The Spirit of Advocacy
2020 Highlights from COA’s Patient Advocacy Network
Happy Holidays & Thank you for continuing to demonstrate the Spirit of Advocacy

2020 was filled with many challenges for patients, survivors and providers. Yet, despite these challenges a bright light remained - interest and dedication to advocacy.

Our CPAN advocates continued to believe in the value of community oncology. CPAN hosted 18 advocacy events across the U.S. These events were held in our community oncology practices and virtually. Our CPAN advocates also delivered our message on the value of community oncology by advocating through the media, supporting the efforts of multiple advocacy organizations and by sharing their experiences as cancer patients & survivors in patient advisory roles. In addition, CPAN maintained high visibility at the national level through support of other advocacy groups and served in key opinion leader/speaker roles at multiple national and advocacy oncology events.

We closed out the year by welcoming our newest CPAN Chapter – Genesis Cancer Center in Arkansas - and by educating advocates on important and timely oncology issues. We are looking forward to 2021 being another great year for CPAN! Together we are Advocates for the Care!

Please enjoy the CPAN highlights included in this report.

Happy Holidays!

Lakshmi Aggarwal, MD
CPAN Medical Co-Chair

Miriam Atkins, MD
CPAN Medical Co-Chair

Rose Gerber
COA Director of Patient Advocacy & Education
We Are Advocates for the Care
28 CPAN Chapters Across the U.S.

Launched 12/18/2020
COA Practices/Chapters Support CPAN
CPAN Practice/Chapter based events provide education about important oncology issues

1/4/2020: Cancer Center of Middle Georgia
1/9/2020: Augusta Oncology
2/3/2020: Hematology Oncology Associates of Central NY – Sit in My Chair
2/12/2020: Florida Cancer Specialists
2/17/2020: Eastern CT Hematology Oncology
2/17/2020: Hematology Oncology Associates of Central NY
2/25/2020: Northwest Medical Specialties
2/26/2020: Tennessee Oncology
11/20/2020: Fort Wayne Medical Hematology Oncology
12/10/2020: Augusta Oncology
12/14/2020: Hematology Oncology Associates of Central NY
12/18/2020: Genesis Cancer Center CPAN Chapter Launch
To learn more about our CPAN chapters
Visit www.coaAdvocacy.org

CPAN Cancer Center of Middle Georgia Chapter
Dublin, GA

Founded in 2015 – Client of the art facilities with amenities under one roof
2 physicians, 1 pharmacy technician, 5 nurses, 2 nurse practitioners, 1 physician assistant
4,500+ new patients a year
Financial navigators, pharmacy, imaging, social worker & clinical trials
Glick have to view photo/video gallery
View more videos here
Enter the reading room
Share your story

Advocating for Rural America

All Cancer Center of Middle Georgia (CCMG), medical oncologist and hematologist Dr. Yassa Yassa is a driving force behind its GCMG chapter’s success. He’s been a leading advocate of policies that promote affordable cancer care, both nationally and locally. He knows that engaging his clinical team and administrative staff in grassroots advocacy opens new doors and provides a voice for rural cancer patients who walk through the clinic’s doors.

CCMG’s staff and clinical team have a clear understanding of the regulations and policies that harm their patients. CPAN gives them the forum and voice to question prior authorizations that can severely delay critical treatment, and better navigate a complicated payment system.

Drs. Yassa and chapter leader Amber Jenkine were selected to represent the strong CPAN advocates and supporters. From meetings on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC to leading CPAN meetings at their cancer center, they are truly ADVOCATES FOR THE CARE.

They share their patients’ stories directly with senators, asking for policy support to keep community oncology practices financially stable, thriving, and able to serve patients who depend on local cancer care. With their “roll up your sleeves and get to work” mentality, the CPAN CCMG chapter does its part to ensure lawmakers know the value of personalized, high-quality, affordable community oncology care provided by local practices serving rural America.

“Through CPAN, we give our patients a voice. We see the effect of bad policy on patients who already struggle with the cost of care. That’s why we choose to advocate.”

– Amber Jenkine, RN, Clinical Research Coordinator, CPAN Chapter Advocacy Leader
As Shift Toward Telemedicine Continues, In-Home Infusions Remain a No-Go

BRIGELLE RENTON
Monday, April 27, 2020

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is drastically changing how cancer is being treated, with an emphasis on triaging patients for in-clinic visits, as well as using home care and telemedicine when possible. While keeping patients at home decreases their risk of contracting the virus, it can also create challenges and safety issues when it comes to procedures like infusions.

The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) recently issued a statement that they are against in-home infusions of chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and cancer supportive drugs.

