The National Cancer Policy Forum serves as a trusted venue in which experts can identify emerging high-priority policy issues in cancer research and care and work collaboratively to examine those issues through convening activities focused on opportunities for action. The Forum provides a continual focus within the National Academies on cancer, addressing issues in science, clinical medicine, public health, and public policy that are relevant to the goal of reducing the cancer burden, through prevention and by improving the care and outcomes for those diagnosed with cancer. Forum activities inform stakeholders about critical policy issues through published reports and often inform consensus committee studies. The Forum has members with a broad range of expertise in cancer, including patient advocates, clinicians, and basic, translational, and clinical scientists. Members represent patients, federal agencies, academia, professional organizations, nonprofits, and industry.

The Forum has addressed a wide array of topics, including:

- enhancing collaborations to accelerate research and development;
- improving the quality and value of care for patients who have been diagnosed with or are at risk for cancer;
- developing tools and technologies to enhance cancer research and care; and
- examining factors that influence cancer incidence, mortality, and disparities.
Upcoming Workshops

**Applying Big Data to Address the Social Determinants of Health in Oncology**

**October 28-29, 2019**

The collection and analysis of big data is expected to transform the field of cancer research and improve cancer care. Analyses of big data have the potential to elucidate ways in which the social determinants of health contribute to cancer incidence and outcomes, and may also identify promising avenues for intervention. However, not all individuals and communities may benefit equally from these advances: concerns remain about whether applications of big data research will reduce existing health disparities in oncology, or whether they might inadvertently exacerbate these disparities.

This workshop will examine the social determinants of health in the context of cancer, and consider opportunities to effectively leverage big data to improve health equity and reduce disparities. The workshop will feature invited presentations and discussion on topics such as:

- The impact of social determinants of health on cancer incidence and outcomes
- Opportunities to leverage big data and analytic methods in oncology
- Examples of novel data sources and methodologies
- Data policy and ethical considerations
- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration to improve health equity
- Research gaps and a research agenda


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**Advancing Progress in Cancer Prevention and Risk Reduction**

**March 2-3, 2020**

Cancer prevention is considered the most cost-effective long-term strategy for cancer control. In the United States, approximately 42 percent of cancer diagnoses and 45 percent of cancer deaths are related to modifiable behavioral and environmental risk factors such as: cigarette smoking, excess body weight, physical inactivity, alcohol consumption, and exposure to ultraviolet radiation, chemicals, and pollutants. These risk factors do not uniformly affect populations—many modifiable risk factors are influenced by socioeconomic factors that contribute to significant disparities in cancer incidence and outcomes.

This workshop will provide a venue for the cancer community to examine the current state of knowledge on modifiable risk factors in cancer and to discuss contextually-appropriate approaches for cancer prevention and risk reduction. Workshop presentations and discussion will focus on:

- Best practices and innovative approaches to implement population-based cancer prevention and risk reduction strategies
- Opportunities to overcome challenges in the delivery of cancer prevention services within communities and health care settings, including consideration of specific strategies for low-resource areas
- Strategies to improve implementation of vaccine-based interventions for prevention, as well as for interventions for risk reduction (e.g., surgery and pharmacologic approaches)
- Methods for assessing effectiveness of cancer prevention and risk reduction efforts

Workshop website forthcoming

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**Save the Date: Future Workshops**

**July 13-14, 2020**

**November 9-10, 2020**
Health Literacy and Communication Strategies in Oncology

This workshop, held in collaboration with the Roundtable on Health Literacy, will examine opportunities, methods, and strategies to improve the communication of cancer information in a clinic visit, as patients and families navigate the health care system, and within the broader community. Workshop presentations and discussion will review procedures, policies, and programs to support health literacy needs of patients and families; best practices to improve communication across the cancer continuum; opportunities to build public trust and counter inaccurate information about cancer; and ongoing research to improve health communication in oncology care.

Workshop videos and presentation files:

Updating Labels for Generic Oncology Drugs

In March 2019, participants examined the challenges and opportunities to update oncology drugs labels that are inconsistent with the current evidence base and use in clinical practice. Discussions focused on what information sources should be considered for labeling updates, evidentiary standards for labeling updates, and evidence considerations for special populations like pediatric oncology. This project was sponsored by the FDA and held in collaboration with the Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation.

Workshop presentation files:

Developing and Sustaining an Effective and Resilient Oncology Careforce

The landscape of cancer care is undergoing rapid change. Advances in cancer research, screening and diagnostic practices, and cancer treatment have led to improved outcomes for patients with cancer and a growing population of cancer survivors, but they have also increased the complexity of cancer care. Demographic trends, new care delivery and payment models, the widespread adoption of technologies in clinical practice, and increasing family caregiving responsibilities have had a profound effect on the cancer careforce. This workshop examined opportunities to better support the oncology careforce and improve the delivery of high-quality cancer care.

Workshop videos and presentation files:

The Clinical Application of Computational Methods in Precision Oncology

Precision oncology therapies, which target specific abnormalities in a patient’s cancer, are changing the nature of cancer treatment by enabling clinicians to select therapies that are most likely to benefit individual patients. Increasingly, oncologists are formulating cancer treatment plans using results from complex tests that characterize the molecular underpinnings of an individual patient’s cancer. These advances depend on the use of computational methods to analyze large-scale datasets derived from genomic tests and other omics technologies. This workshop examined the challenges and opportunities in the development of computational methods for precision medicine to improve cancer diagnosis and care.

Workshop videos and presentation files:

Advancing Progress in the Development of Combination Cancer Therapies with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

Immune checkpoint inhibitors, like those that target PD-1 and PD-L1 proteins, have changed the standard of care for multiple types of cancer and represent a majority share of new cancer drug applications to the FDA. There has been growing interest in combining checkpoint inhibitors with other therapies to further improve efficacy. Several challenges impede optimal development of combination therapies with checkpoint inhibitors, such as prioritizing combinations for testing, identifying patients who are most likely to benefit, assessing endpoints for safety and clinical benefit, overcoming resistance to therapy, and developing cancer site-agnostic indications. This workshop examined the opportunities to improve the development of combination cancer therapies that include immune checkpoint inhibitors.

Workshop videos and presentation files:
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- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute
- American Association for Cancer Research
- American Cancer Society
- American College of Radiology
- American Society of Clinical Oncology
- Association of American Cancer Institutes
- Association of Community Cancer Centers
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Cancer Support Community
- CEO Roundtable on Cancer
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