

## Cancer Care in an Election Year, Palliative Care Challenges, Incorporating Patient Values, and Guidelines Updates Featured at the NCCN Annual Conference



NCCN will host its 21st Annual Conference: Advancing the Standard of Cancer Care from March 31 through April 2, 2016, at The Diplomat in Hollywood, Florida. Approximately 1,700 physicians, nurses,

pharmacists, and other oncology stakeholders and representatives of the business sector are expected to attend.

Two roundtable discussions will look at the impact the election and a new administration could have on cancer and health policy, as well as palliative care and end-of-life issues from a patient and provider perspective. A host of other sessions will tackle topics such as strategies for safe and effective opioid prescribing, sexual function in cancer survivors, and controversies in breast cancer screening strategies.

“The NCCN 21st Annual Conference is a true illustration of the remarkable impact that our organization and its esteemed Member Institutions have had in the treatment of people with cancer, as well as the relevancy of and demand for the library of NCCN Guidelines,” said Robert W. Carlson, MD, Chief Executive Officer, NCCN. “This year’s conference not only features milestones and advancements in cancer therapy, screening, and supportive care, but also brings together renowned experts to tackle key challenges in the US health care system, as well as issues surrounding integrating personal values into treatment planning.”

Moderated by Toby C. Campbell, MD, MSCI, University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center, the opening roundtable on Thursday, March 31st, “Palliative Care: Providing Comfort from a Patient and Provider Perspective,” will address aspects of palliative care, hospice care, and best supportive care practices for patients with cancer, as well as the challenges of symptom management and end-of-life issues. Panelists include Maria Dans, MD, Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine; Carri Siedlik, APRN, ACHPN, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center; and Sophia Smith, PhD, MSW, Duke Cancer Institute.

Friday’s roundtable discussion, “Emerging Issues in Oncology: Cancer Care in an Election Year,” will feature 4 panelists from both sides of the aisle — including the Rubio campaign’s policy advisor and one of the major architects of the Affordable Care Act — as they discuss issues surrounding cancer and health care in the lead-up to the 2016 election. Moderated by Kavita Patel, MD, MSHS, Brookings Institution, and Marc Samuels, JD, MPH, ADVI, the following panelists will discuss the parties’ stances on health care, how cancer care will fit into the health agenda, and the future of President Obama’s “moonshot” initiative to eliminate cancer: Cybele Bjorklund, MHS, Georgetown University; Lanhee J. Chen, PhD, Hoover Institution; Elizabeth J. Fowler, PhD, JD, Johnson & Johnson; and Scott Gottlieb, MD, American Enterprise Institute.

“This roundtable will offer insight into the impact of the election and administration change on health care and the care for people with cancer,” said Kavita Patel, MD, MSHS.

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This year, conference sessions will cover a number of screening, diagnosis, patient management, and supportive care topics. On Saturday, April 2nd, Mary Lou Smith, JD, MBA, Research Advocacy Network, will facilitate a panel titled “Controversies in Breast Cancer Screening Strategies.” Panelists Therese Bevers, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center; Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, MD, PhD, MAS, University of California, San Francisco; and Kevin Oeffinger, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, will discuss the discrepancies in breast cancer screening recommendations from NCCN, the American Cancer Society, and the US Preventive Services Task Force as these groups work toward creating a consensus document that reveals where they mutually agree.

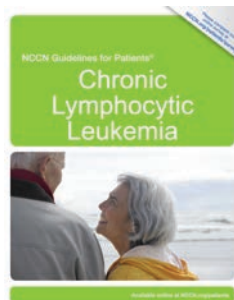
A session on Thursday, March 31st, will focus on the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines) with NCCN Evidence Blocks, a graphic representation of 5 value measures including efficacy, safety, quality and quantity of evidence, consistency of evidence, and affordability, which are intended for all users of NCCN Guidelines as a means to initiate a discussion of value between a provider and patient. Robert W. Carlson, MD, and Eric Jonasch, MD, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, will discuss the role of NCCN Evidence Blocks in patient management during “The NCCN Value Initiative: Using NCCN Evidence Blocks in Clinical Decisions.”

