Dear Cancer Liaison Physicians:

I hope you had an opportunity to attend the Commission on Cancer (CoC) CLP meeting on October 11, 2022. If you weren’t able to attend, we urge you to view the recording and slides, which will be posted 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.

**Cancer Liaison Physician (CLP) Meeting**

CoC Committee on Cancer Liaison Chair Quyen Chu, MD, FACS, welcomed CLPs to the meeting and shared updates from the CoC. He kicked off the meeting by acknowledging the winners of the **2022 CLP Outstanding Performance Award**. This year, more than 80 nominations were submitted and after careful review of each submission by the CoC State Chair Education Advisory Group, chaired by Iowa State Chair Ingrid Lizarraga, MBBS, FACS, 10 CLPs have been chosen to receive this award:

- **Richard C. Anderson, MD**
  OSF Healthcare Systems-Saint Francis Medical Center
  Peoria, Illinois

- **Everett J. Bonner, Jr., MD, FACS, FSSO**
  Baton Rouge General Medical Center
  Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- **David Coppola, MD**
  Wentworth Douglass Hospital
  Dover, New Hampshire

- **Lynne Jalovec, MD**
  Methodist Medical Central of Illinois
  Peoria, Illinois

- **Edward Kost, MD**
  UT Health San Antonio
  San Antonio, Texas

- **Seth Krantz, MD**
  NorthShore University HealthSystem
  Evanston, Illinois

- **Nisha A. Lakhi, MD, FACOG**
  Richmond University Medical Center
  Staten Island, New York

- **Maxwell Meng, MD**
  University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

**Julie Monroe, MD**  
White Plains Hospital  
White Plains, New York

**William R. Robinson, MD**  
University of Mississippi Medical Center  
Jackson, Mississippi

The 2023 CLP awards program will open for nominations in the spring.

Dr. Chu also announced that the 2023 ACS Cancer Conference will be held March 1-4 in Atlanta, GA. More information on the conference and its educational content will be shared in the coming weeks.

Following the CoC update, the American Cancer Society’s **Gayle Bagley**, Director of Comprehensive Cancer Control, and **Kristen Sullivan, MS, MPH**, Director of Nutrition and Physical Activity, discussed the organization new nutrition and physical activity guidelines and healthcare providers toolkit. More information is available on the American Cancer Society [website](#).

**Chantel Reyna, MD, FACS**, provided an update on the CoC Operative Standards, sharing information on recent publications, webinars, and added resources, including visual abstracts and the [Operative Standards Toolkit](#).

**Rachel Joung, MD, MS**, and Cancer Programs Quality Improvement Manager **Eileen Reilly** presented an update on the Cancer Programs Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives. Dr. Joung reviewed the results of the recent Return to Screening Plan/Do/Study/Act initiative. Eileen Reilly reported on the new Cancer National Quality Improvement Collaborative (CaNQIC), which focuses on improving the quality of cancer care through focused QI efforts on cancer delivery. She also provided an updated on the ongoing Just ASK initiative and shared plans for future programs.

**CoC Site Reviewer Team**  
The CoC is actively seeking physicians, including CLPs, to join the accreditation site reviewer team. Site reviewers visit hospitals nationwide throughout the US and Puerto Rico in person and virtually to review cancer programs seeking accreditation or re-accreditation. Site reviewers will meet and present to key leadership at each program, review charts and cases, and assess program compliance with the requirements for all standards. Qualified candidates must be actively practicing physicians who specialize in cancer care and are employed or affiliated with a CoC-accredited program. Once you have reviewed the [minimum qualifications to be a CoC Site Reviewer](#) and feel that you meet the criteria, complete and submit the [application](#).

**2022 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 [survey](#), to provide the information needed to develop these resources. **The deadline to complete the survey by end is Monday, October 31, 2022.**
NCDB News
The National Cancer Database (NCDB) is pleased to announce the release of the 2020 Participant Use File (PUF). Investigators at CoC-accredited programs can access pandemic and Covid-19 specific data to assess the impact on cancer care. Please consult the data dictionary for a complete list and definitions as well as the fields that are included. Contact ncdb_puf@facs.org for more information or with any questions.

The 2020 annual Cancer Quality Improvement Program (CQIP) report—a data-driven, process and outcomes-based cancer quality improvement initiative—has been released. This annual report is unique in providing not only short-term quality and outcome data but also long-term outcome data including 5-year survival rates for commonly treated malignancies stratified by stage. CQIP allows program staff to assess their quality and outcomes based on the data submitted to the National Cancer Database (NCDB). A complete CQIP slide directory is in the “About CQIP” tab of the CQIP reporting application. CoC-accredited program staff are now able to access this report through the Quality Portal QPort. If you have any questions, contact NCDB@facs.org.

Please contact your CoC State Chair with any questions about the CoC or your program’s accreditation.