



2025 ANNUAL MEETING

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



WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2025 American Cancer Society National Navigation Roundtable (ACS NNRT) National Meeting! We are delighted to convene in Washington, DC, alongside national experts, advocates, and thought leaders who share our deep commitment to sustaining oncology patient navigation and advancing health equity across the cancer continuum.

This year's theme, *Innovative Persistence in Action: Supporting Sustainable Patient Navigation Across the Continuum*, reflects both the progress we've made and the urgent work ahead. As the landscape of cancer care continues to evolve, it is critical that we work together to build stronger navigation programs and ensure more equitable health outcomes for all.

We are thrilled to bring together roundtable members and invited guests to learn, share resources and expertise, and make meaningful connections. Your presence here reinforces our shared vision of a future where every person in need of cancer treatment, prevention or survivorship services receives the support they need—when they need it most.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our generous sponsors for their support, to the Steering Committee for their leadership and unwavering commitment to our mission, and to our energetic Meeting Planning Committee and dedicated staff for their outstanding efforts in organizing this event.

Finally, thank you—our members—for your relentless dedication to elevating patient navigation. We are grateful for your contributions and look forward to the ideas, collaborations, and inspiration this meeting will spark.

Together, let's continue moving forward—persistently and innovatively—toward a more equitable future in cancer care.



Andrea (Andi) Dwyer, BS
ACS NNRT Chair



Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH
ACS NNRT Vice Chair



Shanthi Sivendran, MSCR, MD, MBA
ACS NNRT ACS Chair

WELCOME

Land Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional land of Indigenous peoples, specifically the Nacotchtank, Piscataway and Pamunkey peoples. As we work to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer, we acknowledge and work to mitigate the cancer burden and health disparities in the Native and Indigenous communities and communities of color.

Helpful Links



**Learn About
Membership**



Speaker Bios



**ACS NNRT
Leadership and
Staff Bios**



**Strategic
Plan**



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7:00 AM - 8:15 AM	REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST	Independence East
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	OPENING REMARKS <p>Our Tri-Chairs will open the annual meeting by reflecting on the successes of the past year and outlining the important work ahead—including the development of our new strategic plan and addressing the unique challenges of today’s evolving landscape.</p> <p>With navigation sustainability as an important, enduring theme of this year’s meeting, we’ve brought together leading experts—including members of the ACS NNRT—to share their experiences, strategies, and insights. Throughout the day’s plenary and concurrent sessions, these voices will guide us in exploring how to strengthen and sustain our navigation programs for the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Costello, MSS, LSW, OSW-C, ASC NNRT Strategic Director • Angelo Moore, Founding Executive Director, Center of Excellence for Integrative Health Disparities and Equity Research (CIHDER), North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University • Andi Dwyer, MPH, Director, Colorado Cancer Screening Program; ACS NNRT Chair • Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH, Principal Investigator, LINC Lab at Fox Chase Cancer Center; Research Professor Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences College of Public Health, Temple University, ACS NNRT Vice Chair • Shanthi Sivendran, MD, MSCR, MBA, Senior Vice President, Cancer Care Support, American Cancer Society; Clinical Associate Professor Oncology, Penn Medicine, ACS NNRT Chair 	Ballrooms F, G, H, I
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	KEYNOTE: ONCOLOGY NAVIGATION: OPERATIONAL INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABILITY, THE FINAL FRONTIER <p>This inspirational keynote session will explore important elements of navigation that have shaped the profession, enabling navigators—and those they serve—to overcome significant challenges over time. We will examine what it is about the core principles of navigation itself, and the kind of leadership it fosters, that makes it uniquely positioned to adapt, grow, and sustain. With an emphasis on resilience and creativity, we’ll discuss how navigation leadership continues to be a stabilizing force—especially in times of uncertainty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH, Chief Clinical Access Officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute 	Ballrooms F, G, H, I
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	BREAK	

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM **PANEL: SUSTAINING NAVIGATION: POLICY, PRACTICE, AND PAYMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF EQUITABLE CANCER CARE** **Ballrooms F, G, H, I**

A high-level discussion on the critical need for sustainable patient navigation programs within the U.S. healthcare system. It explores the foundational pillars that underpin sustainability: policy and advocacy, reimbursement mechanisms, and models of oncology care. Experts will share insights, existing tools, and innovations that support long-term viability, setting the stage for concurrent sessions with deeper dives.

