

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3

Welcome



Alison Snow, PhD, LCSW-R, OSW-C

Welcome to the third issue of our COE Newsletter focused on cancer survivorship! June is National Cancer Survivor Month. According to the National Cancer Institute, “survivorship” focuses on the

health and well-being of a person with cancer, from the time of diagnosis and beyond. Integral to survivorship is supportive oncology, which provides an added layer of support for patients during and after cancer treatment. The Tisch Cancer Institute’s supportive oncology/palliative care teams address cancer symptoms and side effects, ease emotional and spiritual distress and help families cope with their loved one’s cancer. Studies have shown that patients and their families who receive support from specialty palliative care have better quality of life, live longer and are less likely to require hospitalization. Our COE team is working to address barriers to accessing supportive oncology/palliative care services. The goal is that all patients have equal access to this important type of specialized medical care.

Data

Advance care planning is the process of discussing future medical care decisions to ensure medical care received reflects one’s own values, goals and preferences. The focus should be about what is important to you and having the right person to carry out your wishes. This planning is typically done between a qualified health care professional and a patient, care partner or support system. An important benefit of advance care planning is the opportunity for one to have their wishes known regarding their future medical care.

As stated by the National Institutes of Health, “Advance care planning is not just for people who are very old or ill. At any age, a medical crisis could leave you unable to communicate your own health care decisions. Planning now for your future health care can help ensure you get the medical care you want and that someone you trust will be there to make decisions for you.”

For this issue of our COE Newsletter, we have provided data from the Mount Sinai Health System on advanced care planning uptake within the past year. The graph below shows the rate of advance care planning uptake in oncology across the Mount Sinai Health System from Quarter 2 (Q2) of 2022 to February 2023. The magenta dotted line on the graph shows the target set by our health system for advance care planning uptake, which is 30% of Mount Sinai patients with cancer.

Overall, the rate of Mount Sinai patients with cancer who participated in advance care planning increased during this time period. 32% of patients completed advance care planning in quarter 2 (Q2) of 2022, increasing to 47% of patients completing advance care planning in February 2023.

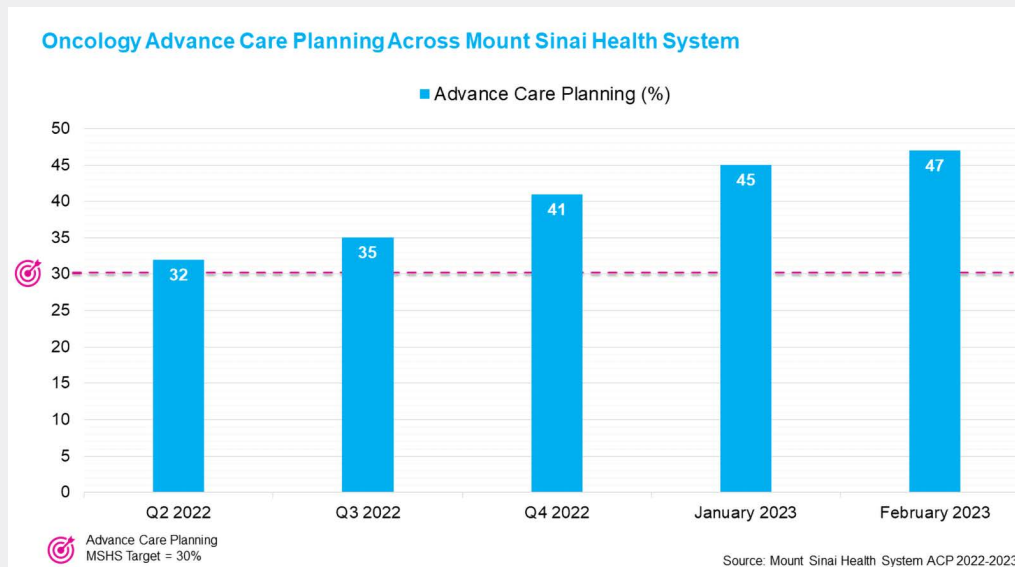


Figure 1. Mount Sinai Health System Oncology Advance Care Planning: Q2 2022-February 2023

Community Partner Spotlight - Queens Cancer Center

The Queens Cancer Center (QCC) at Queens Hospital Center is dedicated to providing the most advanced, comprehensive care to people coping with the disease. The Center is headed by Dr. M. Margaret Kemeny, whose career is distinguished by years of innovative clinical and laboratory research. Under her leadership, QCC offers comprehensive cancer treatment and support programs like tobacco treatment, pain management, psychiatry, pastoral care, social work and nutrition. The QCC’s community outreach team consists of Linda Bulone, Deepa Dhawan and Aiden.

Deepa has been implementing tobacco treatment programs for over 10 years. She has developed and implemented policy changes for tobacco treatment

interventions in numerous healthcare provider organizations. She provides motivational workshops for physicians, nurses, patients and students all over Queens on tobacco screening and treatment.

Linda started educating communities on cancer screening, prevention and clinical trials with the Queens Public Library System in 2008; uniquely located within walking distance of every residence in Queens. The program grew to include other local organizations desiring this information as well. Results of these efforts were published in the *American Journal of Community Psychology* and presented at the *American Society of Clinical Oncology* and *Oncology Nursing Society*.

Aiden is a dual Certified Therapy Dog providing support and comfort to QCC patients and at Queens community events.

