



VIRGINIA CANCER CONFERENCE 2025

UNITING MINDS HEALING LIVES

A Collaborative Approach to Cancer Care

SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2025

The Westin Richmond
6631 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia

TOGETHER, WE CAN STAY IN THE GAME

LET'S TACKLE PROSTATE CANCER AS A TEAM



If you have a family, children, or loved ones, you need to do prostate cancer screening for them. If you're not going to do it for yourself, you need to do this for them. You owe yourself that.

Hashim Davis
Luther P. Jackson Black Cultural Center
University of Virginia

» Join our community champions and help us tackle prostate cancer as a team!



University of Virginia
Comprehensive Cancer Center



ABOUT THE CANCER ACTION COALITION OF VIRGINIA

The [Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia \(CACV\)](#) serves as a vital alliance of organizations and individuals working together to provide statewide guidance, support, leadership, and coordination of cancer prevention and control activities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our mission is to reduce the burden of cancer for all persons living in Virginia utilizing the [Virginia Cancer Plan](#) to provide a forum for collaboration, education, and advocacy.

Our key initiative is to develop the **Virginia Cancer Plan** every five years, which provides a roadmap to addressing the burden of cancer in the Commonwealth. This plan is a framework that presents priority objectives, goals, and strategies to reduce cancer risk, eliminate preventable cancers, and minimize cancer deaths and disabilities.

VIRGINIA CANCER CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Virginia Cancer Conference is hosted by CACV biennially to provide education and training to key stakeholders in the Virginia cancer community.

The theme of the 2025 Virginia Cancer Conference is “Uniting Minds, Healing Lives: A Collaborative Approach to Cancer Care.” It is only together that we can reduce the burden of cancer in every community across Virginia.

The conference is attended by physicians, nurses, clinical social workers, patient navigators, health educators, survivors, caregivers, advocates, and community members. The program offers keynote presentations, breakout sessions, Q&A periods, exhibits, and networking opportunities.

Virginia Cancer Conference 2025 Committee

Rigey King, Conference Chair	Kelly Fitzgerald	Amanda Qadado
Conney Berger	Michelle Futrell	Alyson Scullin
Deborah Clarkston	Michael Gesme	Leah Spivey
John Deeken	Amy Godkin	Erin Steigleder
Jessica Deering	Claudette Grant	Donna Moore Wilson

Virginia Cancer Conference 2025 Committee—Pediatric

Amy Godkin, Chair	Jessica Deering	Cindy Maynard	Alyson Scullin
Jillian Carpenter	Crissy Johnson	Alma Morgan	Kristina Tatum





KEEPING LOVED ONES IN OUR LIVES

We are unconditionally committed to stopping cancer and unlocking answers in our communities with partners like the Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia, to understand research, prevention and care needs at home. Learn more about our collaboration in action: masseycancercenter.org



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

CACV Member:	\$85
Non-Member:	\$100
Registration & Membership:	\$110
Student or Cancer Survivor:	\$50
Pediatric Track (One Day Only):	\$50



Registration includes access to all sessions, meals, and continuing education credits.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you need to cancel a registration, registrants are eligible for a full refund (minus a 15% administrative fee) if requested by August 1, 2025. After August 1, 2025, registrants will no longer be able to receive a refund. To cancel a registration, please email info@cancercoalitionofvirginia.com with the cancellation request, registrant's full name, and contact information.

[Register Here](#)

HOTEL & VENUE

The Virginia Cancer Conference will be held at the Westin Richmond located at 6631 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. The group room rate is \$149 per night plus taxes. To secure the special rate, reservations must be made by August 20, 2025. Complimentary parking is available.

[Make Hotel Reservation Today](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The following continuing education credits are being offered through VCU Health Continuing Medical Education:

- VCU Health Continuing Education designates this live activity for a maximum **of 8 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
- VCU Health Continuing Education designates this activity for a maximum of 8 ANCC contact hours. Nurses should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
- As a Jointly Accredited Organization, VCU Health Continuing Education is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. Social workers completing this course receive 8 continuing education credits.





Inova Schar Cancer

Personalized treatment, exceptional results

Our nationally renowned specialists deliver advanced, innovative treatments using cutting-edge therapies and technologies—all tailored precisely to each patient's unique needs and experiences.

[Inova.org/Cancer](https://www.inova.org/Cancer)



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

8:00 am	Registration, Exhibits & Breakfast
9:00 am	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:30 am	Food is Medicine
10:30 am	Break & Exhibits
11:00 am	Pediatric Track Begins Grief and Loss: Rebuilding, Healing and the Impact of Secondary Loss Transitions of Care in Survivorship Compassion Fatigue
11:00 am	Virginia Cancer Plan Implementation: Prioritizing Our Efforts
12:15 pm	Awards Luncheon
1:30 pm	Breakout Sessions Viral Types of Cancer Use of Treatment Guidelines in Clinical Settings: A Case Study in Lung Cancer Role of Navigators, CHWs, and Community-Based Organizations in Cancer Control & Prevention
2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions Provider Wellness Clinical Trials: Engaging Underrepresented Communities Diversifying Funding Sources for Cancer Control & Prevention
3:20 pm	Exhibits & Afternoon Break
3:45 pm	Cancer & Policy
4:45 pm	First Day Wrap-up/Remarks



Schedule subject to change

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

8:00 am	Exhibits & Breakfast
8:45 am	Welcome Remarks
9:00 am	Latest in Cancer Screening & Early Detection
10:15 am	Survivorship: How to Know Your Rights
11:15 am	Break & Exhibits
11:30 am	Motivational Interviewing & Shared Decision Making
12:15 pm	Lunch Session
	Virginia Cancer Plan Implementation: What We Learned & Next Steps Moving Forward in Challenging Times
1:15 pm	Closing Remarks



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Plenary Sessions

Welcome and Opening Remarks



Amy Godkin

Executive Director, ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation & CACV Chair

Amy Godkin is Executive Director of ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to making life better for children with cancer and their families in Virginia through emotional, financial and educational support. Under Amy's leadership, ASK has expanded to serve children at all five primary treatment centers in the Commonwealth.

