Believe we can

IMPACT REPORT 2021

preventxcanercancer
FOUNDATION
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Dear Friends,

How are we making an impact on the world around us?

That’s the question we’ve been asking ourselves at the Prevent Cancer Foundation. The past two years have been a turbulent time around the world; at the Foundation, we used this as a time of reflection. We want to be sure we are spending your dollars to make the biggest impact we can on cancer prevention and early detection, through our research, community and global grants; our education campaigns; our conferences and events; and so much more.

That’s why we are proud to introduce our first-ever Impact Report. No longer an annual report detailing Foundation activities, the Impact Report tells the story of what we are accomplishing together with your contributions and support.

As we embark on exciting plans for the future, we hope to one day tell the story of a world where no one dies of cancer. Thank you for being our partner as we write the next chapter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Aldigé
Founder and CEO

Gary R. Lytle
Chairman of the Board of Directors
As more Americans are vaccinated against the coronavirus, their comfort in going to the doctor and dentist is increasing—but many people still need to reschedule routine cancer screenings. They could be lifesaving! But the third Prevent Cancer Foundation Back on the Books survey shows mixed results for long-term cancer prevention.

Some Americans are going back to their doctors, and we saw a decline in the number of older Americans who missed, postponed or cancelled appointments (34% in December 2020 to 28% in May 2021). But to start with, a significant proportion of adults (27%) are unaware of what cancer screenings are recommended for them—and an even higher number (39%) are not planning to go to future screenings. Minorities were even less aware of what screenings they need than their white counterparts.

The new survey released by the Foundation was fielded one year after the initial May 2020 survey on cancer screening behavior during the pandemic. The results of this survey were the impetus behind the Back on the Books campaign to encourage rescheduling cancelled and postponed cancer screenings.

The Prevent Cancer Foundation continues to share important screening messaging, including tips on how to safely keep doctor appointments and resources for the recommended screenings for an individual's age group, at www.preventcancer.org/backonthebooks.
Percentage of Americans Not Aware of Cancer Screenings & Not Planning to Go
According to a May 2021 survey

**27%**
Are not aware of cancer screenings

**39%**
Are not planning to go to future screenings

Not Aware of Cancer Screenings Recommended to Them (by Race & Ethnicity)
According to a May 2021 survey

- **37%** Asian
- **30%** Native American
- **27%** African American
- **25%** Caucasian
- **23%** Hispanic
- **27%** Overall

_Prevent Cancer Survey, (2021)_
It was a pretty normal Sunday at the end of January 2016 when we noticed something a little abnormal on my left side. I will admit I was past due on scheduling my yearly OB-GYN appointment. I called the doctor on my way to work Monday morning and was scheduled to go in on Tuesday. I left the doctor feeling relieved. I had been fortunate to live a healthy life up to this point, so why would I be worried?

Come Thursday, I was lying on the table with my left arm over my head trying to guess what the radiation oncologist was looking at on the screen. She told me she wanted to do a needle biopsy. I received a call from the doctor Friday telling me I had ‘a cancer’ (yes, she actually phrased it like that).

In that instant, life as I knew it completely changed. After multiple tests over the next 2 weeks, at age 27 I was diagnosed with Stage 2b Invasive Lobular Carcinoma. I had about one year of intense treatment and am currently undergoing 5-10 years of hormone therapy.

I share this story not in an effort to scare you, but to say that cancer can happen to anyone. Fortunately, there are some simple steps to try and find it early if, heaven forbid, you are diagnosed. One of those is to stay on top of your normal health screenings. It can be easy in such hard and uncertain times to de-prioritize proactive screenings, but it’s critical that we don’t put these off. If you can take one thing away from my story, I hope you will schedule your next annual checkup or screening. Early detection really does save lives!

— Katie Scola
Back on the Books

CELEBRITY INFLUENCERS

In summer of 2020, the Prevent Cancer Foundation launched the Back on the Books campaign to encourage people to reschedule their routine cancer screenings following delays and cancellations due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In spring 2021, we partnered with two celebrity influencers to share the Back on the Books messaging with their social media followers: Ron Rivera, head coach of the Washington Football Team and a cancer survivor, and Meagan Good, award-winning actress.

A combination of influencer outreach, advertisements and social media amplification resulted in 1.2 million impressions, nearly 10,000 clicks to the Back on the Books webpage and nearly 7,000 engagements on social media.

PHYSICIAN INFLUENCERS

A follow-up survey released in summer 2021 showed the impact of the pandemic on women’s health. For Gynecologic Awareness Month in September and Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, we partnered with a diverse group of physician influencers to share the importance of staying up to date on cervical and breast cancer screenings.
Multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests are blood-based screening tests (also called liquid biopsies) that are designed to identify the presence of cancer for more than one cancer at a time at the earliest possible stages, before noticeable symptoms occur.

