or a social media post on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram – making sure you tag them in the post! Don't forget to post your actions in the [Ambassador Action Center](https://www.fightcancer.org/ambassador-action-center) (<https://www.fightcancer.org/ambassador-action-center>)! Don't have access? Email Melissa at melissa.stacy@cancer.org and she'll get you access.

Our bills and their sponsors:

- An Act relative to step therapy and patient safety: SD.1285 sponsored by Senator Julian Cyr and HD.1603 sponsored by Representative Jeffrey Roy & Representative Marjorie Decker
- An Act empowering health care consumers: SD.95 sponsored by Senator Crighton and HD.110 sponsored by Representative Driscoll
- An Act relative to tobacco premium ratings: HD.919 sponsored by Representative Ehrlich

- An Act protecting youth from nicotine addiction: SD.1007 sponsored by Senator Chandler and HD.1807 sponsored by Representative Decker
- An Act relative to expanding access to healthy food choices in vending machines on state property: SD.1092 sponsored by Senator Lewis
- An Act to promote healthy alternatives to sugary drinks: SD.479 sponsored by Senator Lewis and HD.1420 sponsored by Representative Khan
- An Act to reduce incidence and death from pancreatic cancer: SD.1045 sponsored by Senator Comerford and HD.1669 sponsored by Representative Gentile

The Budget:

Members of the House and Senate are meeting with the chairs of their respective Ways and Means Committee to discuss budget priorities. ACS CAN will be sending an alert early next week, asking for lawmakers to support our priority issues.

2021 MA Lobby Day:

Mostly likely we will have a virtual MA Lobby Day in mid to late June. More information to come as the legislature gets moving.

2021 State Fundraising Goal:

Your Leadership team has gotten together and decided on a \$25,000 fundraising goal for 2021. This can be a combination of Lights of Hope fundraising, the cookbook, and other opportunities. Please let Melissa know of any fundraisers you have coming up, or if you need anything. We will be providing updates on where we are to goal on our monthly calls.