Amy currently serves as the board chair of the Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia, where she is working to coordinate efforts for pediatrics. She also serves on the board of the national Coalition Against Childhood Cancer, where she just finished her service as board chair. Though her most important role in the cancer community is as mom to her son, who is a survivor.



Janet Kelly

Secretary of Health and Human Resources

The Honorable Janet Vestal Kelly has a distinguished career in the public and private sectors, specializing in convening leaders to solve complex problems.

Her leadership in the Health and Human Resources Secretariat focuses on ensuring every Virginian can live out their true purpose and potential.

As Governor Youngkin's Senior Advisor for Children and Families, she led the Safe and Sound Task Force significantly reducing the number of displaced children in foster care and the Prompt Placement Task Force which increased access to state psychiatric hospitals. She was also a leading force behind the recently-signed kinship care legislation, the First Lady's It Only Takes One fentanyl awareness initiative, and the Governor's transformational behavioral health plan, Right Help, Right Now.

Secretary Kelly serves as Co-Chair of the Reclaiming Childhood Task Force, created by Governor Youngkin via Executive Order 43, which empowers parents to improve youth mental health by promoting responsible screen use.

From 2010-2014, Secretary Kelly served as Secretary of the Commonwealth in the McDonnell Administration. Because of her family's personal adoption journey, the Kellys remain staunch advocates for children, families, and workers in the child welfare system.



Gabrielle Maldonado, MS

Graduate Research Assistant, Virginia Commonwealth University

Gabrielle "Gabby" Maldonado, M.S., is a predoctoral fellow in the Cancer Prevention and Control T32 training program at the Massey Cancer Center, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where she is also affiliated with the Department of Psychology. Gabby brings a diverse and dynamic background to her research, with experience ranging from working as a field paramedic to conducting post-baccalaureate research as a clinical lab scientist in an NIH-funded liver cancer lab at Massey.



Plenary Sessions | Welcome and Opening Remarks (continued)

She holds two Master's degrees, one in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling and another in Psychology, both from VCU. As a cancer survivor, Gabby is deeply passionate about advocacy, community engagement, and promoting cancer education and prevention. She is also the founder of Students Caring About Cancer at VCU, a student-led organization focused on cancer prevention and advancing health equity.

Gabby's primary research interest lies in tobacco and nicotine product control. Her work investigates the motivations and behaviors associated with the use of these products, with the goal of informing prevention and intervention strategies, particularly for populations at higher risk for the adverse health effects of tobacco and nicotine use.

Food is Medicine

Learn about the importance of medically tailored nutrition for cancer survivors, and how this program is implemented at Food & Friends including case studies.



Carrie Stoltzfus, MPH

Executive Director, Food & Friends

Carrie Stoltzfus is Executive Director of Food & Friends, an organization that provides medically-tailored meals and nutrition counseling to individuals in metropolitan Washington that are living with serious and chronic illnesses. She has been with Food & Friends in various roles since 2003 and has been Executive Director since 2019.

Carrie is a seasoned social services executive with expertise in program administration, advocacy, and fundraising. She earned her Master of Public Health degree at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she focused on social and behavioral health. At Food & Friends, she has expanded service eligibility to additional illness groups, created contract partnerships with managed care health plans, and overseen significant growth in services in her tenure as Executive Director.

Carrie frequently speaks about the intersection of nutrition and health in settings such as the the National Minority Quality Forum's Food as Medicine Summit, George Washington University's Intro to Food Policy Course, and DC Health's DCRx continuing education course. She is an Advisory Board Member for the national Food Is Medicine Coalition and a member of MedStar Washington Hospital Center's Community Health Advisory Task Force.



Virginia Cancer Plan Implementation: Prioritizing Our Efforts

An interactive session where attendees will identify their role in implementing the Virginia Cancer Plan and ways to build strong partnerships to achieve those goals across Virginia.



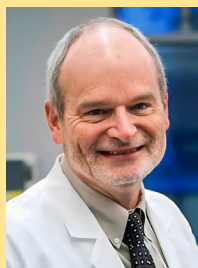
Cynthia Vinson, PhD, MPA

Cynthia Vinson is a strategic leader in implementation science with extensive experience in scientific concept development, project management, collaborative program development, cancer control planning and implementation and team facilitation. Before she retired from the National Cancer Institute, she led initiatives on topics across the cancer control continuum (e.g. breast, cervical, and lung cancer screening, HPV vaccination uptake, tobacco control, cancer survivorship, diet and physical activity, and health communications). As a consultant, she has a proven ability to bridge research and practice to advance cancer control initiatives and drive impactful solutions in public health.