Multi-cancer early detection is a groundbreaking new type of cancer screening test that utilizes advances in genomic science and machine learning to transform cancer detection. MCED tests:

- Are designed to detect many types of cancer by looking for cancer signals in the blood.
- Are designed to be complementary to existing screenings and extend the benefits of early detection to catch more cancers in early, more treatable stages.
- Have received breakthrough designations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Their clinical programs continue to advance, as evidenced by data published in peer-reviewed publications.
- Are being developed by many companies in partnership with some of the leading cancer research institutions in America.

The Prevent Cancer Foundation led more than 300 organizations from all 50 states in joining together in a sign-on letter to support the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act of 2021. Our goal is to ensure that when these tests are approved by the FDA, seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries will have access to them.

A diverse array of additional medical, community and public health-focused organizations across the U.S. join with the Prevent Cancer Foundation in applauding the legislation and calling for action on this issue. These organizations provide essential services to cancer patients, offer resources to families and raise awareness of the need to improve prevention and care for a range of different cancers.

In June 2021, the Prevent Cancer Foundation launched an education campaign and ran both print and digital public service ads to raise awareness of multi-cancer early detection testing. A print ad ran in the Washington Post and digital ads ran in The Washington Post, Politico and The Hill. Each digital ad directed individuals to the Prevent Cancer Foundation website on multi-cancer early detection testing. The ads resulted in a 12,116% increase in web traffic from the previous week.
The 2021 Prevent Cancer Advocacy Workshop convened patients, providers, advocacy organizations and other stakeholders to engage in a dialogue around emerging technology in cancer prevention and control. The event featured speakers and breakout sessions focused on patient-centered considerations for multi-cancer early detection (MCED) testing, including access, affordability, acceptance and accountability. Given the Foundation’s mission of saving lives across all populations through cancer prevention and early detection, MCED testing has been identified as a priority. Numerous specialty care and advocacy organizations were represented, including the Cancer Policy Institute at the Cancer Support Community, Johns Hopkins Medicine, the Mayo Clinic, the American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network and Livestrong Cancer Institutes at the Dell Medical School.

Following the Advocacy Workshop, the Prevent Cancer Foundation released a white paper detailing a patient-centered approach to MCED testing. Highlights of the paper include MCED 101; presentation summaries on access, affordability, acceptance and accountability; existing Medicare coverage and legislation in the 117th Congress; and findings and common themes. You can read the white paper and learn more about the Foundation’s work on MCED testing at preventcancer.org/early.

“By expanding the benefits of early detection to more cancers and more people—especially individuals in racial and ethnic minority groups, individuals with no insurance coverage, and people with complex medical needs and others where screening rates are low and late-stage diagnoses are high—outcomes for cancer patients could also improve.”

—Jody Hoyos
Research Grantees

With your help in 2021, the Prevent Cancer Foundation awarded nine promising research grants and fellowships with different areas of focus: cancers of the pancreas, esophagus, liver, lung, skin, prostate, colon-rectum and blood/bone marrow. Our funding helps propel early-career researchers toward larger grants that will expand their work in innovative ways to positively impact people’s lives through improved cancer prevention and early detection.

**GRANTEE:** Limor Appelbaum, M.D.
**NAMED AWARD:** Awesome Games Done Quick
**INSTITUTION:** Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass.
**PROJECT TITLE:** Use of medical records and microbiome for predicting pancreatic cancer

**GRANTEE:** Julie A. Barta, M.D., A.T.S.F.
**NAMED AWARD:** Richard C. Devereaux Outstanding Young Investigator Award
**INSTITUTION:** Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa.
**PROJECT TITLE:** Improving lung cancer screening barriers for vulnerable populations

**GRANTEE:** Neil Box, Ph.D.
**INSTITUTION:** University of Colorado Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus and Denver Campus, Denver, Colo.
**PROJECT TITLE:** Integrating sun damage indicators in melanoma risk modeling

**GRANTEE:** Sigrid Carlsson, M.D., Ph.D., MPH
**NAMED AWARD:** Awesome Games Done Quick
**INSTITUTION:** Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.
**PROJECT TITLE:** Improving prostate cancer screening using innovative technology

**GRANTEE:** Margie Clapper, Ph.D.
**INSTITUTION:** The Research Institute of Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, Pa.
**PROJECT TITLE:** Impact of atorvastatin with or without aspirin on colorectal biomarkers in patients with Lynch Syndrome: a pilot study