- **Andi Dwyer**, MPH, Director, Colorado Cancer Screening Program; ACS NNRT Chair
- **Marissa Brown**, MA, Senior Vice President, State and Local Advocacy, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- **Katie Garfield**, JD, Director of Whole Person Care, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation, Harvard Law School
- **Bobby Green**, MD, President, Chief Medical Officer, Thyme Care

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM **GROUP PHOTO** **Ballrooms F, G, H, I**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM **NETWORKING LUNCH WITH THE ACS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER ROUNDTABLE (ACS NBCRT)** **Independence East**

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** **Breakout Rooms**

Farragut

► **Technology with Purpose: How Navigators Can Lead Ethically, Strategically, and Equitably**

Explore the wide scope of technology use in navigation, discuss how digital tools, technology, VR, AI support reducing barriers. Name and solve special concerns for access and privacy and make the case for navigation to be in the lead role for creating a position and standards. How to ensure that technology translates into MORE navigation for people in under resourced areas. Professional responsibility and ethics of practice will also be discussed.

Moderator: **Linda Fleisher**, PhD, MPH, Principal Investigator, LINC Lab at Fox Chase Cancer Center; ACS NNRT Vice Chair

- **Christina Bach**, MBE, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW, Psychosocial Content Editor, Oncolink
- **Pia Banerjee**, PhD, Director, Cancer Innovation & Transformation, American Cancer Society
- **Linnea VanPelt**, RN, BSN, OCN, Manager, Cancer Support Services, The N.C. Basnight Cancer Hospital and Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

THURSDAY

► **Advancing Navigation Sustainability: Reimbursement Billing Codes and Beyond**

**Ballrooms
F, G, H, I**

This panel will explore the implementation of reimbursement for Principal Illness Navigation (PIN), focusing on key decision-making elements and lessons learned throughout the process. Participants will gain insights into practical tools that support reimbursement implementation and learn how reimbursement not only contributes to ensuring the financial sustainability of a navigation program but also elevates and strengthens its professional standards and quality outcomes for long-term success.

Moderator: **Tricia Strusowski**, MHA, CEO of Turnkey Oncology

- **Kimberly Bolin Samuels**, BS, ARDMS, ARRT, RT(R)(M), Executive Director, National Consortium of Breast Centers
- **Krista Nelson**, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW, FAPOS, FACCC, Manager, Oncology Social Work, Providence Health & Services
- **Morgan Nestingen**, PhD, RN, AGCNS-BC, NEA-BC, OCN, ONN-CG, Executive Director, Navigation Program, MD Anderson Cancer Center

► **Stronger Together: Connecting Clinical and Community Navigators to Transform the Patient Experience**

Lafayette

Professional navigation is delivered in multiple settings as patient healthcare crosses their community settings, outpatient settings, and inpatient settings. A discussion about best practices and successful models of navigation and programs will highlight the close collaboration and high-quality psychosocial care that the panelists engage in to improve access and outcomes for people with cancer.

Moderator: **Marianne Pearson**, MSW, LCSW, Vice President of Cancer Care, Colorectal Cancer Alliance

- **Jennifer Bires**, PhD, Executive Director, Life with Cancer and Patient Experience, Inova Schar Cancer Institute
- **Lisa Simms Booth**, Executive Director, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts
- **Belinda Paulicin**, DSW, LCSW-QS, OSW-C, Vice President, Helpline, Education and Outreach, Cancer Support Community
- **Carmen Stokes**, PhD, FNP-BC, CNE, Nurse Navigator, Henry Ford Cancer Center

**2:15 PM -
2:30 PM**

BREAK

2:30 PM -
3:45 PM

**PROMISING PRACTICES SUPPORTING THE
SUSTAINABILITY OF PATIENT NAVIGATION: AN
IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE**

Ballrooms F, G, H, I

Utilizing the newly released ACS NNRT and ACS LION collaborative project, the presenters will provide a theoretical foundation for the development of this implementation guide. In addition to exploring the key elements of how specific domains contribute to the sustainability of navigation programs, the session will include interactive exercises to reinforce understanding and support the practical application of this innovative tool.

- **Andi Dwyer**, MPH, Director, Colorado Cancer Screening Program; ACS NNRT Chair
- **Bonny Morris**, PhD, MSPH, RN, Vice President, Patient Navigation, American Cancer Society

3:45 PM -
4:10 PM

BREAK

4:10 PM -
5:20 PM

**INNOVATIVE PERSISTENCE: ADVANCING BREAST
CANCER NAVIGATION**

Independence East

This armchair discussion between leading experts in navigation will provide the opportunity to discuss a brief history, current strategies and specific approaches to elevating sustainable navigation to advance navigation in breast cancer. The need for continued advocacy, leadership, and education in navigation will be explored. Experts will share lessons learned from the leadership, research and practices of navigation and what successful outputs have driven equity thus far. A Q&A session will also engage the audience and provide action planning opportunities to achieve the next level of breast cancer navigation.

