



National Cancer Policy Forum



The National Cancer Policy Forum serves as a trusted venue in which experts can identify emerging high-priority policy issues in cancer research and cancer 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 the cancer community and the public about critical policy issues through workshops and published reports. The forum has members with a broad range of expertise in cancer, including patient advocates, clinicians, and basic, translational, and clinical scientists. Forum 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 and Recent Workshops

National Cancer Policy Summit 2026: Progress in Policy and Science and the Future of Cancer Research and Care - A Workshop

November 9–10, 2026

Over the past two decades, the National Cancer Policy Forum has served a uniquely important role in examining both long-standing and emerging policy issues aimed at reducing the burden of cancer and improving the care and outcomes for those diagnosed with cancer from multiple perspectives. This summit will reflect on the major policy and science developments in cancer research and cancer care over the past 20 years and discuss key challenges and opportunities to further advance research and patient care for the future.

Exploring Strategies to Mitigate the Impact of Extreme Weather Events on Clinical Cancer Research and Care: A Virtual Workshop Series Part 1

June 15, 2026

This virtual workshop series will examine the impact of extreme weather events on clinical cancer research and care and explore potential policy opportunities at multiple levels to build resilience to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events on patients with cancer. This first part will focus on lived experience and research and policy needs to better understand, prepare for, and address the impacts across the cancer continuum.

Policy Issues for Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Research and Care

Collaborative workshop convened by:

National Cancer Policy Forum
Program on Computing Research, Technologies, and System

March 9–10, 2026

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare has been growing rapidly in recent years. It is increasingly recognized for its transformative potential in healthcare, particularly in oncology. This workshop examined the current and potential future uses of AI in cancer care, and discussed ways to anticipate and address challenges related to the integration of these technologies in the care of patients with cancer. With a focus on the responsible and effective use of AI in oncology, the workshop considered current policy initiatives across health care and the unique needs for oncology care.

Innovative Person-Centered Clinical Cancer Research

September 29–30, 2025

Person-centered clinical research can positively influence the outcomes of clinical research by providing a more accurate representation of real-world patient experiences. It addresses questions that are informed by patient experiences, needs, and perspectives, and involves patients in all stages of research, including design, activation, enrollment, data collection, completion, and outcome reporting. Although patient-reported outcome measures may offer potential benefits for clinical cancer research, challenges in the completeness, reliability, and validity of the data persist. This workshop examined opportunities to overcome these challenges to advance the conduct of innovative, person-centered clinical cancer research to improve outcomes for all patients.

Strategies and Interventions to Strengthen Support for Family Caregiving and to Alleviate Caregiver Burden

Collaborative workshop convened by:

Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness
National Cancer Policy Forum
Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence

June 5–6, 2025

While unpaid, family caregivers can derive significant satisfaction and other positive benefits from caring for a loved one, research reveals that caregivers experience significant physical, psychological, emotional and financial burdens and a decline in their own physical and emotional health as a result of caring for people living with serious illness. This workshop discussed evidence-based interventions and strategies that effectively address the physical, mental, and financial challenges of caregiving.

Cancer Engineering: The Convergence of Engineering and Health to Advance Cancer Research and Care

Collaborative workshop convened by:

National Cancer Policy Forum
Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics
Board on Life Sciences

May 20–21, 2025

The concept of cancer engineering involves the application of engineering principles to solve challenges across cancer research and cancer care. This multidisciplinary approach brings together the fields of biology, engineering, and health care to devise innovative solutions that enhance the effectiveness, accessibility, and affordability of cancer care. This workshop will consider opportunities to improve patient outcomes through the convergence of engineering with oncology practice, research, and policy.

Recent Workshops

Addressing the Impact of Tobacco and Alcohol Use on Cancer-Related Health Outcomes

Collaborative workshop convened by:
National Cancer Policy Forum
Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

March 17-18, 2025

The use of both alcohol and tobacco has independent and synergistic health effects, including links to many different cancers. There is a clear need to better understand the impact of dual use on cancer incidence and outcomes, to improve public education, and to develop oncology clinical practice guidelines for patients who use alcohol and tobacco. This workshop will examine the current state of the science and explore strategies to reduce tobacco and alcohol use to lower cancer risk and improve health outcomes.

Examining Clinical Guidelines for the Adoption of Genomic Testing

Collaborative workshop convened by:
Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Health
National Cancer Policy Forum

October 29, 2024

Clinical practice guidelines can impact adoption of new technologies into routine medical care. This workshop will examine how guidelines for genomic testing are developed by various organizations, with a focus on exploring inconsistencies across guidelines and opportunities for a possible path forward for more consistent clinical guidelines for genomics to improve patient care.

Opportunities and Challenges for the Development and Adoption of Multicancer Detection Tests

October 28-29, 2024

Cancer screening is considered a key cancer control strategy because patients who are diagnosed with earlier stages of disease often have better treatment options and improved health outcomes. However, effective screening tests are lacking for most cancers. The development of minimally invasive approaches to screen for multiple tumor types at once could address this unmet need, but the clinical utility of multicancer detection (MCD) testing has yet to be established.

Enabling 21st Century Applications for Cancer Surveillance Through Enhanced Registries and Beyond

July 29-30, 2024

Population-based cancer surveillance has a pivotal role in assessing the nation's progress in cancer control. Cancer surveillance helps inform research and care interventions aimed at reducing the burden of cancer on patients and communities, including the ability to identify health disparities in cancer outcomes. Surveillance data are crucial for identifying emerging trends in health outcomes and opportunities to improve the quality of cancer care. However, challenges with the current approach to cancer surveillance in the United States include delays and gaps in data collection, as well as inadequate infrastructure and workforce to keep pace with the informatics and treatment-related advances in cancer. The National Cancer Policy Forum convened a public workshop to examine opportunities to enhance and modernize cancer surveillance in order to improve cancer research, care, and outcomes for all patients.

Toward a Framework to Improve Diversity and Inclusion in Clinical Trials

Collaborative workshop convened by:
Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation
National Cancer Policy Forum

May 20, 2024

This workshop aimed to explore opportunities to improve racial and ethnic diversity in clinical trials with a focus on system-level change and collective efforts across organizations and sectors that no one entity can effectively take on alone.

Biological Effectors of Social Determinants of Health in Cancer: Identification and Mitigation

March 20-21, 2024

Biological effectors of social determinants of health (SDOH) interact and impact cancer risk, treatment outcomes, and health equity. This workshop considered opportunities to advance health equity in cancer by identifying promising avenues for future research, as well as policies and interventions aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of the SDOH in cancer.

Current Forum Sponsors

American Association for Cancer Research	American Society of Clinical Oncology	AVEO Oncology Cancer Center at Illinois	National Comprehensive Cancer Network	Patient Advocate Foundation
American Cancer Society	Association of American Cancer Institutes	Flatiron Health	Novartis Oncology	Pfizer Inc.
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