**GRANTEE:** William Grady, M.D.
**NAMED AWARD:** The Shure Family Charitable Foundation
**INSTITUTION:** Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Wash.
**PROJECT TITLE:** Dysbiotic esophageal microbiomes and esophageal cancer risk
FELLOW: Natalia Heredia, Ph.D., MPH  
NAMED AWARD: Marcia and Frank Carlucci Charitable Foundation  
INSTITUTION: The University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, Texas  
PROJECT TITLE: Culturally tailored lifestyle intervention for Hispanic non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

GRANTEE: Maro Ohanian, D.O.  
NAMED AWARD: Triad Foundation, LLC  
INSTITUTION: University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas  
PROJECT TITLE: Detoxification of environmental metals to prevent acute myeloid leukemia

FELLOW: Aayushi Uberoi, Ph.D.  
NAMED AWARD: Awesome Games Done Quick  
PROJECT TITLE: Modulating skin microbiota-host interactions to prevent UV-induced skin cancer

Researcher update: 2019 awardee

GRANTEE: John McDonald, Ph.D.  
NAMED AWARD: Michele and Drew Figdor Award  
INSTITUTION: Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.  
PROJECT TITLE: Noninvasive test for the detection of Type I and Type II ovarian cancer

Ovarian cancer is usually diagnosed in late stages, when treatment may not be successful. Previously, Dr. McDonald’s team developed a method to distinguish between healthy women and those with early-stage ovarian cancer. With funding from the Prevent Cancer Foundation, Dr. McDonald and his research team conducted a pilot study to see if this non-invasive method can also distinguish highly-aggressive ovarian cancer from less-aggressive cancer.

Dr. McDonald’s research project was completed in August 2021—and indeed found that certain metabolites in the blood of ovarian cancer patients appear to accurately distinguish between Type I and Type II ovarian cancers. Additional machine-learning based analyses are underway to identify the minimum number of specific metabolites that most accurately distinguish between ovarian cancer types.

Dr. McDonald will use these preliminary results for a larger proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to expand the number of patients in the study and go into greater depth on the molecular processes and how they impact the clinical aggressiveness of ovarian cancers. These findings may contribute to more precise diagnosis of early-stage ovarian cancers and novel approaches for treatment. Thank you to all Prevent Cancer Foundation supporters for making Dr. McDonald’s research possible.
Roya Dolatkhah, M.D.  
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Iran  
**TITLE OF FELLOWSHIP:** Accuracy of stool-based tests compared with colonoscopy for diagnosing colorectal cancer and advanced adenomas in northwest Iran  
**HOST INSTITUTE:** National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, Rockville, Maryland

Bridget Lumbwe, M.Sc.  
UNC Global Projects Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia  
**TITLE OF FELLOWSHIP:** Identifying barriers that prevent women with positive CIN2/3 LEEP margins from returning for a repeat loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP), and identifying strategies to address this low adherence to treatments  
**HOST INSTITUTE:** International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France

Nepomuscene Ndihokubwayo, M.D.  
Kamenge University Hospital Center, Bujumbura, Burundi  
**TITLE OF FELLOWSHIP:** La cytologie en milieu liquide pour le dépistage précoce du cancer du col utérin/Liquid cytology for early detection of cervical cancer  
**HOST INSTITUTE:** Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Cocody, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire

Nicaise Ntahondi Kamenge, M.D.  
University Hospital Center, Bujumbura, Burundi  
**TITLE OF FELLOWSHIP:** Renforcement des capacités en technique et diagnostics immunohistochimiques des cancers/Capacity building in techniques and immunohistochemical cancer diagnostics  
**HOST INSTITUTE:** Hôpital Général de Grand Yoff, Dakar, Sénégal

Manikanda Nesan Sakthivel, M.D.  
Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, India  
**TITLE OF FELLOWSHIP:** Designing a pre-post intervention trial to assess the impact of community health worker-led counseling and navigation on the uptake of colposcopy among non-compliant women screened positive in a community-based screening program  
**HOST INSTITUTE:** International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France

Tamar Skhirtladze, M.D., MSPH, MPA  
National Screening Center, Tbilisi, Georgia  
**TITLE OF FELLOWSHIP:** Enhancing Screening Services for Early Detection of Cervical Cancer in Georgia  
**HOST INSTITUTE:** International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France
Global Grants

With funds raised from the Awesome Games Done Quick weeklong videogaming marathon, $375,000 was awarded in support of high-impact global grants to combat cervical cancer in low-resource areas in Kenya, El Salvador, Nepal and India. The five new projects are aligned with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) call for the elimination of cervical cancer by 2030.

