



OCE NEWS

A Project Community Newsletter



Greetings from FDA Oncology!

Welcome to the **June 2023 edition** of the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence's (OCE) monthly newsletter from [Project Community](#). This newsletter provides a summary of OCE upcoming public events, educational opportunities, and recent oncology product approvals. These are all free and everyone is welcome to attend—we hope to see many of you there!

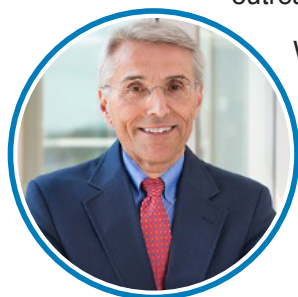
Director's Message:

Welcome to the first edition of the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE) newsletter for advocates. This has been a vision of mine for some time.

When I first came to FDA, I knew it would be important to engage with patients and advocates. In 2018, OCE created Project Community to help introduce the oncologists, and all the staff who work here to a wider segment of the US, people living and working “beyond the beltway” and the East Coast. These OCE colleagues are committed to leading a variety of research and educational outreach projects and programs to advance the development and regulation of medical products for patients with cancer. OCE is also dedicated to diversity and inclusion, especially reaching the underserved and under-represented, urban or rural, regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, faith or their familiarity with the FDA's work. That's why Project Community was created—as an external outreach and engagement opportunity for you.

We hope you'll enjoy this advocate newsletter and that you'll learn more about the work OCE does on behalf of the American public, and in fact, to benefit people living with cancer around the world.

Sincerely,
Rick Pazdur, MD
OCE Center Director
US Food and Drug Administration



Highlights

Conversations on
Cancer Events 2

National Black Family
Cancer Awareness
Events 3

Public FDA Oncology
Events 4

Recent FDA Oncology
Approvals 4

Getting to Know You 5

Meet Our OCE Staff 6

Celebrating Summer 7



OCE Project Community is pleased to lead the *Conversations on Cancer* public panel discussion series. This series focuses on a variety of cancer-related topics and social issues including clinical trial participation, access, diversity, equity, and much more. Our motivational tagline is *Making Cancer Personal*.

The most recently recorded *Conversation on Cancer* is titled “*Cancer Misinformation: Truth or Consequences*” featuring journalists, an NIH social scientist, ASCO’s chief medical officer, and an oncologist who focuses on correcting cancer misinformation online.

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf, MD also made an appearance stressing the danger people with cancer can face due to medical misinformation.



[Watch Magic Potion, What’s Truth Got to Do With It, and Potentially Deadly Consequences.](#) Want to hear more? Here’s the entire [webcast](#).

Previous recordings of *Conversations on Cancer* can be found at on our [webpage](#). The topics have included discussions of disparities in Native American, LGBTQ+, Latinx, AA & NHPI, and African American communities, as well as a focus on oncology nurses, and how patients’ cope with wellbeing while living with cancer. We hope you will tune in for our upcoming conversations!

ICYMI:

- May 4, 2023, [Conversations on Cancer: Cancer Misinformation: Truth or Consequences, Meeting Information, Watch on YouTube](#)
- April 25, 2023 *Conversations on Cancer: Beginning the Rare Cancer Journey: Charting the Best Path to an Accurate Diagnosis*, [Meeting Information, Watch on YouTube](#)
- March 28, 2023: *Conversations on Cancer, Advancing a more Equal Future for AA&NHPI Patients with Cancer*, [Meeting Information, Watch on YouTube](#)
- February 16, 2023: FDA Oncology Center of Excellence *Conversations on Cancer: Black History Month Program, What’s on the Horizon: Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the Future of Cancer Care*; [Meeting Information, Watch on YouTube](#)
- January 18, 2023: *Conversations on Cancer: Seasons of Change: Oncology Careers*. [Meeting Information, Watch on YouTube](#)

ADVOCATES, please see our email address at the end of this newsletter and tell us if you know of any real-life connections between the retired *Truth or Consequences* TV series and cancer advocacy. Rumor or reality? We’ll share some of your responses in the next edition!

UPCOMING:

- June 15, 2023, 2:30pm–4:00 pm ET: *Conversation on Cancer: National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week—Engaging the Generations* public panel discussion. Registration link coming soon. [#BlackFamCan](#)

NATIONAL BLACK FAMILY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK



Are you participating in OCE Project Community's National Black Family Cancer Awareness initiative? In case you're not familiar with this initiative, its goal is to pool the reliable, trust-worthy resources of community-based stakeholders to share scientifically-sound knowledge about cancer clinical trial participation, and the importance of donations to national genomic databases for cancer research. National Black Family Cancer Awareness aims to engage the US population traditionally most devastated by cancer rates, cancer inequities, and cancer deaths. 2023 is the third year for this awareness week, the associated Conversation on Cancer public panel discussion, the social media campaign and its dedicated hashtag: #BlackFamCan.

