The National Cancer Policy Forum serves as a trusted venue in which experts can identify emerging high-priority policy issues in cancer research and care and work collaboratively to examine those issues through convening activities focused on opportunities for action. The Forum provides a continual focus within the National Academies on cancer, addressing issues in science, clinical medicine, public health, and public policy that are relevant to the goal of reducing the cancer burden, through prevention and by improving the care and outcomes for those diagnosed with cancer. Forum activities inform stakeholders about critical policy issues through published reports and often inform consensus committee studies. The Forum has members with a broad range of expertise in cancer, including patient advocates, clinicians, and basic, translational, and clinical scientists. Members represent patients, federal agencies, academia, professional organizations, nonprofits, and industry.

The Forum has addressed a wide array of topics, including:

- enhancing collaborations to accelerate research and development;
- improving the quality and value of care for patients who have been diagnosed with or are at risk for cancer;
- developing tools and technologies to enhance cancer research and care; and
- examining factors that influence cancer incidence, mortality, and disparities.
Upcoming Workshops

Advancing Progress in the Development and Implementation of Effective, High-Quality Cancer Screening

March 2-3, 2020

Evidence-based screening approaches have contributed to improved patient outcomes, and research continues to develop and evaluate the potential of new strategies for early cancer detection. However, there are a number of challenges related to ensuring effective, high-quality screening programs. This workshop will examine current issues in cancer screening, featuring invited presentations and panel discussions on topics such as:

• Key gaps in the evidence base for cancer screening, including assessing potential benefits and risks
• Opportunities and challenges in developing, validating, and implementing new technologies for cancer screening
• Strategies to help patients understand the benefits, risks, and costs of cancer screening and participate in shared decision-making with their care team
• Challenges in the clinical management of patients with premalignant lesions detected by screening
• Opportunities to reduce disparities in cancer morbidity and mortality by facilitating patient access to high-quality screening and follow-up care


Opportunities and Challenges for Using Digital Health Applications in Oncology

July 13-14, 2020

Digital health applications have the potential to improve care for patients with cancer. They may facilitate data collection; improve communication among clinicians and patients; and when integrated with patients’ clinical information, can help to guide care decisions. However, digital health applications are also accompanied by certain risks. The workshop will examine topics such as:

• An overview of existing and emerging digital health applications and the potential benefits and risks associated with their use
• Strategies to validate digital health applications, regulate their use, and mitigate potential risks
• Strategies for protecting the security of data collected using digital health applications
• Patient privacy considerations, especially given the potential for data linkage with data from other sources of personal information
• Best practices and principles for access to and consent for the use of patient data generated by digital health applications
• Ways to integrate patient-generated health data into EHRs and clinical workflow
• Lessons learned from other industries and/or countries that could inform digital health application development and use

Workshop website forthcoming

Addressing the Adverse Consequences of Cancer Treatment: A Workshop

November 9-10, 2020

Cancer care is associated with significant physical, mental, and socioeconomic consequences. This workshop will examine the array of short- and long-term toxicities and adverse effects that patients may experience as a result of cancer treatment and consider opportunities to improve quality of life for cancer survivors and their families. Workshop presentations and discussions will focus on topics such as:

• An overview of the physical and mental health risks and socioeconomic consequences of cancer diagnosis and treatment, including unique considerations for different patient populations
• Strategies to better accrue data on short- and long-term effects of cancer and cancer treatment, as captured by patient-reported outcome measures, clinician input, or other methods
• Opportunities to redesign cancer treatment approaches to reduce short- and long-term toxicities without compromising treatment effectiveness, as well as strategies to mitigate toxicities that may occur
• Patient engagement in treatment decision-making and tools to aid their assessment of the various risk/benefit tradeoffs
• System-level interventions, best practices and low tech/low cost approaches to prevention, surveillance, and mitigation of cancer treatment-related toxicities and adverse effects
• Opportunities to overcome the challenges that prevent uptake and dissemination of evidence-based approaches to address treatment-related toxicities and adverse effects

Workshop website forthcoming
Applying Big Data to Address the Social Determinants of Health in Oncology

This workshop, held in collaboration with the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics, examines the social determinants of health in the context of cancer and considers opportunities to effectively leverage big data to improve health equity and reduce disparities. Workshop presentations and discussions are intended to cover topics such as:

- the social determinants of health and their influence on cancer risk and outcomes
- novel data sources and methodologies
- data policy and ethical considerations regarding the use of big data
- opportunities for collaboration and data sharing to promote health equity
- assessing research gaps suggestions for a research agenda


Health Literacy and Communication Strategies in Oncology

This workshop, held in collaboration with the Roundtable on Health Literacy, examined opportunities, methods, and strategies to improve the communication of cancer information in a clinic visit, across a health care organization, and among the broader community. Workshop presentations and discussion addressed procedures, policies, and programs to support health literacy needs of patients and families; best practices to improve communication about cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and survivorship; and communication strategies to build public trust and counter inaccurate information about cancer.


Updating Labels for Generic Oncology Drugs

In March 2019, participants examined the challenges and opportunities to update oncology drugs labeling that is inconsistent with the current evidence base and use in clinical practice. Discussions focused on what sources of information should be considered for labeling updates, the evidentiary standards for labeling updates, and evidence considerations for special populations, such as pediatric oncology. This project, sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration, was conducted by the National Cancer Policy Forum, in collaboration with the Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation.


Developing and Sustaining an Effective and Resilient Oncology Careforce

Advances in cancer research, screening and diagnostic practices, and cancer treatment have led to improved outcomes for patients with cancer and a growing population of cancer survivors, but they have also increased the complexity of cancer care. Demographic trends, new payment models, growing emphasis on interprofessional practice, the widespread adoption of technologies in clinical practice, and a shift to the outpatient care delivery all have a profound effect on the cancer careforce. This workshop examined opportunities to better support the oncology careforce and improve the delivery of high-quality cancer care.

Proceedings: https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25533
Workshop Overview: https://www.nap.edu/resource/25533/interactive/

Still from workshop video on misinformation available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1NjXeG_cgs
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