About the National Cancer Policy Forum

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine established the National Cancer Policy Forum (NCPF) to serve as a trusted venue in which experts can work collaboratively to identify emerging high-priority policy issues in cancer research and care and to examine those issues through convening activities that promote discussion about opportunities for action.

These activities inform stakeholders about critical policy issues through published reports and often provide input for formal consensus committee studies. The NCPF 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, both through prevention and by improving the care and outcomes for those diagnosed with cancer.

The NCPF has 35 members with a broad range of expertise in cancer, including patient advocates; clinicians; and basic, translational, and clinical scientists. Members represent 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 cancer care and survivorship care;
- developing tools and technologies to enhance cancer research and care; and
- examining factors that influence cancer incidence and mortality.
NCPF Publications and Workshops Conducted in 2016

Appropriate Use of Advanced Technologies for Radiation Therapy and Surgery in Oncology
The third workshop in a series focused on the affordability of cancer care, this workshop examined clinical benefits, comparative effectiveness, and utilization patterns of advanced technologies in radiation therapy and surgery for cancer treatment.

- Workshop summary: www.nap.edu/read/21859

Workshop Series on Cancer Care in Low-Resource Areas
This workshop series examined challenges and opportunities in cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment in low-resource areas, both internationally and domestically. Presentations and discussions explored potential actions to reduce the growing global burden of cancer.

Cancer Care in Low-Resource Areas: Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

- Workshop summary: www.nap.edu/catalog/21892

Cancer Care in Low-Resource Areas: Cancer Treatment, Palliative Care, and Survivorship Care


Policy Issues in the Clinical Development and Use of Immunotherapy for Cancer Treatment
Targeted immunotherapies that harness the immune system to destroy cancer cells are being developed to treat many different forms of cancer. This workshop examined preclinical models and clinical trials for immunotherapy development and implementation challenges in clinical practice. Participants considered the value of immunotherapies and the need to improve patient and clinician education.

- Workshop videos and presentation files: www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Activities/Disease/NCPF/2016-FEB-29.aspx
- Proceedings: www.nap.edu/catalog/23497

Implementation of Lung Cancer Screening
Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States, and a recent randomized clinical trial found that annual screening with low-dose computed tomography resulted in a 20 percent reduction in mortality from lung cancer among individuals at high risk. This workshop examined the challenges of effective implementation of lung cancer screening in clinical practice and best practices for lung cancer screening programs.

- Proceedings: www.nap.edu/read/23680

The Drug Development Paradigm in Oncology
Advances in oncology research have led to the development of novel cancer therapies that can precisely target the molecular underpinnings of a patient’s disease. This workshop examined the scientific and regulatory approach to developing new cancer therapies to ensure that patients ultimately benefit from advances. Participants focused on the challenges with the traditional phased drug development paradigm, best practices for cancer drug development and review, and evidence requirements for cancer therapies. Discussion emphasized regulatory, scientific, and ethical issues that will need to be considered in a new drug development paradigm.

NCPF Workshops Planned for 2017–2018

FEbruary 13–14, 2017
Incorporating Weight Management and Physical Activity Throughout the Cancer Care Continuum
This workshop will examine opportunities and challenges in the delivery of interventions for weight management and physical activity for cancer survivors, including models of care delivery, issues associated with insurance coverage and access, clinician education, and care coordination. Participants will also discuss strategies for ensuring that interventions are well-aligned with the diverse needs that cancer survivors may have throughout the cancer care continuum.


JULY 24–25, 2017
Long-Term Survivorship Care After Cancer Treatment
In 2006, an Institute of Medicine consensus report, Lost in Transition, made recommendations to improve the quality of care that cancer survivors receive, in recognition that this population is at risk for an array of long-term side effects and delayed-onset late effects of cancer and cancer treatment, as well as significant psychosocial and financial impacts. Since then, coordinated efforts to address the unique needs of cancer survivors have increased, including efforts to improve the evidence base for cancer survivorship care and to identify best practices in the delivery of high-quality cancer survivorship care. This workshop will examine progress in cancer survivorship care over the past decade and consider potential actions to improve the planning, management, and delivery of cancer survivorship care.


NOVEMBER 12–13, 2017
Establishing Effective Patient Navigation Programs in Oncology
Patient navigation programs are intended to overcome obstacles that can prevent individuals from accessing cancer care and to improve the coordination of their care. This workshop will examine the optimal conditions and components for successful patient navigation programs in oncology.


2018: DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED
Improving Cancer Diagnosis and Care: Patient Access to Oncologic Imaging and Pathology Expertise and Technologies
Planning is under way for a workshop that will examine strategies to ensure that patients have access to appropriate oncologic pathology and imaging expertise and technologies to inform their cancer diagnosis, treatment planning, assessment of treatment response, and oncologic surveillance. Workshop sessions will consider strategies to develop and maintain a workforce with oncologic imaging and pathology competencies and the role of new technologies and models of care to improve access to these expertise areas.
FORUM SPONSORS  
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016)

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute
- American Association for Cancer Research
- American Cancer Society
- American College of Radiology
- American Society for Radiation Oncology
- American Society of Clinical Oncology
- American Society of Hematology
- Association of American Cancer Institutes
- AstraZeneca
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Cancer Support Community
- CEO Roundtable on Cancer
- Helsinn Healthcare SA
- LIVESTRONG Foundation
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network
- Novartis Oncology
- Oncology Nursing Society
- Pfizer, Inc.

