

Cancer Connect Collaborative

Virtual Meeting

1:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Opening

Robert Brooks, PhD, opened the meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 1 p.m. ET. Dr. Brooks, the Cancer Connect Collaborative (Collaborative), Coordinator, thanked the members and participants for attending and called the roll. A list of attendees is included below.

Collaborative Members

- Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General, Chair
- Jason Weida, JD, Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
- Scot Ackerman, MD, Medical Director, Ackerman Cancer Center
- Nicholas Panetta, MD, FACS, Associate Professor, Department of Plastic Surgery at the University of South Florida and the Department of Breast Oncology at the Moffitt Cancer Center
- Debbie Mayfield, Florida Representative of District 32 (not present)

Others

Robert Brooks, PhD, Collaborative Coordinator, Florida Department of Health

Summary

Following the meeting opening, Dr. Brooks turned the meeting over to Dr. Ladapo, the designated chair. Dr. Ladapo greeted the participants, requested members introduce themselves, and requested thoughts regarding the future of cancer treatment, care, and research in Florida be shared.

Following brief introductions, several members shared their perspectives. Positive comments were made regarding the following:

- The hard work of Dr. Brooks and his team.
- Collaboration with Dr. Ladapo.
- Excitement for the path going forward to make Florida a leader nationally and internationally in cancer research, treatment, and care.
- The fresh vision for the future, the benefit of increased cancer funding, and the importance of bringing in smaller facilities, private industry, and academic partners.
- The draft long-range plan.

Dr. Brooks provided an overview of the meeting agenda and the statutory charge for the long-range plan. Additional feedback and comments on the draft long-range plan were requested from members. Members expressed broad support for the long-range plan and moving funding beyond the status quo, including looking for novel therapeutics and other innovations. Members expressed support for the idea of funding for pediatrics, rural and underserved areas, and targeting client access. Members expressed these changes would transform cancer treatment in Florida.

Dr. Brooks turned the meeting back to Dr. Ladapo for public comment.

Public Comment

Mark Delegal, Executive Director for the Florida Academic Cancer Alliance, explained his role and responsibilities and noted not having an opportunity to see or review the draft document but looks forward to seeing it.

Eduardo Sotomayor, Director of the Cancer Institute at Tampa General, commended and congratulated the state of Florida for providing an opportunity to additional cancer centers. He agreed with comments from members.

Brian Springer, Vice Present, Research Administration, Moffit Cancer Center, echoed Mark Delegal's comments and discussed the importance of expanding developmental science to benefit patients in the state.

Representative Marti Coley spoke about how proud she is of the state of Florida and spoke of the program named for her husband many years ago. She emphasized the importance of peer review in these funding decisions.

Closing

Dr. Ladapo and Dr. Brooks thanked the participants and Dr. Ladapo reiterated requested information, or materials would be provided soon.

Online Guests*

Lazara Pagan	Brian Springer	Crystal Stickler
Cameron Ross	Bobbie McKee	Roxana Dronca
Eduardo Sotomayor	Cortney Young	George Thomas
Savannah Zonka	Kim McGlynn	Anna Grace Lewis
DeMeara Davis	Casey Palmer	Cindy Kynock
Stephen Grow	Allison Ivey	Marnie George
Mark Delegal	Danielle Beehler	Christina Sampler
Lauren Whitmore	Lauren Cassidy	Nathan Dunn
Danielle Tometich	Layne Smith	Aleskia Fernandez
Lindsay Corrales	Josh A	Marti Coley
Pamela Sirota	Usha Meron	Donald Mullin
Lowell Smith	Jennifer Kue	Matthew Anderson
Richard Tuli	Jamie Wilson	

*Some online guests were identified only by their phone numbers, initials, etc.; therefore, not reflected above.