As opioid abuse in the face of chronic pain becomes a major health concern, pain management for people with cancer is a challenge for providers. Judith Paice, PhD, RN, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, will discuss safe and effective pain management for people with cancer, as well as risk factor screening techniques that enable clinicians to predict which patients might be most likely to misuse medication.

Esteemed panel members will present the new NCCN Guidelines for Vulvar Cancer, as well as key updates to the library of NCCN Guidelines, including but not limited to breast, colon, non–small cell lung, prostate, and rectal cancers, as well as B-cell lymphomas, melanoma, and multiple myeloma.

To view the full conference agenda or to register, visit [NCCN.org/AC2016](http://NCCN.org/AC2016). For a conference media kit, visit [NCCN.org/AC2016media](http://NCCN.org/AC2016media).

## NCCN Publishes New Patient Education Resources for Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Hodgkin Lymphoma—a Rare, Yet Curable, Cancer



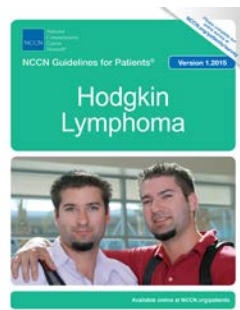
To further educate people with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and Hodgkin lymphoma about the most effective treatment options for their disease, NCCN has published the NCCN Guidelines for Patients and NCCN Quick Guide series for CLL and Hodgkin lymphoma, the newest additions to NCCN’s library of patient education resources. NCCN has also published NCCN Quick Guides™ to complement the latest edition of the NCCN Guidelines for Patients: Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML).

CLL is the most prevalent adult leukemia in Western countries,<sup>1</sup> and it is estimated that, in 2016, more than 18,000 people will be diagnosed with CLL in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

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The NCCN Guidelines for Patients: CLL is the first in a series of resources dedicated to patient education for non-Hodgkin's lymphomas; subsequent resources outlining treatment options for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, mycosis fungoides, and peripheral T-cell lymphoma will be published this year.

Because of clinical advances over the past 3 decades, Hodgkin lymphoma, although rare, is curable in at least 80% of patients with 5-year survival rates that are unmatched in any other cancer.<sup>3</sup>

The NCCN Guidelines for Patients and NCCN Quick Guide series for Hodgkin lymphoma have been broken out into 3 distinct sections to provide users with information most pertinent to their diagnosis: treatment overview, classical Hodgkin lymphoma, and nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma.

Made available through support of the NCCN Foundation, the NCCN Guidelines for Patients and NCCN Quick Guide series for CLL, CML, and Hodgkin lymphoma are available to download free of charge on [NCCN.org/patients](http://NCCN.org/patients); for information about print copies, visit [NCCN.org/patients](http://NCCN.org/patients).

“Through providing free resources for people with these blood cancers, NCCN Foundation strives to empower patients by providing insight into their treatment options, allowing them to work alongside their care team to make informed decision about their care,” said Marcie R. Reeder, MPH, Executive Director, NCCN Foundation.

The NCCN Guidelines for Patients, translations of the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines), are designed to provide people with cancer and their caregivers with state-of-the-art treatment information in easy-to-understand language. The NCCN Guidelines are developed by multidisciplinary panels of experts from NCCN Member Institutions and feature algorithms that address appropriate management options from initial work-up through the course of the disease.

NCCN Guidelines for Patients and NCCN Quick Guide series, abbreviated references outlining key points of the NCCN Guidelines for Patients, are written according to plain language principles to improve health literacy, and the design and format feature patient-friendly elements, such as medical illustrations of anatomy, tests, and treatments. These resources also feature an expansive glossary of terms and acronyms. The NCCN Guidelines for Patients and the NCCN Quick Guide series do not replace the expertise and clinical judgment of the physician.

NCCN currently offers NCCN Guidelines for Patients for the following: breast, colon, esophageal, kidney, non-small cell lung, ovarian, pancreatic, and prostate cancers; acute lymphoblastic leukemia; caring for adolescents and young adults (AYA); chronic lymphocytic leukemia; chronic myelogenous leukemia; Hodgkin lymphoma; lung cancer screening; malignant pleural mesothelioma; melanoma; multiple myeloma; and soft tissue sarcoma.

