

The logo features a stylized green compass rose with four points, each ending in a small triangle. A white circle is positioned to the right of the compass rose, partially overlapping it.

# National Navigation Roundtable



## **Health systems will receive funds to bolster oncology navigation programs.**

ACS [announced](#) on July 27, 2022 funding awards in the amount of \$4.2 million in multi-year grants to 14 hospital systems across the country to enhance oncology patient navigation and address barriers to individualized, timely, and equitable access to care.

Each health system will receive \$300,000 to bolster existing oncology navigation programs. Sponsorship for this initiative was led by the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, along with Bristol Myers Squibb. Additional sponsors include Daiichi Sankyo and other funders. The goal of the multi-year grants is to advance high-quality cancer care through capacity building and support for innovative, sustainable models of oncology patient navigation.

Heather Ciccarelli, MSW, ACS Director, Patient Navigation Initiative stated, *"It is a very exciting new chapter in ACS's long history with patient navigation. The overall goal is to enhance institutional oncology patient navigation processes, policies and systems and address barriers, gaps, and challenges for patients, especially those from populations traditionally excluded. I am looking forward to celebrating successes and disseminating replicable strategies."*



## **Welcome New Director National Navigation Roundtable**

Kristina Thomson, Northeast Senior Director, Cancer Support Strategic Partnerships for the Greater Boston/New England Area will be assuming a new role as Director of the National Navigation Roundtable effective September 6, 2022. In this role, Kristina will provide leadership for the Patient Support Pillar in the engagement and mobilization of the National Navigation Roundtable (NNRT) to accelerate the following:

- **Mission:** High quality cancer care for all through evidence-based patient navigation
- **Vision:** NNRT is a collaborative advancing patient navigation efforts that eliminate barriers to quality care, reduce disparities in health outcomes and foster ongoing health equity across the cancer continuum.
- **5 Year Aim:** To support the creation of a sustainable

model for oncology patient navigation to achieve health equity across the continuum of cancer care.

Kristina truly has a passion for helping patients and caregivers and expanding equity in cancer prevention and care. She is a Licensed Social Worker and started with the American Cancer Society over 22 years ago as a project manager for a grant-funded palliative care project in New Jersey. From there, she assumed a variety of progressive, highly successful leadership roles in patient and family services and hospital systems. She has been an outstanding leader in the Northeast region and has been a key partner in helping to re-launch ACS' patient navigation strategy. We are excited that Kristina (KT as she is known to many) will bring her strategic thinking, creativity, and problem-solving approach to further the work of the NNRT.

Congratulating Kristina!

## **Take Note!**

Oncology Care Model (EOM) CMS designed EOM to test how to improve health care providers' ability to deliver care centered around patients, consider patients' unique needs, and deliver cancer care in a way that will generate the best possible patient outcomes. Read more and locate the [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#), due September 30, 2022

Join **Triage Cancer in Chicago on August 26** or online on September 22 for their Insurance & Finance Intensive. This FREE training for health care professionals, navigators, and advocates covers crucial information to help patients and their caregivers mitigate the financial toxicity of a cancer diagnosis.

Topics include:

- An overview of the U.S. health care system
- Individual & employer-sponsored health insurance
- Government-sponsored health programs, including Medicare & Medicaid
- Tips on using health insurance & appeals
- Navigating taking time off, disability insurance, & appeals

Free contact hours/CEs/PDCs for nurses, social workers, patient advocates, and HR professionals.

Register: [TriageCancer.org/Intensive](https://www.triagecancer.org/intensive)

The Professional Oncology Navigation Task Force created the [Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice](#). These standards provide professional oncology clinical navigators and patient navigators with clear information regarding the standards of professional practice. Please incorporate and share these Oncology Navigation Standards within your work. View on the [Journal of Oncology Navigation & Survivorship](#)!

Recorded webinar from August 3, 2022 National Patient Advocate Foundation part one: link "[Unifying the Field: Navigating Patients to Financial and Social Supports](#)".

National Patient Advocate Part two (**September 13, 2022 from Noon - 1 pm ET**) of this webinar series, link "[Unifying the Field: Finding Common Ground on Navigation Policy Pathways](#)".

**Register on August 16** for [Discussing breast cancer with kids: Creating a roadmap with your patients!](#) Please join the *National Navigation Roundtable and Living Beyond Breast Cancer* on Wednesday, **September 14 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET** for a webinar on discussing breast cancer with kids. Featured panelists from across the country will share insights on how navigators can guide young breast cancer patients in having open and supportive discussions with children and teens about coping with their loved one's diagnosis, treatment, and beyond. The target audience is beginning, intermediate, and advanced patient navigators, and other healthcare providers are also encouraged to join. Registration for the [program](#) opens on August 16, 2022. In the meantime, please contact [mail@lbbc.org](mailto:mail@lbbc.org) with any questions.

**Be on the Lookout!** NNRT members will be surveyed regarding The American College of Surgeons/Commission on Cancer new quality metric for head and neck cancer: Time to Initiation of Postoperative Radiation Therapy. This survey is interested in the present and future role of navigators in assisting cancer centers to meet this goal. Your experience is important. The survey will arrive in your inbox mid-September.

NNRT website Resource Center page provides resources and information. Visit <https://navigationroundtable.org/> to view the current resources.

### **Notable Publications**

[Pairing Project ECHO and patient navigation as an innovative approach to improving the health and wellness of cancer survivors in rural settings](#)

[Disparities in Psychosocial Distress Screening and Management of Lung and Ovarian Cancer Survivors](#)

[How Care Coordination Improves Patient Satisfaction and Retention](#)

[Patient Navigation in Cancer: The Business Case to Support Clinical Needs](#)



## **Call To Action Series**

***Coming Fall of 2022!!***

Hosted by the NNRT. This series will highlight critical findings and best practices in patient navigation today. It will focus on what can be done to elevate our Five-Year Aim of supporting the creation of a sustainable model of patient navigation across the cancer care continuum.

### **Check the [NNRT Website](#) for Resources**



If you aren't currently a member of a NNRT Task Group, please contact NNRT Program Manager, Michelle Chappell at [michelle.chappell@cancer.org](mailto:michelle.chappell@cancer.org) to learn more about the various NNRT Task Groups and how you can get involved.

To share information or resources for upcoming editions of the NNRT newsletter, please contact: [michelle.chappell@cancer.org](mailto:michelle.chappell@cancer.org)

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