

Dear Cancer Liaison Physicians:

I hope the year is going well for you and you are enjoying the summer.

The Commission on Cancer (CoC) is planning two important virtual meetings in October:

- CLP Meeting: Tuesday, October 19, 3:00 to 4:30 pm CT
- CoC Plenary Session: Wednesday, October 20, 2:15 to 4:15 pm CT

Please save these dates and times and plan on attending. An invitation with registration information will be sent shortly. In the meantime, the following are a few recent CoC updates that I hope you'll find useful in your role as the CLP for your program.

### **NCDB Resources**

The nationally recognized National Cancer Database (NCDB)—jointly sponsored by the American College of Surgeons and the American Cancer Society—is a clinical oncology database sourced from hospital registry data that are collected from approximately 1,500 Commission on Cancer (CoC)-accredited facilities. NCDB data are used to analyze and track patients with malignant neoplastic diseases, their treatments, and outcomes. Data represent more than 72 percent of newly diagnosed cancer cases nationwide and more than 42 million historical records.

The CoC is developing a suite of educational resources to help CLPs navigate the various online NCDB reporting tools that allow programs to compare and evaluate their performance with similar facilities in their state, region and the country. A new downloadable, comprehensive [brochure](#) is available on the CoC website, with detailed descriptions of all NCDB reporting tools. In addition, a series of short webinars on how to use the NCDB reporting tools to assess your program's performance, identify opportunities for improvement, and prepare a report for the cancer committee will be posted in the coming weeks on the CoC website. The webinars are led by experienced CLPs and NCDB staff. We will notify you when they become available.

### **New CLP Awards Program**

The CoC Cancer Liaison Program is launching a new awards program to recognize outstanding performance by CLPs in their role as the physician quality leaders of their cancer programs. We are inviting members of the cancer committees, CoC Site Reviewers and State Chairs to [submit nominations online](#) by August 15. Please make sure your cancer committee colleagues are aware of this new opportunity! The CoC State Chairs CLP Education Advisory Group will choose the awardees, who will be recognized at the October CoC Plenary Session.

### **Synoptic Operative Report Best Practices Webinar Summary and FAQ Now Available**

The one-page summary with frequently asked questions from the [Best Practices for Compliance with CoC Standards 5.7 and 5.8](#) webinar in June is now available on the [Operative Standards Toolkit](#) web page along with the webinar slides. This webinar reviewed best practices to achieve compliance with CoC Standard 5.7 (Total Mesorectal Excision) and CoC Standard 5.8 (Pulmonary Resection), guidance on auditing compliance rates at your institution, and recommendations from pathologists on how to optimize communication with surgeons. All staff at CoC programs, including administrators, pathologists, registrars, and surgeons, as well as Cancer Liaison Physicians (CLPs) and State Chairs, are

encouraged to watch the webinar [recording](#) and review the [slides](#). All the available resources to support implementation of the operative standards are now included in a [Toolkit](#) accessible from the ACS website.

### **Virtual Content Available from the ACS Quality and Safety Conference**

The 2021 ACS Quality and Safety Conference VIRTUAL was held July 12–16. If you were unable to attend, you can still register to access the sessions for free. In addition to a full Cancer track, there is a 6-part quality improvement curriculum that would be beneficial to you in your role as a CLP. Register [here](#) to view the sessions. All of the content will remain accessible through August 16. You can access the content via the conference [website, and all sessions offer](#) CME.

### **Meetings**

Registration is now open for the October 23–27 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress 2021. This virtual event offers important surgical education opportunities for medical professionals across all specialties and career stages. This year’s program addresses essential clinical and nonclinical content.

- A compelling series of Named Lectures by world-renowned experts.
- Postgraduate Courses incorporating best practices in education and training.
- More than 105 Panel Sessions on timely, relevant subjects.
- The Scientific Forum, featuring exciting surgical research presentations and ePosters.

### **State/Region News**

State Chairs: Feel free to include additional information here that will be relevant to your CLPs – meetings, advocacy issues, etc.

Thank you for all you do as your cancer program’s CLP to improve the quality of care for cancer patients. Please contact me anytime [at \(insert email address\)](#) with any questions about the CoC or your program’s accreditation.

State Chair Name