- **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

5:30 PM -
6:30 PM

RECEPTION

Light appetizers. Dinner on your own.

Grand Foyer

THURSDAY

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST	Independence East
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	OPENING REMARKS Presentation on the planning purpose, process, format, content, details, and next steps. Announcing the priority focus areas for 3 Year Plan Roadmap. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andi Dwyer, MPH, Director, Colorado Cancer Screening Program; ACS NNRT Chair • Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH, Principal Investigator, LINC Lab at Fox Chase Cancer Center; ACS NNRT Vice Chair • Shanthi Sivendran, MD, MSCR, MBA, Senior Vice President, Cancer Care Support, American Cancer Society; ACS NNRT Chair 	Ballrooms F, G, H, I
9:15 AM - 9:45 AM	ACS NNRT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PRESENTATION	Ballrooms F, G, H, I
9:45 AM - 9:55 AM	INSTRUCTIONS FOR BREAKOUTS	Ballrooms F, G, H, I
9:55 AM - 10:10 AM	BREAK AND TRANSITION	
10:10 AM - 11:10 AM	PRIORITY AREA BREAKOUTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1- FGHI • Group 2- Farragut • Group 3- Lafayette • Group 4- Burnham • Group 5- Latrobe 	
11:10 AM - 11:25 AM	BREAK AND TRANSITION	
11:25 AM - 11:40 AM	BREAKOUT SHARING	Ballrooms F, G, H, I
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	CREATING COLLECTIVE ACTION	Ballrooms F, G, H, I
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	Ballrooms F, G, H, I

Closing of ACS NNRT National Meeting

Boxed lunches available.

FRIDAY

ACS National Navigation Roundtable

The American Cancer Society National Navigation Roundtable (ACS NNRT) was established in 2017. The ACS NNRT is a national coalition of 150+ member organizations dedicated to advance patient navigation efforts that eliminate barriers to quality care, reduce disparities, and foster ongoing health equity across the cancer continuum.

→ Priorities

- Develop system capacity for **reimbursement** of oncology patient navigation services.
- Support continued **professionalism** of patient navigation.
- Create **public awareness** campaign identifying patient navigation as a service in oncology care and the value that patient navigation services can bring to patients and to health care systems, as well as highlighting patient navigation's impact on health equity.
- Develop a repository of patient navigation **best practices** to highlight the impact that patient navigation services have on health equity, oncology patient care, and health systems care delivery.

→ Health Equity Statement

We believe that all people should have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer, regardless of income, skin color, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, or zip code.

ABOUT A



LEADERSHIP

2024–25 ACS NNRT STEERING COMMITTEE

Andrew (Andi) Dwyer, MPH

University of Colorado
ACS NNRT Chair

Linda Fleisher, PhD, MPH

Fox Chase Cancer Center
ACS NNRT Vice Chair

Shanthi Sivendran, MD, MSCR, MBA

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Jennifer Bires, LCSW, OSW-C

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Nicole Centers, MBA, BSN, RN, OCN, CBCN, CN-BN

Wellstar Health System

Vicki Chiappetta, RHIA, CTR

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Katie Garfield, JD

*Center for Health and Policy Innovation of
Harvard Law School*

Rebecca Kirch, JD

National Patient Advocate Foundation

Raymond Liu, MD

*Kaiser Permanente Northern California, San
Francisco Cancer Center*

Zarek Mena, OPN-CG

SHARE | Cancer Support

Angelo Moore, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAAN

*North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State
University*

Carmen Stokes, PhD, FNP-BC, RN, CNE

SM Gavini Center for Cancer Prevention

Sally Werner, RN, BSN, MSHA

Cancer Support Community

Donna Moore Wilson, RN, MSN, CBCN

UVA Health Breast Care Center

Arti Patel Varanasi, PhD, MPH, CPH

Advancing Synergy



A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

The ACS NNRT Team would like to thank the following for their time, support and commitment to this work.

ACS NNRT STRATEGIC PRIORITY TEAM CO-CHAIRS

Evidence-Based Promising Practices

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Workforce Development

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*Native American Cancer Research
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Arti Patel Varanasi, PhD, MPH, CPH
Advancing Synergy

ACS NNRT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Membership Committee

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(Chair)

Arti Varanasi, PhD, MPH, CPH

Emily Gentry, BSN, RN, HON-ONN-CG, OCN

Debra Nevels, MSHCM

Joanna Doran, JD

Nominating Committee

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Bonnie Ewald, MA

Angelo Moore, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAAN

Elizabeth Rohan, PhD, MSW

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