Breakout Sessions One

Viral Types of Cancer

Understand the different viral types of cancer, including HPV, hepatitis, HIV, EVB and others.



William Petri, MD, PhD

UVA Health

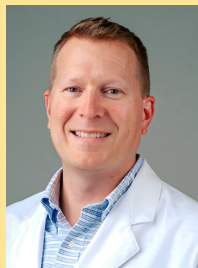
Dr. Petri is the chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health at UVA, and head of the Infectious Diseases Training Program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. He attends in general internal medicine and in the subspecialty of infectious diseases. He has a special interest in international health and in the study of *C. difficile*, and his substantial research program is supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Petri was born and raised primarily in Washington, D.C., but spent his third grade year in London with his family, a formative experience that he credits as being partly responsible for the international focus of his research. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, moving to Charlottesville in 1976 to start medical and graduate school at UVA. After obtaining his MD and PhD in microbiology, he married his medical school classmate Mary Ann McDonald and they moved to Cleveland for residency training at Case Western Reserve University. There, Dr. Petri completed an internship and residency in internal medicine, followed by a return to Charlottesville in 1985 for an infectious diseases fellowship. He has been in Charlottesville ever since.



Use of Treatment Guidelines in Clinical Settings: A Case Study in Lung Cancer

A case review on how to use NCCN guidelines in lung cancer including where the guidelines work well and where they present challenges.



Richard Hall, MD, MS

Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Virginia

Richard D. Hall, MD, MS is a thoracic medical oncologist at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. He joined the faculty at UVA in 2014 after completing medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 2007, internal medicine residency and chief residency at UVA in 2010, and hematology/oncology fellowship training at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL in 2014. He is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Virginia in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology.

Dr. Hall specializes in the treatment of thoracic malignancies, including non-small-cell lung cancer, small-cell lung cancer, thymic malignancies, and mesothelioma. He is a clinical investigator and has been involved in numerous clinical trials studying novel therapeutics, including immunotherapy, antibody drug conjugates, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, and combination therapies for the treatment of lung cancer. In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Hall is the current Department of Medicine Vice Chair for Promotion and Tenure and the past UVA Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program Director from 2017–2024.

Alia Lynch, PharmD, BCOP

Ambulatory Clinical Pharmacist, Thoracic Oncology, UVA Health

Alia Lynch is an ambulatory oncology clinical pharmacist at UVA Health in Charlottesville, Virginia. She received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from North Carolina State University and her doctor of pharmacy degree of the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She completed her pharmacy residency training at UVA Health in 2015. Her current practice site is the thoracic oncology clinic at UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center where she cares for patients with lung and thymic malignancies. Dr. Lynch's professional interests include oral anticancer therapy management, comprehensive patient education, and utilization of technology in healthcare.



Role of Navigators, CHWs, and Community-Based Organizations in Cancer Control & Prevention

A panel discussion on the unique and important role different groups play in cancer control and prevention.

PANELISTS



Shanteny Jackson, CCHW, MA

Executive Director, Virginia Community Health Worker Association

Shanteny Jackson is an Afro-Latina mother, wife, community advocate, and leader who identifies with the pronouns she or ella. She began her journey towards becoming a community advocate early in her life with a brave decision to stand up against a bully during her childhood, marking her young life. She uses that experience to empower others to take a stand and seek justice.

As an immigrant and a young single mother, Shanteny had to learn to navigate and understand the intricacies of the US healthcare system. This personal experience, which she turned into an opportunity to advocate, was life-changing because it realigned her calling and purpose in life. As Shanteny became more seasoned in her career and lived experiences, she fully embraced her role as an advocate and community leader, fueled by her personal connection to her advocacy work. This personal connection fuels her passion and dedication to her work, inspiring others to join her in the fight for justice and equality.

Shanteny, a professional with a B.A. in International Studies with minors in Spanish and Education from Mary Baldwin College and a Master's degree in Counseling with a concentration in Addictions and Recovery from Liberty University, is the Executive Director of the Virginia Community Health Worker Association.

Shanteny's impactful community work has been recognized by many organizations, including being named "Persona de Poder" by Radio 1380 Poder and receiving the "Civic Engagement" award from the Virginia Latino Governor's Advisory Board. These accolades underscore Shanteny's commitment and influence in highlighting the critical role identity and representation play in communities of color, particularly in the Latino and Afro-Latino diaspora.



Antonio Villa Payares, MD, MPH

Executive Director, La Casa De La Salud

Dr. Antonio Villa is a foreign primary care physician with more than 15 years of experience in the clinical and public health practice in Mexico and Colombia. During his career, he led a public health institution that oversaw eleven primary care centers, serving a population of one million people. He initiated two global health projects with Doctors without Borders and Children International. Dr. Villa spearheaded an outsourcing initiative funded by government and private healthcare program in twenty-seven health districts and 120 hospitals.

Following these experiences, he migrated to the United States to further expand his knowledge and skills, with a continued commitment to serving underserved communities. He earned a Master of Public Health and Management at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 2012. His Capstone project, La Casa De La Salud (LCS), was launched in 2014 as a local health initiative in Central Virginia. That same year, Dr. Villa founded LCS as a non-profit organization dedicated to contributing with the health improvement and well-being of the Hispanic community. Through LCS, Dr.