Alternative Recruitment Models for Oncology Nurses: An Outpatient RN Residency Program

LANE OSTERGA M.D.D., BSN, RN, ONC, DIRECTOR, NURSING SERVICES, TEXAS ONCOLOGY OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE | April 03, 2020

Oncology nurse recruitment and retention are becoming increasingly difficult year after year. The nursing profession, in general, finds itself in potentially dire shortages with the latest numbers from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics estimating that almost 11 million additional nurses are needed to avoid a further shortage. 2 Nursing shortages have been linked to increased burnout, job dissatisfaction, higher turnover rates, and nurses leaving the profession altogether. Additionally, nursing shortages lead to errors and increased risk for poor patient outcomes, including higher mortality rates. 2

* A sampling
CPAN Supports the Advocacy Efforts of our Corporate Members*

*A sampling
CPAN Promotes the Value of Community Oncology with External Advocacy Groups*

Session 1: Understanding the Role of Community Oncology in Clinical Trials & Patient Engagement
Rose Gerber, Director, Patient Advocacy and Education & 3x clinical trial participant, Community Oncology Alliance (COA)

Session 2: LIVE: Utilizing Patient Expertise and Community Oncology in Trial Design and Continued Engagement
PANEL MODERATOR:
Hollie Schmidt, Vice President, Scientific Operations, Accelerated Cure Project for MS

PANELISTS:
Rose Gerber, Director, Patient Advocacy and Education & 3x clinical trial participant, Community Oncology Alliance (COA)
Christina Roman, MPH, Senior Manager of Community Engagement, Community Partnerships, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Emma D’Agostino, CF Patient, Patient Advocate, Member of FDA Review Committee
Rob Long, Executive Director, Uplifting Athletes

6/25-6/26/2020 - Unite Life Sciences - The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on New and Ongoing Clinical Trials - Virtual Summit
Virtual Roundtable: Patient Engagement in 2020 and Beyond
Explore strategies to take advantage of decentralized, patient-centric approaches and opportunities.
- Leslie Jebson, Executive Director of Clinical Business Operations Texas A&M Health Science Center
- Rose Gerber, Director of Patient Advocacy and Education, Community Oncology Alliance (COA)

*A sampling
Cancer Didn’t Stop During the Pandemic and Neither Did our Advocacy

Chelsea Klock, RN, CPAN Chapter Advocacy Leader, Hematology Oncology Associates of Central NY - Sit in My Chair with the Deputy Mayor of Syracuse Sharon Owens. (Deputy Mayor Owens is holding a bag of drugs worth $100,000 that were wasted due to PBMs)

Cyndi Przekop, RN, BSN, CPAN Chapter Advocacy Leader, Eastern Connecticut Hematology Oncology. One of our many CPAN Chapter Advocacy Leaders/nurses working through COVID-19.

Lisa Poiry, RN, CPAN Chapter Advocacy Leader and Lakshmi Aggarwal, M.D., CPAN Medical Co-Chair, Fort Wayne Medical Oncology Hematology, Indiana, Facebook Live advocacy event.

Brenda McGarr, RN, CPAN Chapter Advocacy Leader and Miriam Atkins, M.D., CPAN Medical Co-Chair, Augusta Oncology, Georgia, virtual advocacy event.

Thank You CPAN Chapters!
Engaging with CPAN is easy with our new virtual advocacy events
Welcome Genesis Cancer Center!
CPAN Chapter Launch 12/18/2020

Our Newest CPAN Advocates Working Through COVID & Demonstrating The Spirit of Advocacy

Dr. Stephen “Fred” Divers
Genesis Cancer Center/ COA Board Member
CPAN closed out the year by continuing to educate patients about important and timely oncology issues

Advocacy Chat: What does the Most Favored Nation (MFN) drug pricing “model” mean for patients? 12/22/2020
Upcoming Learning & Advocacy Opportunities

- Monthly CPAN News Bulletin
  - [www.coaAdvocacy.org/subscribe-to-updates/](http://www.coaAdvocacy.org/subscribe-to-updates/)
- National Community Oncology Conference - April 8-9, 2021
- National Advocacy Summit - July 21, 2021
- Quarterly practice/CPAN chapter-based events
- Monthly Advocacy Chat webinars with national oncology & advocacy experts
  - 2nd Wednesday of every month 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time
  - Next up: The COA Crystal Ball, January 13, 2021
  - To register: [www.coaAdvocacy.org](http://www.coaAdvocacy.org)
Thank you for being a part of the Community Oncology Alliance Patient Advocacy Network!

Lakshmi Aggarwal, MD
CPAN Medical Co-Chair
Fort Wayne Medical Oncology Hematology

Miriam Atkins, MD
CPAN Medical Co-Chair
Augusta Oncology

Rose Gerber
Director of Patient Advocacy & Education
Community Oncology Alliance

Tracey Banks
CPAN Executive Assistant
Community Oncology Alliance

We Are Advocates for the Care!