We are proud to support these one-year, $75,000 cervical cancer prevention and early detection grants through our global grants program, which focuses on assessing innovative technologies and delivering services and/or education to improve or expand quality cancer screening or prevention.

**ORGANIZATION:** Grounds for Health  
**TITLE:** Successful Implementation of HPV Self-Sampling in Rural Kenya  
**LOCATION:** Kenya

Human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA testing is endorsed by the WHO as a preferred screening method to end cervical cancer worldwide. This project will allow Grounds for Health to expand its HPV self-sampling initiative, a widely accepted HPV testing method, as part of their efforts to identify best practices in service delivery in low-resource settings.

**ORGANIZATION:** Basic Health International  
**TITLE:** Feasibility of Thermal Ablation for Cervical Precancer Treatment  
**LOCATION:** El Salvador

Cervical cancer screening must be linked to effective and timely treatment of precancerous lesions for the best possible outcomes. This project will evaluate thermal ablation, a new portable treatment that could increase access to care for women in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

**ORGANIZATION:** Basic Health International  
**TITLE:** Shifting PCR Testing Capacity from COVID-19 to Cervical Cancer Prevention  
**LOCATION:** El Salvador

This project investigates the feasibility of a new low-cost, self-collected, rapid HPV screening test that is processed in the same polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines that were acquired for COVID-19 testing. Same-day screening results in combination with portable cervical precancer treatment have the potential to greatly increase access to cervical cancer prevention for medically-underserved populations.

**ORGANIZATION:** Cancer Care Nepal  
**TITLE:** A Cervical Cancer Prevention Training Program for Nepal  
**LOCATION:** Nepal

Cervical cancer is the most common cancer among women in Nepal. This project will implement a new program to train nurses and doctors on the necessary screening tests to identify precancerous cervical lesions and treatment procedures to prevent progression to cancer.

**ORGANIZATION:** Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu  
**TITLE:** Preventing Cervical Cancer Through Low-Cost HPV Testing Approaches in Low-Resource Settings of India  
**LOCATION:** India

Access to cervical cancer screening in India is not widespread. This project will work with community partners to assess the feasibility of using low-cost HPV self-testing as a screening method in three diverse settings (rural poor, urban slums and tribal villages).

"The outputs of our research will contribute to the wider knowledge base informing policy decisions in India on how best to provide national scale up of cervical cancer services for women in poverty."

—Dr. Rita Isaac, MBBS, MD, MPH, Professor
Community Grants

To advance our bold goal of reducing cancer deaths by 40% by 2035, the Foundation provided $250,000 this year in support of 10 projects dedicated to increasing cancer prevention and early detection in medically underserved communities across the U.S. The projects were selected through a highly competitive grants process, and each program received a one-year, $25,000 grant.

Some projects are offering screening for the first time, while others are focused on getting people’s screenings “back on the books,” because of so many postponed or cancelled appointments due to the pandemic. These projects will have a direct and positive impact on communities across the U.S., from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Bangor, Maine.

**Eastern Maine Medical Center (EMMC) • Bangor, Maine**
In partnership with the Bangor Region YMCA Caring Connections program, which supports free mammograms for qualifying patients, EMMC will implement process improvements to increase access to screening for patients who have missed or cancelled mammograms due to COVID-19. The project will focus on vulnerable rural and LGBTQ+ communities.

**Equal Hope • Chicago, Ill.**
The *Returning to Normal—a Catch-up Cancer Screening Program* will expand Equal Hope’s current breast and cervical cancer program, urging 60,000 people to schedule cancer screenings that may have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19, and navigating 1,000 medically underserved women directly to screening.

**Erie Family Health Center, Inc. • Chicago, Ill.**
The *Breast Cancer Continuum of Care Program* at Erie Family Health Centers aims to address the language, cultural, financial and logistical barriers Latinas may face when accessing screening on Chicago’s West Side. The project will deliver robust outreach and education and refer more than 2,000 women for mammograms.

**Long Island Jewish Medical Center • New Hyde Park, N.Y.**
The *Cancer Community Connection Program* will increase access to breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening for 2,000 medically underserved individuals in New York. The program will also provide 200 people with comprehensive patient navigation that will identify and eliminate logistical, financial, linguistic, psychosocial and other barriers that can challenge access to enhanced screening services.

**Syracuse University • Syracuse, N.Y.**
*Empowering Black Pastors to Amplify Colorectal Cancer Prevention Messages to Underserved Communities* is a culturally sensitive, faith-based health education intervention. This project will reach 5,000 high-risk African Americans with colorectal cancer education on risk factors and the importance of prevention and early detection.