Breakout Sessions One | Role of Navigators, CHWs, and Community-Based Organizations in Cancer Control & Prevention (continued)

Villa has built strong partnerships with professional collaborators, Virginia health districts, safety-net clinics, private organizations, churches, and community leaders. These collaborations have significantly increased the number of certified Community Health Workers (CHWs), enabling better responses to the critical health needs of the Hispanic population.

Since 2015, Dr. Villa has served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences at VCU, where he emphasizes the importance of preventive medicine and guides students in community-based practice. He was appointed by the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Health and currently serves on the State Health Commissioner's Advisory Council on Health Disparity and Health Equity (ACHDHE).



Keyri Lopez-Godoy

Navigation Outreach Specialist, UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center

Keyri (pronounced “Katie”) is a Navigation Outreach Specialist within the University of Virginia (UVA) Cancer Center’s Community Outreach and Engagement team. Keyri assists community members by removing barriers to help them access cancer screening services and provide support navigating through various health systems and community organizations for cancer related needs. In addition, Keyri collaborates with community organizations to build awareness and promote educational activities throughout the UVA’s catchment area to increase prevention and early detection of cancer. Keyri specializes in Latinx populations, breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings, and participates in the Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia (CACV) Breast Cancer Roundtable.

Breakout Sessions Two

Provider Wellness

Learn the importance of wellness for our healthcare teams and ways to practice self-care, reduce burnout, and improve overall well-being.



Jennifer Bires, LCSW

Executive Director, Inova Life with Cancer

Jennifer Bires, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C is a nationally recognized leader in psychosocial oncology with over 15 years of experience developing compassionate, patient-centered supportive care programs for individuals impacted by cancer and their families.

As Executive Director of Integrative and Psychosocial Oncology at Inova Schar Cancer Institute, she leads a multidisciplinary team of oncology behavioral health therapists, social workers, nurse navigators, and oncology dietitians. Under her leadership, the institute delivers comprehensive, no-cost psychosocial care and education that addresses the emotional, psychological, and practical challenges of cancer across the care continuum.

Jennifer also oversees Inova's Arts and Healing Program, advancing the use of creative expression as a powerful therapeutic tool. Her clinical expertise spans key areas such as the integration of technology in mental health, sexual health and intimacy, adolescent and young adult cancer survivorship, and end-of-life care.

Currently pursuing her PhD in Palliative Care at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Jennifer's research explores the use of psychedelic-assisted-therapy as an innovative behavioral health intervention for people impacted by cancer. Her academic work reflects a deep commitment to expanding access to evidence-based, holistic care models.

She earned her Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis and her bachelor's degree from Clemson University. A respected voice in the field, Jennifer serves on multiple national boards, including the Association of Oncology Nurse Navigators+, the Association of Cancer Care Centers, and the American Cancer Society's National Navigation Roundtable. She is a past Chair of the Board of Oncology Social Work.

Clinical Trials: Engaging Underrepresented Communities

A discussion on the importance of clinical trial participation and how to engage underrepresented communities to encourage participation including a patient perspective on their experience as a clinical trial participant.



Mark Dewey, MDiv

Bilingual Clinical Trials Navigator, UVA Health

As a Bilingual Clinical Trials Navigator at the UVA Cancer Center, Mark Dewey helps people handle the material, emotional, and spiritual challenges of cancer treatment and clinical trials. He has studied at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Virginia, and Chicago Theological Seminary. Before moving into the health care sector, he taught high school English and Spanish, ran a small-town newspaper, and managed a Community Supported Agriculture program. He has walked the Camino de Santiago 15 times.

Breakout Sessions Two | Clinical Trials: Engaging Underrepresented Communities (continued)



Mary Simmons

Owner, Fowler Simmons Associates LLC

Mary Fowler-Simmons is the proud mother of three beautiful daughters and the wife of a supportive husband. She has dedicated twenty-nine years of her career to Virginia Commonwealth University and spent an additional year at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as a Senior Research Administrator Manager.

As a cancer survivor, she has taken on various roles to raise awareness and support for cancer initiatives. She is a champion with the VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, an ambassador for the American Cancer Society's Voices of Black Women, and an active member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Above all, Mary cherishes her church, St. Paul's Baptist Church in Richmond, VA, where she serves as a deacon.

Mary is committed to honesty and transparency, which are essential in advocacy work related to cancer research and the availability of affordable prescription drugs. She believes it is vital for our voices to be heard and for us to focus on funding research that can save lives—something she can personally attest to as a participant in a clinical trial. Mary stands by the motto of the VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center: "One team, one fight."

Diversifying Funding Sources for Cancer Control & Prevention

Understand the importance of diversifying funding, identify different funding sources, and consider best practices in raising funds to fuel the mission especially during uncertain times.



Kyle Amey

Development Officer, Sheltering Arms Foundation

Kyle dedicated his career to impacting health through philanthropy because of his younger sister, Kara. At age 10 in 2002, Kara survived a brain tumor.

After earning degrees in Economics from the University of Virginia and Nonprofit Management from Virginia Commonwealth University, Kyle spent time in fundraising technology (Network for Good), nonprofit consulting (CCS Fundraising), and now works as a fundraiser for Sheltering Arms Foundation, a leading physical rehabilitation system in Richmond, VA.