To download or order the NCCN Guidelines for Patients and NCCN Quick Guide series for CLL or Hodgkin Lymphoma, visit [NCCN.org/patients](http://NCCN.org/patients).

## References

1. Zelenetz AD, Gordon LI, Wierda WG, et al. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas. Version 2.2016. Available at: [NCCN.org](http://NCCN.org). Accessed February 22, 2016.

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2. Cancer Facts & Figures 2016. American Cancer Society Web site. Available at: <http://www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/cancerfactsfigures2016/> Accessed February 22, 2016.
3. Hoppe RT, Advani RH, Ai WZ, et al. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Hodgkin Lymphoma. Version 2.2015. Available at: [NCCN.org](http://NCCN.org). Accessed December 8, 2015.

## NCCN, in Collaboration with Pfizer, Awards 10 Grants for Provider Performance and Quality in Treatment of Metastatic Breast Cancer Initiatives

The NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP), in collaboration with Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC), has awarded 10 grants for project proposals to develop and adopt evidence-based initiatives to improve patient care and outcomes in metastatic breast cancer. In 2015, NCCN ORP and Pfizer IGLC issued a request for proposals (RFP) to any organization with an interest in improving patient care including academic and community hospitals.

“NCCN is proud of its ongoing collaboration with Pfizer IGLC to enhance the quality of treatment of people with metastatic breast cancer in both academic and community settings,” said Robert C. Young, MD, Interim Vice President, NCCN ORP. “Breast cancer is a leading cause of cancer death in women in the United States, and these projects indeed couple education with performance in order to heighten awareness and utilization of evidence-based treatment guidelines for the disease.”

“Metastatic breast cancer is a disease for which there currently is no cure, so improving patient care, support, and outcomes is critical,” said Julia Perkins Smith, MD, North America Medical Affairs Lead, Pfizer Oncology. “We are excited to collaborate with NCCN to support these 10 projects, which have the potential to make a meaningful impact on patients’ lives.”

The following proposals have been awarded funding:

- Baylor College of Medicine; Education & Recruitment in Metastatic Breast Cancer Clinical Trials
- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; Strengthening Existential Resiliency Among Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer
- Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Center; EMBRACE Program: A Comprehensive Approach to Improve the Care of Patients With Metastatic Breast Cancer
- Duke Cancer Institute; Reimagine End of Life: An Online, Personalized Coping and Decision Aid for Breast Cancer Patients and Providers
- Fox Chase Cancer Center; Improving the Approach to and Management of the Older Metastatic Breast Cancer Patient via a Provider Didactic Intervention
- Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University; Personalizing Patients’ Metastatic Breast Cancer Treatment and Supportive Care Plans
- Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center; Empowering Patients to Achieve Individualized Care for Advanced Breast Cancer
- Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center; A Collaborative Palliative and Oncology Care Model to Improve End of Life (EOL) Care for Patients With Poor Prognosis Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC)
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Implementing and Evaluating Medication Assistance Programming in Metastatic Breast Cancer
- Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital; Optimizing Patient Engagement in Reporting Outcomes Among Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer

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The awardees responded to an RFP from NCCN ORP and Pfizer IGLC seeking concepts for initiatives focusing on the following areas where gaps in care currently exist:

- Provider education and provider/patient treatment shared decision-making
- Adoption of evidence-based recommendations for management of metastatic breast cancer
- Information related to patient assistance programs and other patient-centered resources
- Comprehensive approaches to improving health care delivery systems

The NCCN ORP, organized to obtain funding to support scientifically meritorious research studies at NCCN Member Institutions, was the lead organization for review and evaluation of applications. A review committee, led by NCCN and including a medical representative from Pfizer, determined which proposals received funding. Grant funding is provided by Pfizer IGLC.

To learn more about the NCCN ORP and ongoing clinical trials, visit [NCCN.org/ORP](http://NCCN.org/ORP).