

# 2025 NATIONAL MEETING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 18-19  
GRAND HYATT WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



## INTRODUCTION

As cancer care has grown to be more complex and as disparities continue to widen, the urgency of coordinated, patient-centered navigation has never been greater. The American Cancer Society National Navigation Roundtable (ACS NNRT) convened *Innovative Persistence in Action: Supporting Sustainable Patient Navigation Across the Cancer Continuum*, its national membership meeting, during a pivotal moment for the field—one in which innovation, navigation policy momentum, and the collective expertise of the navigation community were shaping a more equitable future for patients.

The ACS NNRT Steering Committee, Task Group Leads, and Planning Committee were proud to host the 2025 In-Person National Meeting and Strategic Planning Session in September in Washington, DC. With more than 128 participants from 50 collaborating organizations representing medical, advocacy, government, community, and corporate sectors, our collective membership came together with a shared purpose: to advance patient navigation and health equity.

Held at the Grand Hyatt Washington from September 18–19, 2025, the meeting brought together national experts, advocates, and navigation thought leaders all committed to building a sustainable oncology navigation model that drives equity across the cancer care continuum.



## PURPOSE OF THE ACS NNRT NATIONAL MEETING

This two-day meeting was designed to inform, connect, and align with the navigation community. Day one featured presentations, valuable resources, and opportunities for networking and peer connection. Day two focused on presentations and interactive sessions centered on shaping our next three-year strategic roadmap to advance the ACS NNRT’s impact on patient navigation sustainability across the cancer continuum.

The meeting offered an excellent opportunity to bring together knowledge, skills, experience, and passion to support sustainable navigation in today’s rapidly evolving cultural climate.



## MEETING GOALS

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At the 2025 ACS NNRT National Meeting, we focused on advancing key priorities in patient navigation, with efforts aimed at achieving the following goals.

### **Strengthening the Evidence Base and Advancing Health Equity**

The meeting highlighted evidence-based research and practices that demonstrated the effectiveness, value, and return on investment (ROI) of patient navigation. Discussions focused on strategies to reduce disparities, and the NNRT continues to disseminate these findings to support ongoing efforts to improve health equity nationwide.

### **Promoting Implementation and Sustainability**

Actionable tools and strategies were co-developed and shared to enhance the long-term sustainability of navigation programs. These efforts included advancing workforce development for all types of oncology navigators, supporting CMS/PIN reimbursement pathways, and expanding knowledge of revenue streams to strengthen program fiscal stability.

### **Fostering Collaboration and Strategic Alignment**

The meeting promoted constructive collaboration across the profession, engaging academic treatment centers, community oncology practices, nonprofit advocacy organizations, and community-based agencies. These collaborations encourage shared learning, reduce barriers to care, and will continue to improve equity and patient outcomes throughout the coming year.

### **3-Year Strategic Roadmap**

The meeting also provided a dedicated forum for collecting member feedback on the draft ACS NNRT Three-Year Strategic Roadmap. Scheduled for launch on April 1, 2026, the roadmap has been shaped significantly by member insights to ensure its inclusivity, relevance, and long-term sustainability.

## INAUGURAL JOINT ROUNDTABLE MEETING

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New in 2025, the ACS NNRT co-hosted its National Meeting with the American Cancer Society National Breast Cancer Roundtable (ACS NBCRT). This unique joint experience convened separate Annual Meetings simultaneously at the same location. Each Roundtable held dedicated sessions tailored to their specific priorities while also creating shared value through joint plenaries, shared meals, and cross-cutting discussions addressing complex issues in the oncology ecosystem.

Our unifying theme, *Innovative Persistence: Advancing Equity and Unity in a Shifting Landscape*, served as a call to action, reminding us that equity, innovation, and resilience were more critical than ever.



## JOINT SESSION PANEL

### Innovative Persistence: Advancing Breast Cancer Navigation

A memorable highlight was our joint panel hosted by the ACS NNRT and ACS NBCRT, featuring **Former First Lady Dr. Jill Biden**, who moderated a powerful discussion on *Innovative Persistence: Advancing Breast Cancer Navigation*. Dr. Biden emphasized the urgent need to “ensure every patient has someone to help them through the hardest moments of their lives,” elevating national attention to navigation’s vital role in quality cancer care.



Panel presenters included:

- **Arif Kamal, MD, MBA, MHS, FACP, FAAHPM, FASCO**, Chief Patient Officer, American Cancer Society
- **Tracy Battaglia, MD, MPH**, Professor of Medicine and Associate Director, Cancer Care Equity, Yale School of Medicine
- **Julie McMahon, MPH**, Director, Community Health Programs, Susan G. Komen

The armchair discussion created an opportunity for experts to weave together a brief history of navigation, key research findings, and emerging strategies to strengthen navigation sustainability. The conversation highlighted how these approaches advanced breast cancer navigation and underscored navigation’s vital role in promoting equitable access and improving patient outcomes. The result was a highly engaged audience of more than 300 participants who left the session energized and inspired by what is possible.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Another highlight of the ACS NNRT meeting was the keynote address delivered by **Dr. Christopher Lathan**, Chief Clinical Access Officer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. *Oncology Navigation: Operational Integration and Sustainability, the Final Frontier* offered powerful insights into integrating key elements of patient navigation sustainability and the importance of collective input for successful adoption and implementation.