Sadly, Kyle and his parents became caregivers again when after many years of remission, Kara was diagnosed with a series of new "rare" cancers, the last of which she did not survive. She had become an advocate, as a 20-year, 5-time survivor.

Determined to help others avoid tragic loss, Kyle has advocated for better cancer policy legislation at the state and federal level. He also supports and volunteers with Cancer Support Community, the Kara Amey Cancer Survivorship Program (MD), Special Love, and ACS CAN.

Plenary Sessions

Cancer & Policy

Learn about the latest cancer policies at the Federal level and how those policies impact us at the state level.



Kelly Fitzgerald

Vice President of Government Relations, Alliance Group

Kelly Fitzgerald is a nationwide advocacy leader with over 20 years of experience in government relations, alliance development and patient advocacy. Experienced in lobbying and grassroots on both the state and federal level, she brings a unique and wide-ranging perspective to the traditional notion of what an advocacy campaign can be.

Joining Alliance Group after a long, productive history in the non-profit health-care sector, she is passionate about helping others find their voice. Along with her direct policy work, she advises advocates and organizations how to harness the power of grassroots and social media. Utilizing advocacy, strategic messaging, online campaigns and targeted social media, she helps advocates affect change through both the legislative and regulatory process.

Through her non-profit advocacy work, she focuses mainly on overcoming access challenges faced by people with rare, chronic disorders such as Hemophilia, Immune Deficiencies, Cancer, Cystic Fibrosis, Arthritis, MS, and others. Working in coalitions across the country, she became one of the nation's leading experts on specialty-tiers legislation and was called upon frequently to provide expert testimony regarding this issue as well as be an advisor to advocacy groups.

Her work in Virginia has included tenure as the Chair of the Virginia Alliance for Medication Access and Affordability and successfully leading the Fair Copay VA Campaign which has been utilized as a nation-wide model for advocacy campaigns. In the fall of 2017, she was named to Governor Ralph Northam's Health Policy Transition Council.

On the federal level, she's worked on such issues as the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Patient's Access to Treatment Act (PATA), and the Medicare Patient IVIG Access Act. She has also served in advisory roles on patient committees for the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and several national patient coalitions.

She has served on the Community Board of Childsavers as Vice President and also on the Board of Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia (CACV) for four years and Chair for two. A Richmonder since 1986, she is RVA's unofficial tour guide and cheerleader. After 12 years in Church Hill, she now calls Brookland Park home where she lives with her Wheaten Terrier, Moira. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and owns Austen Hill Photography as well as singing in local RVA band, Sweet Lonesome.

Plenary Sessions | Cancer & Policy (continued)



Matthew Ong, MPH

Director, Office of Cancer Health Policy & Education, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Matthew serves as Director of the Office of Cancer Health Policy and Education at VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he leads policy development and strategy. He is also an affiliate faculty member of the Department of Health Policy at the VCU School of Public Health and he serves on the Board of Directors of the Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia (CACV) and as a member of CACV's Advocacy & Policy Committee.

Matthew has more than a decade of experience in policy analysis, strategic communications, and stakeholder engagement, collaborating with government, academia, industry, patients, and advocacy groups across state, federal, and global arenas. His published work has led to Congressional investigations, triggered action by FDA, CDC, NIH, NCI, FBI, and GAO, reached the White House, and improved standards of care. Matthew's articles, which has been cited in leading medical journals and legacy media publications, has been recognized by 20 professional and academic organizations and by more than 25 national and regional awards.

Matthew received his MPH in Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and he has trained in fellowships with NCI, NIH, CDC, The Washington Post, The Commonwealth Fund, and PCORI.



Pediatric Program Track

Grief and Loss: Rebuilding, Healing and the Impact of Secondary Loss

Understand the grief and loss associated with pediatric cancer from diagnosis to treatment and beyond.



Allyson England Drake, MEd, FT

President & Executive Director, Full Circle Grief Center

Allyson founded Full Circle Grief Center in 2008 and she serves as the President and Executive Director of the organization. She has worked one-on-one with grieving children, adults, and families for 20 years, has facilitated numerous grief support groups, led organizational debriefings after a loss, and has developed curriculum for bereavement groups and remembrance programs. Her passion revolves around community bereavement education and she has presented on grief and loss at numerous professional conferences and educational trainings.

Allyson has a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Virginia, Master of Counselor Education degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, and completed post-graduate work in counseling psychology, bereavement, and traumatic grief. Allyson is a Fellow in Thanatology (FT) and has a Certification in Thanatology (CT) through the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC), is a Compassionate Bereavement Care Certified Provider, and holds a license in School Counseling.

Transitions of Care in Survivorship

Learn about the different aspects in the transitions of care including moving to primary care; education and workforce transition; and motivational skills.

PANELISTS



Brian Belyea, MD

Associate Professor, UVA Health

Brian Belyea, MD, is a physician-scientist, who joined the UVA faculty in 2011. He specializes in caring for children with cancer, including leukemia and solid tumors, and various blood disorders.

In the laboratory, he conducts basic science research focused on understanding the origins of childhood leukemia.

Dr. Belyea was born and raised in Mt. Jackson, Virginia, in the heart of Shenandoah Valley. He studied chemistry as an undergraduate at James Madison University and then earned his medical degree from the University of Virginia. He stayed at UVA for his pediatrics residency training and a chief resident year. He then completed pediatric hematology and oncology fellowship training at Duke University.