QCC’s collaboration with our COE team has provided a unique opportunity for the Queens community to access free lung cancer screening and navigation through our Connecting for Lung Health program with CancerCare. Our Health Educators present at QCC-affiliated education programs and build new connections around the Queens borough, where they can serve community members and patients.



(Left to Right): Linda Bulone, RN, OCN, CCRC, Research Nurse Manager; Aiden, Certified Therapy Dog; M. Margaret Kemeny, MD, Director of Queens Hospital Cancer Center; Deepa Dhawan, MPH, Health Education Coordinator

Research

Community Scientist Program Updates

Our Community Scientists continue to engage in research and educational projects across New York City and beyond. We are excited to announce that one of the Tisch Cancer Institute (TCI) community scientists and patient advocates, **Ms. Karen Peterson**, Founder and Chief Patient Advocate of Karen's Club, along with Drs. Deborah Doroshow and Melissa Mazor, was recently awarded the 2022 Tisch Cancer Institute (TCI) and Clinical & Translational Science Award (CTSA) Developmental Fund Pilot Award.

This project aims to increase collaborations among the community and TCI cancer research programs to foster new, innovative research directions and address community priorities for increased cancer navigation. The details of the project are below.

Project Background: Black and Latine individuals are underrepresented in early phase cancer clinical trials. Given the impacts of historical racism and structural marginalization, new methods that integrate culturally- and community-centered care are needed to address disparities in clinical trial enrollment.

Project Goal: This project will develop and evaluate a lay navigator-led education program for racially and ethnically underrepresented individuals enrolled in early phase clinical trials. This study has the potential to promote equity in clinical trial enrollment, enhance relationships between clinical and community providers and lead to future lay navigator interventions to enhance clinical trial diversity and inclusion.

TCI Pilot Award Team

Community Scientist Consultant/Lay Navigator Karen Peterson		
Principal Investigator Deborah Doroshow, MD, PhD		
Principal Investigator Melissa Mazor, PhD, MS, RN		

TCI Pilot Award Team

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact our COE program at MountSinaiCOE@mountsinai.org

If you are interested in learning about or joining our Community Scientist program, please contact Tatiana Ramirez at tatiana.ramirez@mountsinai.org.

Achieving Equity in Breast Cancer Surveillance Care: Pilot Study

Megan Edmonds, PhD, MPH, is conducting a study titled “Achieving Equity in Breast Cancer Surveillance Care: Pilot Study”. The purpose of this study is to learn about the delivery of breast cancer follow-up care, possible barriers and facilitators of receiving surveillance follow-up care among Black and Latine breast cancer survivors, and to help create multimedia messages aimed at increasing guideline concordant breast cancer surveillance (defined as having a clinical physical exam and/or a mammogram in the last year) among Black and Latine women. Findings from Dr. Edmonds’ pilot award will help to inform equitable delivery of surveillance care to address late-stage detection of disease relapse. The research team for the pilot includes Principal Investigator Dr. Edmonds (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai) Co-Investigator Dr. Jasmine McDonald (Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center) and community scientists Desiree Walker and Natasha Ewa.

Achieving Equity in Breast Cancer Surveillance Care Pilot Team



Dr. Megan Edmonds
Principal Investigator
and Postdoctoral
Fellow at the Icahn
School of Medicine at
Mount Sinai



Dr. Jasmine McDonald
Co-Investigator,
Assistant Professor of
Epidemiology at the
Columbia University
Mailman School of
Public Health and
Assistant Director of
CRTEC at the Herbert
Irving Comprehensive
Cancer Center



Desiree Walker
Patient and Research
Advocate and Tisch
Cancer Institute
Cancer Equity
Accelerator Member



Natasha Ewa
LCSW, Community
Scientist

Please see the flyer below or click on [this](#) link for more information. If you are interested in participating in this study, please call **646-580-4091**.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR BLACK & HISPANIC

**BREAST
CANCER
SURVIVORS** 

HELP US BY SHARING YOUR STORY
we would love to hear about your cancer care experience as a minority woman
To participate, call: 646-580-4091



**ACHIEVING EQUITY IN BREAST
CANCER SURVEILLANCE:
A PILOT STUDY**

 Effective Date: 11/4/2022
End Date: 11/3/2023

 **COMPENSATION INCLUDED**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Strengthening Survivorship Event

Please join us for a virtual event for patients in treatment, post treatment, and caregivers. Learn techniques to improve your overall wellness through nutrition, physical therapy, and the mindfulness practice of Reiki from our esteemed panel of presenters.

Event Details:

- Tuesday, June 27th, 2023, 2PM-3PM
- Zoom Meeting Link: <https://mountsinai.zoom.us/j/7425875532>
- Zoom Meeting ID: 742 587 5532

To register for this event, please contact Emily Szafara, LMSW via email at cssevents@mountsinai.org or by calling 212-367-0106.

The Cedar Club: Chinese-Speaking Cancer Patients Support Group

Join Dr. Theresa Shao and Licensed Clinical Social Worker Emma Zhou for a discussion about the well-being of cancer survivors.

Event Details:

- Friday, June 9th, 2023, 10:30AM-11:30AM
- Zoom Meeting Link: <https://mountsinai.zoom.us/j/7425875532>
- Zoom Phone Line: 1-646-876-9923
- Zoom Meeting ID: 742 587 5532

For more information about this event, please contact Emma Mi Zhou, LCSW via email at mi.zhou@mountsinai.org or by calling 212-604-6095.



**Mount
Sinai**

*The Tisch Cancer
Institute*

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