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(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016)

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PAST WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS
from the National Cancer Policy Forum

2015

Comprehensive Cancer Care for Children and Their Families: Summary of a Joint Workshop by the IOM and the ACS
Policy Issues in the Development & Adoption of Biomarkers for Molecularly Targeted Cancer Therapies: Workshop Summary
Assessing and Improving the Interpretation of Breast Images: Workshop Summary
Role of Clinical Studies for Pets with Naturally Occurring Tumors in Translational Cancer Research: Workshop Summary

2014

Ensuring Patient Access to Affordable Cancer Drugs: Workshop Summary
Contemporary Issues for Protecting Patients in Cancer Research: Workshop Summary

2013

Identifying and Addressing the Needs of Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer: Workshop Summary
Implementing a National Cancer Clinical Trials System for the 21st Century: Workshop Summary (2013 and 2011)
Sharing Clinical Research Data: Workshop Summary
Delivering Affordable Cancer Care in the 21st Century: Workshop Summary
Reducing Tobacco-Related Cancer Incidence and Mortality: Workshop Summary

2012

The Role of Obesity in Cancer Survival and Recurrence: Workshop Summary
Informatics Needs and Challenges in Cancer Research: Workshop Summary
Facilitating Collaborations to Develop Combination Investigational Cancer Therapies: Workshop Summary

2011

Patient-Centered Cancer Treatment Planning: Improving the Quality of Oncology Care: Workshop Summary
The National Cancer Policy Summit: Opportunities and Challenges in Cancer Research and Care: Workshop Proceedings
Policy Issues in Nanotechnology and Oncology: Workshop Summary

2010

Direct to Consumer Genetic Testing (with the National Research Council): Summary of a Workshop
Extending the Spectrum of Precompetitive Collaboration in Oncology Research: Workshop Summary
A Foundation for Evidence-Driven Practice: A Rapid Learning System for Cancer Care: Workshop Summary
Policy Issues in the Development of Personalized Medicine in Oncology: Workshop Summary

2009

Assessing and Improving Value in Cancer Care: Workshop Summary
Ensuring Quality Cancer Care Through the Oncology Workforce: Sustaining Care in the 21st Century: Workshop Summary
Multi-Center Phase III Clinical Trials and the NCI Cooperative Group Program: Workshop Summary

2008

Implementing Colorectal Cancer Screening: Workshop Summary
Improving the Quality of Cancer Clinical Trials: Workshop Summary

2007

Cancer-Related Genetic Counseling and Testing: Workshop Proceedings
Cancer in Elderly People: Workshop Proceedings
Implementing Cancer Survivorship Care Planning: Workshop Summary

2006

Effect of the HIPAA Privacy Rule on Health Research: Proceedings of a Workshop Presented to the NCPF
Developing Biomarker-Based Tools for Cancer Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment: Workshop Summary
CONSENSUS STUDIES
Building on the Work of the NCPF in 2016

Biomarker Tests for Molecularly Targeted Therapies: Key to Unlocking Precision Medicine (2016)
This study explored regulatory, reimbursement, and clinical practice issues related to the clinical development and use of biomarker tests to select targeted therapies for patients and provided recommendations to accelerate progress in this field.

Report and materials: nationalacademies.org/biomarkers

Ovarian Cancers: Evolving Paradigms in Research and Care (2016)
Despite recent advances in cancer research, there are still surprising gaps in the fundamental knowledge about ovarian cancer. This congressionally mandated report highlights promising research themes that could advance ovarian cancer risk prediction, prevention, early detection, comprehensive care, and cure, and makes recommendations to reduce the incidence of ovarian cancer and to lessen the morbidity and mortality from the disease.

Report and materials: nationalacademies.org/ovariancancers

Ensuring Patient Access to Affordable Drug Therapies
This study is examining patient access to affordable and effective drug therapies, with an emphasis on drug pricing and insurance design. The study committee will issue a report, anticipated to release summer 2017, with findings and recommendations for policy actions that could address drug cost trends, improve patient access to affordable and effective treatments, and encourage innovation to address significant needs in health care.

Study website: nationalacademies.org/affordabledrugs

A National Strategy for Cancer Control in the United States
The National Academies is developing plans for a new consensus study that will examine existing cancer control efforts in the United States and recommend national strategies to reduce the incidence, morbidity, and mortality from cancer and to improve quality of life for cancer survivors.

PAST CONSENSUS COMMITTEE REPORTS THAT BUILT ON NCPF WORK

Delivering High-Quality Cancer Care: Charting a New Course for a System in Crisis (2013)
Report: nap.edu/catalog/18359

Evolution of Translational Omics: Lessons Learned and the Path Forward (2012)
Report: nap.edu/catalog/13297

A National Cancer Clinical Trials System for the 21st Century: Reinvigorating the NCI Cooperative Group Program (2010)
Report: nap.edu/catalog/12879

Evaluation of Biomarkers and Surrogate Endpoints in Chronic Disease (2010)
Report: nap.edu/catalog/12869

Beyond the HIPAA Privacy Rule: Enhancing Privacy, Improving Health Through Research (2009)
Report: nap.edu/catalog/12458

Cancer Biomarkers: The Promises and Challenges of Improving Detection and Treatment (2007)
Report: nap.edu/read/11892