Alma Morgan, MEd

Associate Director of Education, ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation

As an educational consultant with over 35 years in education, Alma loves working with children, teens, and young adults. She believes that all children can be successful in the educational setting with the proper tools. Much of Alma's career has been devoted to the educational support of children with chronic health needs at the Children's Hospital of Richmond, VCU Medical Center.

In 1990 Alma joined the board of directors of ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation. After serving on the board, she joined the ASK staff. Through her advocacy work with the Virginia general assembly, Alma played a key role in securing funding for educational support of childhood cancer patients, survivors and their families. Starting in 2022, Alma helped create, launch, and manage the ASK education navigator support program at the five primary pediatric cancer treatment centers in Virginia, ensuring all children in Virginia diagnosed with cancer receive equitable educational support for the first time.



Matt Bitsko, PhD

Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Summit Emotional Health

Dr. Bitsko is the Founder and CEO of Summit Emotional Health. He received his M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Springfield College in 1997 and worked the next four years with both elite athletes and substance-abusing adolescents and their families. Matt received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 2006 and completed his Internship and Postdoctoral Fellowship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Matt works primarily with adolescents, adults, and families, and specializes in mood, anxiety, and adjustment disorders. His eleven years on faculty at the Children's Hospital of Richmond (CHoR) at VCU provided him with extensive experience helping clients and families address the many emotional aspects of confronting a medical diagnosis, including adjusting and thriving under such circumstances,

Pediatric Program Track | Transitions of Care in Survivorship (continued)

as well as coping with grief and bereavement. While at CHoR, Matt also wrote or co-authored over 20 research articles and helped in the training and education of many future psychologists.

Matt also enjoys serving the Richmond community. He is a current Board Member of the Cameron K Gallagher Foundation and is proud to have previously served as a Board Member of Comfort Zone Camp and ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation (Ex-Officio).

Compassion Fatigue

Understand what compassion fatigue is, how to identify it, and best ways to mitigate it.



Freda Wilkins, MSW, MDiv

Clinical Social Worker, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Freda Wilkins has served as a Clinical Social Worker with Massey Cancer Center for the last ten years. Freda primarily works with the Massey Breast Cancer Collaborative Care Clinic or BC4. BC4 takes a collaborative approach to evaluation and treatment for women who are living with an early-stage breast cancer. In BC4, patients meet their entire team on their initial visit and develop a collaborative projected plan for care. Freda's role in this team is to support patients and families in addressing the psychosocial issues commonly associated with cancer

care such as insurance concerns, cost-of-care, lodging, transportation, employment concerns and accommodations.

Freda comes with a large foot-print as it relates to cancer care; having worked in Inpatient Oncology, Home Health and Hospice. Here at Massey, Freda also supports our patients and families through a Women's Support Group, which meets via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month and a Mindfulness Group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month.

The Mindfulness Group is open to everyone. Freda asks that you drop her an email at freda.wilkins@vcuhealth or check out the Massey Integrative Health page for more information.

If you know Freda, you know that she loves people and she loves to laugh.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

Plenary Sessions

Latest in Cancer Screening & Early Detection

Learn the latest in screening and early detection specifically lung, breast, and prostate cancers as well as multi-cancer detection and AI.

PANELISTS



Patrick Nana-Sinkam, MD

Professor & Division Chair, VCU Health

Patrick Nana-Sinkam MD is Professor of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition, he serves as the associate vice president of clinical and translational research VCU Health and associate director of the Wright Regional Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

A native of Virginia, Dr. Nana-Sinkam received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College followed by an MD degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He completed residency training in Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan, where he served as Chief Medical Resident, and then completed a fellowship in Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. After completion of training, Dr. Nana-Sinkam served as the Associate Director of the Thoracic Center at the James Comprehensive Cancer Center/The Ohio State University. Dr. Nana-Sinkam joined the faculty at VCU in 2016 as Chair of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Nana-Sinkam's research has focused on the molecular pathogenesis of lung cancer and identification of novel tumor biomarkers for early lung cancer detection and surveillance. A thought leader in lung cancer early detection and biomarker development, Dr. Nana-Sinkam is a sought after guest speaker and has authored over 140 manuscripts and book chapters. He has been funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institutes as well as by the National Cancer Institutes and is currently a principal investigator (PI) on the NCI CSRN UG1 examining the feasibility of a multicancer blood detection test for cancer early detection and PI of the CTSA K12 training award. Dr. Nana-Sinkam is a member of the National Cancer Institutes Early Detection Research Network, American Society for Clinical Investigation and authored the ACCP Lung Cancer Guidelines III (Molecular Biology of Lung Cancer). Dr. Nana-Sinkam has served as a member of a number of NIH study sections and is an editorial board member for several scientific journals, including serving as associate editor for the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine and consulting editor for the Journal of Clinical Investigation.



Alexander Kenigsberg, MD

Director of Urologic Oncology, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

Dr. Alexander Kenigsberg is the Director of Urologic Oncology at VCU Health, Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center. After graduating from Yale University, Dr. Kenigsberg worked as a middle school teacher in an under-resourced New York City public school. Inspired by the health challenges of his students, he decided to pursue medical education, carrying forward the mission of caring for

Plenary Sessions | Latest in Cancer Screening & Early Detection (continued)

diverse and under-resourced communities. He received his medical degree at New York University School of Medicine and completed a urology residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Kenigsberg pursued subspecialty training in urologic oncology at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, under the training of global thought-leaders in prostate and kidney cancer.