**The Hmong Institute, Inc. c/o Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health • Milwaukee, Wis.**
The Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health (MCHH) will provide outreach and education to increase screening rates in medically underserved Southeast Asian refugee communities in Milwaukee. The *Saving Lives Through Cancer Education During the Pandemic* project will reach 400 men and women through strong community partnerships.
Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation (VACF) • Fountain Valley, Calif.
In the Vietnamese American community, cancer is a leading cause of death. VACF’s Cancer Education and Patient Navigation Program will provide 600 Vietnamese Americans with cancer prevention education and will navigate 250 community members to health care, including cancer screenings.

West Virginia University (WVU) • Morgantown, W.Va.
The WVU Cancer Institute’s Mobile Lung Cancer Screening Unit (LUCAS) will partner with approximately 150 community clinics around West Virginia to provide lung cancer screening to 600 patients. Through the use of the mobile unit, the LUCAS Program will remove financial and structural barriers to screening that exist in rural West Virginia.

Western Carolina Medical Society Foundation • Asheville, N.C.
The Western North Carolina Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative is the only program in its region providing colorectal cancer screening to uninsured individuals. This project will provide stool-based fecal immunochemical test (FIT) screening kits to test for colorectal cancer in 500 uninsured patients.

Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative Foundation • Cheyenne, Wyo.
This project will allow Wyoming women to receive a mammogram without undue financial burden while still using health care providers in their local community. Through strategically developed partnerships, the Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative will provide 40 mammograms to medically underserved women in rural areas.

2020 grantee update

**ORGANIZATION:** VAX 2 STOP CANCER

**PROJECT TITLE:** Preventing HPV-associated cancers through effective provider education

“This grant could not have been more timely, not only because of Alabama’s high HPV-associated cancer rates but also because of the 1 million doses of the HPV vaccine in the U.S. that have been missed by adolescents with insurance because of COVID.”

— Barbara Schuler, VAX 2 STOP CANCER, Executive Director (2020 grantee)

**OUTCOMES:**
- VAX 2 STOP CANCER trained 35 health care workers from 11 different pediatric and family practices in a five-county area in central Alabama.
- The project resulted in an average increase of 12% for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates among those practices.
- Among the trained health care providers, 83% reported an increase in knowledge and self-efficacy for providing a strong and effective recommendation for the HPV vaccine.

In 2020, nearly 2,000 individuals were educated on cancer prevention and nearly 1,000 individuals were screened for cancer.
Think About the Link is a prevention education campaign to increase public awareness of the connection between certain viruses—HPV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C—and cancer.

The campaign focuses on reaching at-risk populations through a variety of tactics, including celebrity spokespeople, health fairs, digital advertising, advocacy efforts and trusted community and culturally sensitive partnerships to meet people where they are most comfortable.

This year, we partnered with the National Harm Reduction Coalition to reduce hepatitis C diagnoses related to the opioid crisis. We are awarding 20 micro-grants to help harm reduction sites begin or scale up syringe service programs and hepatitis C testing, with the goal of reducing risk and increasing diagnoses of hepatitis C—to ultimately prevent liver cancer. These 2020 grants include harm reduction sites in Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.

Together with these new harm reduction sites we will be creating new education materials on the importance of hepatitis C testing and the link between untreated hepatitis C and liver cancer.
Think you’re too young for this sh*t? Think again. Colorectal cancer is on the rise in younger adults.

The Prevent Cancer Foundation is educating people ages 30-49 that colorectal cancer is not just an “old person’s disease.” Adults under 50 need to be aware of signs and symptoms so they can advocate for their health.

In 1999, the Prevent Cancer Foundation led the charge to have March declared Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. In March 2021, the Foundation launched a dedicated digital effort through the top 100 websites targeting adults ages 30-49. The results are impressive:

- Nearly 3 million impressions
- 22,000 direct clicks to the Too Young for This Sh*t educational web page

The Prevent Cancer Foundation was also an instrumental voice in the efforts to lower the colorectal cancer screening age from 50 to 45.

At the end of 2020, 20 members of Congress joined with Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) and Rodney Davis (R-Ill.) in a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services in support of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) lowering the recommended screening age for colorectal cancer to age 45. Reps. Raskin and Davis used the Foundation’s Gut Check report to emphasize the problem of young-onset colorectal cancer and applaud the new draft guidelines from the USPSTF to begin screening at age 45. These guidelines were finalized in spring of 2021, a move that was celebrated by the Foundation and cancer prevention and early detection advocates everywhere.
Since 1993, the Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program’s Action for Cancer Awareness Awards luncheon has honored congressional spouses, journalists and other advocates for using their respective platforms to educate the public on cancer prevention and early detection. On September 24, 2020, the Congressional Families Program held a virtual awards ceremony streamed live on Facebook and YouTube. Congressional Families Executive Director Lisa McGovern was proud to enable the presentation of the following awards:

**CONGRESSIONAL FAMILIES LEADERSHIP AWARD:**

Terry Loebsack, spouse to then-Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-Iowa). Ms. Loebsack, a three-time skin cancer survivor, is a longtime member of the Congressional Families Program and its Advisory Committee.