Dr. Lathan explored the leadership foundations of navigation that shaped the profession and enabled navigators and those they serve to overcome significant challenges over time. By highlighting resilience, creativity, and the enduring principles of navigation leadership, his message underscored why navigation remains a stabilizing force, especially during times of uncertainty. His vision sparked meaningful dialogue and reaffirmed our shared commitment to creating enduring systems of support for patients.



## PLENARY PANEL

The ACS NNRT National Meeting also featured a dynamic plenary panel that explored multiple approaches to ensuring navigation sustainability through policy innovation, practical implementation, and evolving payment models.

*Sustaining Navigation: Policy, Practice, and Payment for the Future of Equitable Cancer Care* was moderated by **Andi Dwyer, MPH**, Director of the Colorado Cancer Screening Program and ACS NNRT Chair.



Panelists included:

- **Marissa Brown, MA**, Senior Vice President, State and Local Advocacy, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network – Policy
- **Katie Garfield, JD**, Director of Whole Person Care, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation, Harvard Law School – Reimbursement
- **Bobby Green, MD**, President and Chief Medical Officer, Thyme Care – Navigation models and sustainability

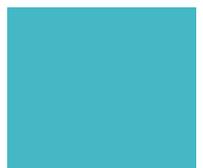
Together, they explored the foundational pillars of sustainability-policy and advocacy, reimbursement mechanisms, and oncology care models-and shared tools, insights, and innovations that supported long-term viability. Their discussion set the tone for the rest of the meeting and challenged attendees to think boldly and collaboratively about navigation's future.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Participants selected one of three concurrent sessions to attend. Each of the concurrent sessions will also be offered as live webinars between November 2025 and March 2026, with recorded versions available on the ACS NNRT website.

Concurrent sessions included:

- **Technology with Purpose: How Navigators Can Lead Ethically, Strategically, and Equitably** – Using technology to enhance, not replace, navigation reach and efficiency
- **Advancing Navigation Sustainability: Reimbursement Billing Codes and Beyond** – Real-world experiences, lessons, and data on the benefits of implementation
- **Stronger Together: Connecting Clinical and Community Navigators to Transform the Patient Experience** – Strategies for bridging gaps between settings through collaboration and program development



## PROJECT RELEASE

A major milestone of the meeting was the release of [Promising Practices Supporting the Sustainability of Patient Navigation: An Implementation Guide](#). Developed in partnership among ACS NNRT, the [American Cancer Society Leadership in Oncology Navigation \(ACS LION\)](#), the [American Cancer Society Patient Navigation Capacity Building Initiative](#), and the [Colorado Cancer Screening Program](#), the Guide was introduced during an interactive session led by co-authors **Andi Dwyer, MPH** and **Bonny Morris, PhD, MSPH, RN**.

This comprehensive resource serves as a cornerstone framework for organizations seeking to build durable, high-impact navigation programs. With an evidence-based assessment tool, workforce design guidance, funding strategies, and implementation planning, the Implementation Guide represents a premier national framework for oncology navigation sustainability.



## STRATEGIC ROADMAP PLANNING

On day two, the full membership participated in interactive strategic planning activities to inform the evolving draft of the ACS NNRT Three-Year Roadmap, set to launch on April 1, 2026. These dynamic sessions further fueled the enthusiasm generated by the meeting’s discussions and presentations.

As we look ahead to 2026 and the release of the ACS NNRT Three-Year Roadmap, the energy and insights from the national meeting will continue to shape our priorities. Together, we positioned oncology navigation not only as an essential service but as a national movement committed to equity, sustainability, and patient-centered innovation.



## CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

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Our 2025 theme, *Innovative Persistence in Action: Supporting Sustainable Patient Navigation Across the Continuum*, came to life through every session, speaker, and story. It underscored our shared resolve to advance equity, scale best practices, and build lasting momentum across the navigation community. With expert presentations, thought-provoking panels, and countless moments of connection and inspiration, attendees left the meeting energized and united in our mission.

With the feedback and inspiration gathered during the National Meeting, ACS NNRT is well positioned to continue with strategic planning to shape the future direction and priorities of our leadership in the oncology patient navigation ecosystem.



## GRATITUDE

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We extend our deepest appreciation to our partners, sponsors, speakers, organizational members, National Meeting Planning Committee, and volunteers, whose dedication and commitment made this convening both possible and meaningful. We are especially grateful to our sponsors—Pfizer, Sanofi, Eisai, Daiichi-Sankyo Company Limited, Genentech, GSK, and Novocure—whose generous support made this year of work and our national meeting possible, enabling us to advance our mission and foster collaboration across the field.

## VISIT THE ACS NNRT WEBSITE

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For more information on the 2025 ACS NNRT National Meeting including our leadership welcome statement, photos, slide decks, post-meeting evaluation summary, sponsorship supporters, speaker bios, and full agenda—please visit our [2025 ACS NNRT National Meeting website](#).





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