Dr. Kenigsberg has a unique interest in organ prostate cancer image-guided therapies and organ preservation. He has launched clinical trials at Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center to bring cutting edge prostate cancer treatments to Central Virginia. He is a strong believer that there are now improved tools to help provide patient-centric, personalized prostate cancer care to achieve the best balance of cancer control and quality of life.



Ryan Gabriel, MD

Radiologist, Radiology Associates of Richmond

Dr. Ryan Gabriel is a board certified diagnostic radiologist. He attended Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) for medical school and residency. After residency, he attended the University of Virginia (UVA) for a breast imaging fellowship. He currently lives in Richmond, VA and is in private practice with Radiology Associates of Richmond. He serves as medical director of the Advanced Diagnostic Breast Center at Henrico Doctors' Hospital in Richmond. He is passionate about breast imaging and has a specific interest in Contrast

Enhanced Mammography. When he's not working, he spends time with his wife, 2 young kids and spoiled golden retriever.



Rebecca Kaltman, MD

Executive Director, Inova Saville Cancer Screening & Prevention Center

Dr. Rebecca Kaltman is a breast medical oncologist and the inaugural Executive Director of the Saville Cancer Screening and Prevention Center at the Inova Schar Cancer Institute. She obtained her undergraduate honors degree from the University of Michigan followed by her medical degree at MCP-Hahnemann University School of Medicine. She then trained in internal medicine and medical oncology at the University of Pennsylvania and served on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as a breast oncologist and clinical

researcher in the Rena Rowan Breast Center, part of the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kaltman has focused her career thus far in caring for patients with breast cancer and those with hereditary cancer syndromes. In her role at Inova, she is expanding the reach of cancer prevention and early detection services for Northern Virginia and beyond. She was named to the Health Policy Committee (HPC) of ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) for a three-year appointment and serves on the Board of CACV (Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia). Her research is focused on novel types of cancer screening and early detection along with enhanced cancer screening for those with environmental and occupational exposures.

Survivorship: How to Know Your Rights

The panel discussion will address the important resources cancer survivors and families need to know related to school, work and financial matters as they navigate a cancer diagnosis and treatment.

PANELISTS



Caine Caverly, Esq.

Attorney at Law, Fisher Phillips

Caine Caverly is an attorney in the Richmond, Virginia office of Jackson Lewis P.C. His practice focuses on representing employers in workplace law matters, including preventive advice and counseling. Caine regularly advises clients regarding their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family Medical Leave Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and a multitude of other state and federal employment laws. He also frequently defends employers before courts and administrative agencies against a variety of employment-based claims.

Caine earned his law degree from William & Mary Law School after completing his undergraduate studies at Virginia Tech.



Michelle Niesen, LCSW

Clinical Social Worker, UVA Health

Michelle Niesen is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with UVA Health. Michelle has 6 years of experience working with cancer patients along the continuum of cancer treatment through the Emily Couric Cancer Center. Michelle is currently the dedicated social worker for the Palliative Care team at UVA Health. Michelle finds passion in helping others manage the emotional impact of treatment by tapping into natural resilience and strength as patients work towards their identified goals for treatment.



Patricia Green

Program Manager, CancerLINC

With a background in social work and nonprofit management, Patricia brings an understanding and compassion for helping others. She has several years' experience building and leading teams to organizational goals. A proud alumna of James Madison University (Go Dukes!), she has spent the majority of her career in child welfare before transitioning to working with cancer patients and their families. Patricia has been with CancerLINC since May 2024 and has thoroughly enjoyed helping the organization grow while managing the client services department and leading outreach initiatives.

Motivational Interviewing & Shared Decision Making

Learn how motivational interviewing can help patients in cancer prevention and treatment, ways to incorporate this into patient conversations, and real-world examples of success.



Rashelle Hayes, PhD, LCP, NCTTP

Psychologist, Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. Hayes is a licensed clinical health psychologist with expertise in behavioral health change primarily working with medical patients and cancer survivors to change behaviors to improve health. Specifically, she has primarily cared for patients who face addiction, namely tobacco, and obesity. She is an Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Psychiatry and also is an Associate Member of the Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center at VCU.

Previously, she has worked as clinician, educator, and NIH-funded researcher at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the University of Richmond, where she maintains continued collaboration and Adjunct-Faculty appointments. She completed her training in Clinical and Health Psychology at Duke University (BS Psychology), Virginia Commonwealth University (PhD), Rush University Medical Center (Residency), and Brown University (Fellowship) and has worked in the area of motivational interviewing and shared decision making both as a clinician and researcher for at least 20 years.

Dr. Hayes is a member of the international group, Motivational Interviewing network of Trainers (MINT), a Fellow in the Society of Behavioral Medicine, and an active member of the American Psychological Association's Health Psychology Division.

Lunch Session

Virginia Cancer Plan Implementation: What We Learned & Next Steps

Cynthia Vinson, PhD, MPA

Moving Forward in Challenging Times



Jennifer Guida, PhD, MPH

Epidemiologist and Principal Consultant, JLG Insights, LLC

Jennifer L. Guida, PhD, MPH is an epidemiologist and principal consultant at JLG Insights, LLC. She earned her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she built a foundation in cancer survivorship and aging science.