**EXCELLENCE IN CANCER AWARENESS AWARD:**

Dr. Ken Jeong, actor/producer/comedian and former practicing physician. Jeong has used his comedy to raise awareness about breast cancer screening following his wife’s diagnosis. (She has now been cancer-free for 12 years.)

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN JOURNALISM AWARD:**

Craig Melvin, “TODAY” Show co-host. Following his brother’s colorectal cancer diagnosis, Melvin began to use his platform to raise awareness about the rise of young-onset colorectal cancer, encourage family conversations and highlight the importance of screening.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD:**

Games Done Quick (GDQ), an organization using a novel platform—video games—to raise significant funds for its charitable beneficiaries. GDQ hosts video game marathons and has raised more than $25 million primarily for two organizations, the Prevent Cancer Foundation and Doctors Without Borders. Through its support of the Foundation, it has brought the message of cancer prevention to a younger, global audience.

The virtual program featured welcome remarks and words of support for the honorees from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy.

The Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program works year-round to equip members and spouses—through educational seminars and webinars, events, and op-eds and social media posts—to bring the message of cancer prevention and early detection back to their communities and constituents. 2021 events included webinars on skin cancer prevention and early detection and breast cancer screening guidelines and disparities.
In January, hundreds of thousands of gamers from around the world (yes, hundreds of thousands!) gathered online to participate in Awesome Games Done Quick (AGDQ) 2021 and raise money for the Prevent Cancer Foundation. The annual weeklong, 24-hour-a-day event is a speedrunning marathon, featuring gamers who compete to complete video games as fast as possible. Fans show their support during the livestream by making donations and sharing how cancer has impacted their lives. Despite being completely virtual this year, the event raised more than $2.76 million from about 42,000 individual donations.

These funds will support national and global grants for cancer prevention and early detection. Throughout the event, several Prevent Cancer Foundation grant recipients spoke with gamers about their global work made possible by past AGDQ marathons. Games Done Quick has grown from a $10,000 fundraiser—held in a basement in 2010—to a twice-annual event that typically draws thousands of in-person participants and hundreds of thousands more online to raise millions for selected charities.

With support from passionate gamers, we are well on our way to a world where no one dies of cancer.

“Cancer took my grandparents, but couldn’t take my mom. Seeing others who love games as much as I do harness that passion to improve the world is an amazing sight and gives me hope that we’ll be able to save so many more from cancer.”

— @GamingBricaBrac, submitted on Twitter
The 2021 Prevent Cancer Dialogue was held virtually as a series of three webcasts on April 7 (Innovations in cancer prevention), May 5 (Innovations in early detection of cancer) and June 2 (Progress and challenges in cancer screening).

Dr. Garth Graham, Director and Global Head, Healthcare and Public Health at Google and Head of YouTube Health kicked off the webcasts with his keynote address, “The Digital Revolution in Public Health and Healthcare.” Dr. Graham focused on Google and YouTube’s innovations to improve health disparities. His presentation was followed by a discussion with Molly McCarthy, National Director, U.S. Health Providers & Health Plans for Microsoft, about the role of technology in innovations in public health.

“Thank you for providing perspective on different populations. The facts and figures and findings presented were very eye-opening.”

– 2021 Virtual Dialogue Attendee

The 2021 Cancer Prevention Laurels Awards: The 2021 awards were presented virtually to recognize extraordinary work in cancer prevention or early detection, especially in times of COVID-19:

- Cancer Prevention Laurel for National Leadership: David Ahlquist, M.D., Mayo Clinic (posthumous award)
- Cancer Prevention Laurel for Dedication to Community Service: Ify Anne Nwabukwu, African Women’s Cancer Awareness Association
- Cancer Prevention Laurel for Increasing Health Equity through Innovation: Tsu-Yin Wu, Ph.D., MSN, Eastern Michigan University

The 2021 Dialogue had more than 1,200 individuals registered from:

- 49 states
- several American Indian/Alaska Native groups
- District of Columbia
- Guam
- Puerto Rico
- 18 other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, South Asia and Europe.
Quantitative Imaging Workshop XVIII:

Optimizing Thoracic Imaging to Detect and Manage Early Lung Cancer/COPD

The 18th Quantitative Imaging Workshop, held virtually November 4-5, 2021, explored the intersection of quality thoracic imaging and the possible early detection and subsequent clinical intervention of early lung cancer/COPD. In partnership with the American Lung Association, the Foundation brought together thought leaders from across disciplines involved in the global implementation of thoracic CT screening to exchange ideas on exciting new biomedical opportunities that this transformational technology enables, as well as information on the quality, equity and consistency of policy and advocacy for responsible lung cancer, COPD and cardiovascular screening.

