



NCCN Holds Eleventh Annual State Oncology Society Forum

Victoria Hood, MPP, State Policy Specialist, NCCN

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Welcome and Introductions

Crystal S. Denlinger, MD, FACP Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, NCCN, welcomed attendees and reviewed the forum agenda.

NCCN Update

Robert W. Carlson, MD, Chief Executive Officer, NCCN, provided an overview of NCCN and an update with particular focus on NCCN's continued growth as an organization. In April, NCCN added its 32nd member institute, [Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Comprehensive Cancer Center](#). Dr. Carlson also provided an overview of the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) and highlighted guideline downloads, registered users, and panel expertise. NCCN, in an effort to support [Ukraine](#) has provided free, Ukrainian-language cancer treatment guides, based on the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®). Dr. Carlson also highlighted the [Elevating Cancer Equity \(ECE\) Initiative](#). Of note, the Elevating Cancer Work Group created a Health Equity Report Card intended to serve as a tool for providers, payers, and accreditation entities working to advance racially equitable practices in cancer care. NCCN is currently piloting the Health Equity Report Card with 4-5 cancer centers for feasibility. Dr. Carlson concluded his presentation with an update regarding the Policy and Advocacy Department, with Taneal Carter, MS, MPA as Manager of the new Cancer Care Equity Program and the hiring of Victoria Hood, MPP, as the State Policy Specialist as NCCN focuses on state policy expansion.

Presentation: A Post-Pandemic Future for Telehealth: Observations and Consideration for Tele-oncology

Matthew B. Mackwood, MD, MPH of the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth shared his team's research on the use of telehealth throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The team's work reviewed trends in telehealth delivery across one year following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic at Norris Cotton Cancer Center in New Hampshire. Dr. Mackwood discussed factors associated with varied telehealth use rates based on an analysis of health record data and lessons learned from qualitative interviews. He discussed some of their findings that included treatment intensity corresponding with lower utilization of telehealth due to the "bundling" of care, high clinic-level variation in use because of medical factors, provider attitude, local leadership, and QI practices. He also noted the impact of structural barriers associated with telehealth like lack of broadband access, and the need for cancer type-specific analyses.



Panel Discussion: A Path Forward for Telehealth in Cancer Care

Kerin Adelson, MD, MS, Chief Quality Officer and Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital; Johnetta Blakely, MD, MS, MMHC, Executive Director, Health Economics Outcomes Research, Tennessee Oncology; Mei Kwong, JD, Executive Director, Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP); Lucy Langer, MD, MS, National Medical Director, Oncology and Genomics UnitedHealth Group; and Cynthia M. Lewis, MD, Hematologist for Nebraska Medicine shared their respective insights on the role of telehealth in cancer care. In doing so, they highlighted the benefits as well as challenges associated with the use of telehealth in providing care to patients. They also discussed the issues that will need to be addressed as we continue to utilize tele-oncology and move into a post pandemic world including equity in regards to access to telehealth, quality measures to assess performance, reimbursement policies and how to best utilize tele-oncology for routine care and clinical trials. Crystal Denlinger, MD, FACP, NCCN, moderated this discussion.

Policy Perspective: What is Next for Payment Model Reform?

Brian Bourbeau, MBA, Division Director, Practice Health Initiatives, American Society of Clinical Oncology and Rahul Rajkumar, MD, JD, FACP, Chief Executive Officer, Accompany Health participated in a discussion regarding the future of payment model reform. Mr. Bourbeau and Dr. Rajkumar discussed various topics including the ending of the Oncology Care Model and the indefinite delay of the Radiation Oncology model and what the implications are for patients and providers. Topics also covered include advancing health equity in oncology models and the role that commercial payers can play in creating innovative payment models. Alyssa Schatz, MSW, NCCN facilitated this discussion.

Best Practices and Perspectives from the Field

Winston Tan, MD, President of the Florida Society of Clinical Oncology and Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic presented on behalf of his state's Oncology Society. The presentation focused on the challenges to implementing standard of care treatment for metastatic prostate cancer. Dr. Tan discussed a study that found there was a limited use of newer therapies to improve survival in men in the U.S. with mCSPC. After review of this study, he then presented on the FLASCO Prostate Initiative. Dr. Tan noted that the state of Florida in both medical oncology and urology is significantly behind the national average when it comes to the adoption of evidence based clinical guidelines for mCSCP, and how FLASCO's initiative aims to reduce the gaps that currently exist between clinical evidence and clinical practice within their state.

About the State Oncology Society Forum

In recognition of the essential role of community oncologists and their representative state oncology societies in advancing the quality of cancer care, NCCN provides an annual forum for



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open dialogue, an exchange of best practices, and the identification of areas for collaboration. Fundamental to the success of this program are the shared core values of the state oncology societies and NCCN, which is to improve the lives of patients with cancer.

NCCN provides state oncology societies with access to NCCN Content and reports on updates therein. The next annual forum will be held in conjunction with the NCCN Annual Conference in March 2023. For more information about the NCCN State Oncology Society Forum, visit [NCCN.org](https://www.nccn.org).