Project Community encourages all people and organizations who are interested to promote the use of #BlackFamCan during the week of June 15 – 21 this year! Need more details, see the daily themes listed below which correlate with the Cancer Moonshot goals. Visit our [website](#) and spread the word to others! #BlackFamCan

- June 15-21, 2023, 3rd Annual National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week, a week-long social media campaign and opportunities for you to share your engagement using #BlackFamCan. Suggested [themes and engagement ideas](#) include:
 - Thursday, June 15: Close the screening gap
 - Friday, June 16: Understand and address environmental exposure
 - Saturday, June 17: "Engaging the Generations" for Juneteenth Holiday Weekend and Father's Day
 - Sunday, June 18: "Engaging the Generations" for Juneteenth Holiday Weekend and Father's Day
 - Monday, June 19, Juneteenth Federal Holiday: Decrease the impact of preventable cancers
 - Tuesday, June 20: Bring cutting edge research through the pipeline to patients and communities
 - Wednesday, June 21: Support patients and caregivers

Our [webpage](#) has graphics for you to use! You can also share one of our promotional videos to encourage others to join in this year:

<p>National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week</p>	<p>Highlighting activities in communities supporting lowering cancer risks</p>		
<p>NBFCAW PROMO</p> <p><i>Be the first to promote NBFCAW with your friends, post #BlackFamCan on your social media channels June 15–21, 2023</i></p> <p><i>Run time: 12 seconds</i></p>	<p>FOR HBCU'S AND FAITH-BASED ORGS</p> <p><i>Help raise awareness for those at greatest risk, National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week, June 15–21, 2023</i></p> <p><i>Run time: 1:08</i></p>	<p>ANSWER THE CALL</p> <p><i>Making Clinical Trials Available, National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week, June 15–21, 2023</i></p> <p><i>Run time: 33 seconds</i></p>	<p>POWER OF COMMUNITY</p> <p><i>There is still time to plan for National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week, #BlackFamCan, June 15–21, 2023</i></p> <p><i>Run time: 1:08</i></p>

PUBLIC FDA ONCOLOGY EVENTS



For a full list of OCE's upcoming meetings and workshops, visit the [OCE Meetings and Workshops](#) webpage.

UPCOMING:

- **June 27, 2023, 11:00-3:00 PM ET:** FDA Oncology Center of Excellence Presents 8th Annual Clinical Outcome Assessment in Cancer Clinical Trials Workshop—Overall Side Effect Impact: A Core Oncology Patient-Reported Outcome. [Meeting Information](#); [Registration](#)



ODAC: Regulators in Action

For a full list of our advisory committee meetings, visit the [Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee](#) webpage.

RECENT FDA ONCOLOGY APPROVALS



Interested in learning more about recent FDA oncology drug approvals? Take a look at these recent ones! You can also watch OCE's [Project Livin' Label](#), which is an FDA-led conversation with a patient, an oncologist, a representative from the drug company, FDA oncologists, an oncology nurse, and an oncology pharmacist talking about the backstory of a recent oncology approval.

- **May 19, 2023: Epkinly (epcoritamab-bysp)**
Indication: Treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), not otherwise specified, including DLBCL arising from indolent lymphoma, and high-grade B cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy.
- **April 26, 2023: Zejula (niraparib) tablets**
Indication: Maintenance treatment of adult patients with advanced epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer who are in a complete or partial response to first-line platinum-based chemotherapy. Maintenance treatment of adult patients with deleterious or suspected deleterious germline BRCA-mutated recurrent epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer who are in a complete or partial response to platinum-based chemotherapy. Select patients for therapy based on an FDA-approved companion diagnostic for ZEJULA.
- **April 3, 2023: Keytruda (pembrolizumab) and PADCEV (enfortumab vedotin-ejfv)**
Indication: pembrolizumab, in combination with enfortumab vedotin, is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who are not eligible for cisplatin-containing chemotherapy.

You can find more information about [how to use product labeling](#) and the full list of [FDA oncology approvals](#) online.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!



This month we are pleased to highlight [Tigerlily Foundation](#). Tigerlily is a national breast cancer foundation providing education, awareness, advocacy and hands-on support to young women ages 15 to 45 before, during and after breast cancer. Maimah Karmo, a breast cancer survivor and women's health advocate, is CEO of Tigerlily and a first-generation immigrant from Liberia. Project Community asked her for her thoughts on the following:

Q: What are you currently working on that makes you feel excited or proud?