Key Issues

Attendees discussed ways to increase the benefit of thoracic CT imaging of individuals with a history of extended tobacco product use—from population health strategies to the inherent challenges in obtaining equitable, quality data. Participants also explored how pre-symptomatic detection of major chronic conditions by low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) may allow more robust support of preventive practices and result in impactful clinical interventions.

James L. Mulshine, M.D., National Leadership Award

Mary Pasquinelli, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, received this award in recognition of her leadership of the lung cancer screening program at University of Illinois Hospital’s federally qualified health center on Chicago’s West Side. The award underscored her dedication to delivering screening services to vulnerable populations around the world, while continuing research to enable greater benefit from screening.

Results

Stay tuned for two combined COPD and lung cancer screening protocol guidance documents – one focusing on possible clinical interventions and one on quality image acquisition for COPD and lung cancer.
Though our 2020 Virtual Gala was one for the record books, the Prevent Cancer Foundation was thrilled to welcome guests back in person at the National Building Museum on December 1, 2021, for the Prevent Cancer Annual Gala.

**HONORED**

The 2021 Gala honored His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Soo Hyuck Lee and Mrs. Hye Kyung Hwang

**PERFORMED**

- Rayshun LaMarr, cancer survivor, season 4 semi-finalist, The Voice
- Ali Rogin, cancer “previvor,” producer, PBS
- Sister Hazel, rock band
- Washington Samulnori, traditional Korean percussion group
SUPPORTED

Our sincerest thanks to Gala Co-chairs Nickie Currie, Ted Okon and Susanna Quinn and Dinner Committee Co-chairs Kathryn Kennedy and Lori Reilly for their hard work to make this event possible.

RAISED

The Prevent Cancer Annual Gala shattered the initial $1.6 million goal. At press time, the event had raised $1.8 million and counting.

AWARDED

The Foundation recognized Senator Tim Scott and Representative Debbie Dingell with the 2021 Cancer Champion awards.

INSPIRED

Actor, singer and song writer Rayshun LaMarr shared his moving story during the Lighting the Way to Prevention pledge drive. In 2012, he was diagnosed with lymphoma, and battled through two years of extreme medication and chemotherapy. The battle against cancer affected his hearing and voice to the point of temporary loss. Fortunately, Rayshun beat his cancer and regained his beautiful voice—and shared his talents with us at the Gala.

DESIGNED

The stunning décor, a tribute to the Republic of Korea, was designed by board member and weddings and celebrations expert David Tutera. This year marked David’s 20th Anniversary of designing a breathtakingly beautiful event for the Foundation.
Jeremy Hardy FitzGerald

“My father died of cancer when I was 10 years old, so I have always been sympathetic of Bo’s [Carolyn Aldigé’s] founding of the Foundation [in memory of her father]. I happened to pick up the phone the night the doctor called to say my father had died. This was 1950. I remember him saying so clearly, ‘I wish there were more we could have done.’ And I think each step the Foundation takes, through education, research and community outreach, is helping do more.

As a cancer survivor myself and a member of the board of directors, it’s been one of the things I feel has been most important to me in my life. The Foundation has given me so much more than I have been able to give the Foundation, and I’m so grateful for the experience.

The most encouraging fact is that we hope to reduce cancer deaths by 40% by 2035, and stop cancer before it starts. Read the mission of the Foundation—it’s everything we should be doing to help prevent this disease, to have early detection, and to help those with the disease.”
Ravi “feardragon” Pareek

“I heard about the Prevent Cancer Foundation through Awesome Games Done Quick (AGDQ), and when I decided to raise money to combat cancer, it was the first organization I thought of.

The community that participated in our fundraiser is the esports community for a game called StarCraft 2. We’ve had members of our community who have battled or are still battling cancer. One of the most notable was the loss of our dear friend, John “TotalBiscuit” Bain.

I think this cause is very near and dear to a lot of us. Cancer treatment is an important area, but even better to me is early detection and prevention before it can take root to minimize the disruption and suffering.