Dr. Guida completed a pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowship at the NCI. From 2020 to 2025 she served as a Program Director at the NCI, where she designed and launched five targeted funding initiatives and oversaw more than \$100 million in federal investments to advance cancer survivorship research. She has authored over 40 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals, such as Nature Cancer, JAMA Oncology, and JNCI, and is a recognized thought leader in the field of cancer and aging.

Today, Dr. Guida leverages this expertise to advise academic, government, and industry partners on grant strategy, portfolio analysis, and science communication aimed at extending health- and lifespan for cancer survivors.

Closing Remarks



Amanda Baig

American Cancer Society & CACV Vice Chair

Amanda Baig serves as Associate Director of State Partnerships for the American Cancer Society, where she manages collaborations with state-level organizations, professional associations, and health systems to advance evidence-based strategies and improve patient outcomes. Prior to her current role, Amanda spent over 13 years in the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman and held several senior leadership roles within Navy Medicine, implemented process improvement initiatives, and coordinated large-scale public health operations.

In addition to her professional roles, Amanda is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Cancer Action Coalition of Virginia, a co-chair for the HPV taskforce on HPV immunization and assists in colorectal cancer prevention. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from Purdue University and is currently pursuing her Master of Business Administration at Rutgers University School of Business.

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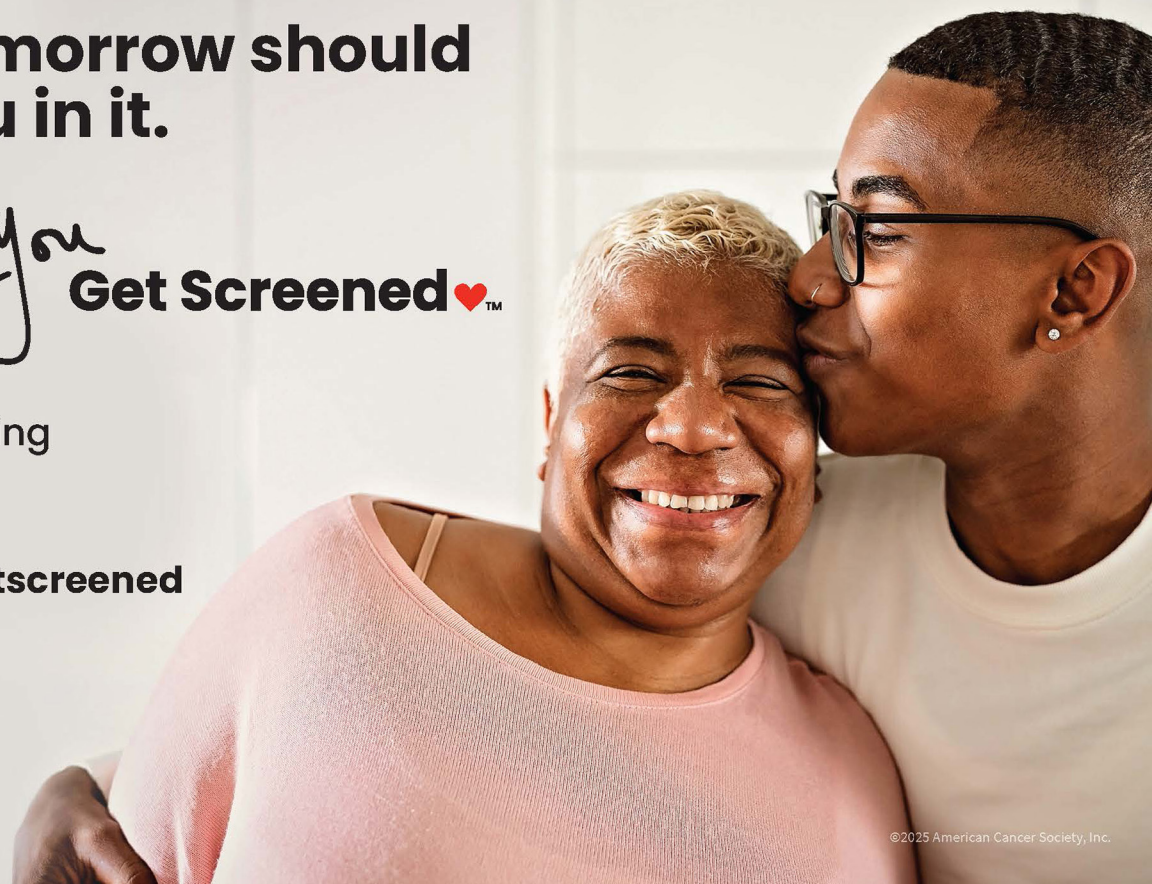


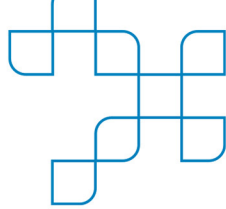
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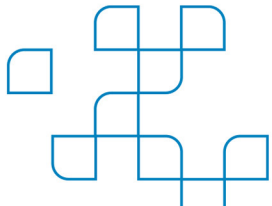




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November 5, 2025

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December 11, 2025

*Quarterly Meeting
Advocacy & Policy Focus*

For more information, visit the **CACV** website at cancercoalitionofvirginia.org

De**F**ending patient access and physician choice for IDA treatment

IDA=Iron Deficiency Anemia





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