A: Our [ANGEL Advocacy Program](#) is one of the programs I'm most proud of. The program works to educate Black Women about their breast health, with a focus on self advocacy and then taking that empowerment back to their families. Our ANGELS are also then given opportunities to lead in their communities and we provide them with opportunities to engage in policy, clinical trial work, science, research and more. This year, we are also launching our [Unstoppable Tour](#), a community-focused and driven 21-city Tour, "Taking Hope on the

Road, going to 21 cities that have the highest mortality rates for Black women with breast cancer. We will be providing educational, hosting listening sessions and distributing content, to include our [Barrier Toolkits](#).

In addition, we are launching our [RAISE](#) platform this week, which is a platform that will support patients in overcoming barriers while navigating treatment; and over the course of the next few months, we will be partnering with sponsors to support patients in navigating financial and other barriers to clinical trials through RAISE.

Q: What has your experience been working with the Oncology Center of Excellence, Project Community?

A: It's been amazing. We love working with OCE, in opportunities like Black Fam Can, diversity in clinical trials and more. It's amazing how the team has engaged the Black community and is amplifying and engaging diverse voices to create change.

Q: Please share any advice you or your organization have for other advocates.

A: Own your power. When I learned I had breast cancer at 32 years old, I knew that if I had the privilege of being alive, that came with the responsibility to make a difference. I was a single parent with no resources—except for my head, my heart and my hands—and I put it all to work. The more I did, the more I grew and the impact rippled way beyond anything I could ever imagine. Never underestimate the amount of food you can do in the world; believe in your power to create change, use your voice and create a living legacy. You can read more about how we are empowering patients to lead in our [MY LIFE Matters Magazine!](#)

Project Community thanks you, Maimah, for your work!

Each newsletter will highlight a Project Community advocate we have had the privilege of engaging with—if you would like to nominate your organization, or for any additional information, please reach out to us at OCE-Engagement@fda.hhs.gov. Use: *Newsletter Nomination for Getting to Know You in the subject line.*



MEET OUR OCE STAFF

I'm Rea Blakey, the OCE Associate Director for External Outreach and Engagement. I lead OCE's Project Community and have enjoyed meeting many of you most recently at the AACR Annual Meeting in Orlando. Along with OCE senior leaders, I spoke with patients, advocates, and family members in April about their cancer experiences and ideas about how OCE can better serve you.

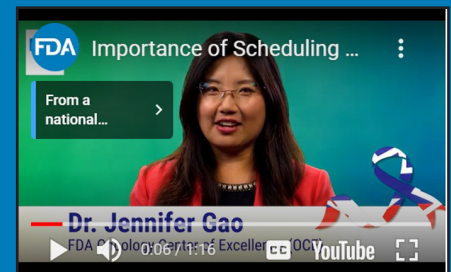


I came onboard at OCE in July 2018. Before coming to FDA and the federal government, my career centered on broadcast TV health news. I've reported on air as a CNN Medical Correspondent, hosted medical programs at Discovery Channel, and worked 13+ years as a News Anchor and Health Reporter at Washington, DC's WJLA-TV.

And guess what? I'm having the time of my life being at the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence experiencing ongoing opportunities to engage with YOU! Please subscribe to this newsletter by clicking on the blue banner below...and let us hear from you. Thank you!

PREVENTION & DETECTION

Advocates: Spread the Word! OCE's Project Community is aligned with the White House Cancer Moonshot goals, including to close the cancer screening gap. OCE's Associate Director of Education, Jennifer Gao, MD explains more in this [video](#).



And our webpages:

- [Prostate Cancer: Symptoms, Tests, and Treatments](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer: What You Should Know About Screening](#)



CELEBRATE SUMMER



- Immigrant Heritage Month, June
- Immunotherapy Month, June
 - LGBT Pride Month, June
 - Men's Health Month, June
- National Cancer Survivors Month, June
 - Men's Health Week, June 12-18
- National Cancer Survivors Day, June 4
- Family Health & Fitness Day USA, June 10
 - World Blood Donor Day, June 14
- National Black Family Cancer Awareness Week, June 15-21
 - World Kidney Cancer Day, June 16
 - Father's Day, June 18
 - Juneteenth, June 19
 - UV Safety Awareness Month, July
- Sarcoma and Bone Cancer Awareness Month, July
 - Independence Day, July 4
 - GIST Awareness Day, July 13
 - Glioblastoma Awareness Day, July 20
- Appendix Cancer Awareness Month, August
 - World Lung Cancer Day, August 1
- World Breast Cancer Research Day, August 18

Brought to you by Project Community

Project Community is a public health outreach initiative established by the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence for patients living with cancer, survivors, advocates, families, and people living in underserved urban and rural communities who are at greater cancer risk. Our goal is to increase communication between the underserved and medical professionals in communities nationwide, to foster understanding, and awareness to reduce cancer risk and increase survival. To learn more about the Oncology Center of Excellence, please check out our OCE Annual Reports.