I decided to put together the fundraiser for my 10-year anniversary of getting started in this space. [The work of the Prevent Cancer Foundation] really does mean the world to me and the rest of the StarCraft 2 community.”
“June 19th is my least favorite day of the year. This year, June 19, 2020, marks five years since my mom passed. [In] previous years, I spiral into being an anxious and depressed mess, stuck in a loop reliving the day she died. This year has been different. This year I’m doing something positive with my grief… I’ve put together a charity compilation on my label of cover songs that benefit the Prevent Cancer Foundation, Songs for Moms vol. 1.”

Chris’ story is one we hear all too often. For those impacted by cancer, whether it is your own diagnosis or that of a loved one, the date of diagnosis or loss can feel hard to face. Taking back your day with a new positive memory can be a great way to channel those difficult feelings and associations. Putting together a fundraiser to benefit the Prevent Cancer Foundation is a meaningful way to commemorate that date and turn one of your hardest days into a way to help others so they never have to go through what you did.

“I hope this can be the start of something big and I’m already looking forward to Volume 2 next year!” Chris said.

**If you are ready to host your own fundraiser, you can get started in just two easy steps:**

1. Go to [www.youcanpreventcancer.org](http://www.youcanpreventcancer.org) to create your personal fundraising page.
2. Share that page with family and friends!

Fundraisers like Chris’ charity compilation are critical to helping the Foundation continue its work to *Stop Cancer Before It Starts!*® Thank you for “taking back the day” with the Prevent Cancer Foundation.
Since its launch in 2008, the Breast Health Education for Young Women Facilitator’s Guide has been downloaded or shared in 61 countries, as well as in all 50 states, 5 U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

Both the English- and Spanish-language guides were updated in 2021 and are designed for interactive group sessions on breast health and breast cancer.

In the last six months, 75 people from the U.S., Ghana, Greece, India, Nigeria, Qatar and South Africa downloaded the facilitator’s guide. Out of the surveyed group (N=66), 67% intended to use it to educate a group or a community on breast health, 50% were planning to share with colleagues, 32% wanted to use it as a reference for themselves and 30% wanted to share it with friends and family.

It seems like everyone and their mother is on social media—but perhaps not the same social media.

The Foundation has long had a presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram, but as the social landscape changes, we recognize a need to evolve and reach a broader audience through more platforms.

Now, you can also find us on TikTok and Discord—so wherever you are hanging out online, you can follow the Foundation and engage with us as we share the latest news in cancer prevention and early detection, updates on how your donation dollars are being spent and stories that remind us why we are working toward a world where no one dies of cancer.

Follow us and join the conversation!
The preventGEN committee provides the perspective of younger generations on cancer prevention and early detection. Committee members collaborate with Foundation staff on ideas for campaigns, programs, concepts and content. Their feedback is instrumental in helping the Foundation extend its mission of saving lives across all populations through cancer prevention and early detection.

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The Prevent Cancer Foundation imagines a world where no one dies of cancer. We remain steadfast in our pursuit of cancer prevention and early detection to save lives across all populations.

We believe we can reduce cancer deaths by 40% by our 50th anniversary in 2035 by investing:

- $20 million in innovative research and technologies to detect cancer early and advance multi-cancer screening.
- $10 million to expand cancer screening and vaccination access to medically underserved communities, bringing hope to those who lack access due to financial, logistical and cultural obstacles.
- $10 million to educate the public about cancer screening and vaccination options—ensuring everyone, everywhere understands the importance of these opportunities to lead long, healthy lives.
Your support will help us save lives through cancer prevention and early detection research, education, outreach and advocacy—including through campaigns such as “Back on the Books,” which urges everyone to reschedule cancer screenings and other routine health care appointments that were postponed due to the pandemic.

Each year, nearly 1.8 million Americans receive a cancer diagnosis. Together, we can reduce that number.

THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, WE CAN CREATE A WORLD WHERE NO ONE DIES OF CANCER.

Help us reduce cancer deaths and support the Foundation today.

- Give monthly: Reliable funding provides consistent support to our researchers, community grantees and more.
- Make a donation: Every dollar or share of stock you give is an investment in our vision and mission.
- Celebrate a loved one: Pay tribute in honor or in memory of someone dear to you by helping others.
- Plan a gift: Include the Foundation in your will, trust or estate plans to support our work for generations to come.
- Double your donation: Ask your employer if they match charitable contributions.
- Sponsor an event: Host your own event (golf tournament, video game marathon, silent auction, casino night) with friends to raise money.
The mission of the Prevent Cancer Foundation is saving lives across all populations through cancer prevention and early detection.