

We hope you had an opportunity to attend the Commission on Cancer (CoC) CLP meeting on September 10. If you weren't able to attend, we urge you to view the meeting slides, which are posted under the "Meetings" section of the CoC Cancer Liaison Physicians landing page on the American College of Surgeons Cancer Programs [website](#). I hope you'll find this meeting summary and the additional CoC updates to be useful in your role as the CLP for your cancer program.

September 10 Cancer Liaison Physician Meeting

CoC Committee on Cancer Liaison Chair Maria Castaldi, MD, FACS, welcomed CLPs to the meeting and recognized the winners of the [2025 CLP Outstanding Performance Award](#):

- Umur Atabek, MD, FACS
MD Anderson at Cooper University Health, Camden, NJ
- Irina Bernescu, MD, FACS
Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital Cancer Institute, Baltimore, MD
- Jessica Cohan, MD, FACS
University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, Salt Lake City, UT
- Andrew Fintel, DO
Blue Ridge Cancer Care/LewisGale Medical Center, Salem, VA
- Christine Garcia, MD
Weill Cornell Medicine-New York Presbyterian, New York, NY
- Paul Gordon, MD, FACS
Advocate Aurora South Chicagoland INCP, Chicago Ridge, IL
- Ihor Pidhorecky, MD, FACS
HCA Florida Westside Hospital, Davie, FL
- Elizabeth Rinehart, MD
Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury, CT
- Anthony Scholer, MD, FACS
Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Neptune, NJ
- Taylor Turner, MD
St. Luke's Cancer Institute, Boise, ID

Congratulations to the winners, and all who were nominated for this prestigious award. The 2026 CLP awards program will open for nominations in the spring.

Following the CoC update, CoC Accreditation Committee Chair Aaron Bleznak, MD, FACS, provided an update on the CoC Standards. Pia Banerjee, PhD, of the American Cancer Society presented information on the Society's new resource [Access to Clinical Trials & Support \(ACTS\)](#) and Christina Fleischer, MD, MBA reported an update on the [Assessing the Effectiveness and Significance of the Operative Standards Program \(AESOP\)](#).

2025 CLP Survey

The CoC is continuing to evaluate educational and informational resources and develop new materials that we hope will improve your experience and effectiveness as a CLP. Please take a few minutes to complete the [annual CLP survey](#), to provide the feedback needed to develop these resources. **The deadline to complete the survey is Monday, November 10, 2025.**

National Cancer Database (NCDB) Updates

- The NCDB has released the [Hospital Comparison Benchmark Report](#), which allows hospitals to access their quality data in real time while potentially comparing this data to larger aggregates such as all CoC programs or programs within a state.
- Investigators at CoC-accredited programs can now access new data with the NCDB release of the 2023 Participant User File (PUF). Users can consult the [data dictionary](#) for a complete list of fields and corresponding definitions and the [NCDB PUF webpage](#) for additional supporting resources. Email ncdb_puf@facs.org for more information or questions.

Reminder: CoC Pediatric Programs Must Comply with Prevention Event Requirements

Beginning in 2026, CoC Standard 8.2: Cancer Prevention Event requires that Pediatric Cancer Programs (PCP) or CoC Pediatric Specialty (CoC-PS) programs must provide one event per year for children and/or young adults. Specific to CoC-PS programs, if the prevention event offered by the adult CoC program applies to children and/or young adults, it can be used to support compliance for both adult and pediatric compliance. For more information, refer to the [Optimal Resources for Cancer Care \(2020 Standards\)](#), Standard 8.2: Cancer Prevention Event and the Specifications by Category for PCPs and CoC-PS programs. Questions related to the CoC standards can be submitted to the [CAnswer Forum](#).