



2025 ANNUAL MEETING

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



7:00 AM - 8:15 AM **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST** **Independence East**

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM **OPENING REMARKS** **Ballrooms F, G, H, I**

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.

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.

- **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

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM **KEYNOTE: ROOTED IN EXPERIENCE, RISING WITH PURPOSE: ADVANCING NAVIGATION IN ONCOLOGY** **Ballrooms F, G, H, I**

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.

- **Christopher Lathan**, MD, MS, MPH, Chief Clinical Access Officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM **BREAK**

10:35 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.

- **Bobby Green**, MD, President, Chief Medical Officer, Thyme Care
- **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

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM | **GROUP PHOTO**

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

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM | **MOVEMENT BREAK**

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM | **CONCURRENT SESSIONS** | **Breakout Rooms**

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

Farragut

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

- **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
- **Christina Bach**, MBE, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW, Educational Content Specialist and Psychosocial Content Editor, Oncolink

► **Beyond the Bottom Line: Strategic Insights from Navigation Reimbursement Implementation**

**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

- **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

**2:35 PM -
2:45 PM**

BREAK

2:45 PM -
4:00 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

4:10 PM -
5:20 PM

INNOVATIVE PERSISTENCE: ADVANCING EQUITY AND UNITY IN A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

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 equity in breast cancer. The need for continued advocacy, leadership, and education in equity-focused 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 health equity in breast cancer navigation.

Moderator: **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
- **Kimberly Bolin Samuels**, BS, ARDMS, ARRT, RT(R)(M), Executive Director, National Consortium of Breast Centers
- **Carmen Stokes**, PhD, FNP-BC, CNE, Henry Ford Cancer Center

5:30 PM -
6:30 PM

RECEPTION

Grand Foyer

Light appetizers. Dinner on your own.

THURSDAY

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **BREAKFAST** Independence East

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **OPENING REMARKS** Ballrooms F, G, H, I

Presentation on the planning purpose, process, format, content, details, and next steps. Announcing the priority focus areas for 3 Year Plan Roadmap

- **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

9:35 AM - 9:45 AM **BREAK AND MOVE TO BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

9:50 AM - 11:20 AM **ACS NNRT BREAK OUTS**

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM **WRAP-UP & ADJOURN** Ballrooms F, G, H, I

Process the breakout sessions and offer next steps in the planning. Capture the highlights of the meeting as we end and give Parting messages – closing

Closing of ACS NNRT National Meeting

Boxed lunches available.

FRIDAY

