

Lurie Cancer Center COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT UPDATES



Women's Health Policy Summit

The Center for Health Equity and Transformation, in collaboration with Northwestern University Government Relations and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, hosted a Women's Health Policy Summit at the McGraw Medical Center of Northwestern University. The event, facilitated by Dr. Melissa Simon, with keynote speaker Congresswoman Robin Kelly, hosted state and federal lawmakers for a women's health discussion focusing on issues related to gynecological cancers and maternal and reproductive health.

ASCO Attendees Tour Bronzeville

The Lurie Cancer Center welcomed attendees of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting, along with community leaders and stakeholders, to discover how their contributions are making a meaningful impact in the Bronzeville neighborhood. The event highlighted the Chicago Cancer Initiative, which aims to alleviate the burden of cancer in Chicago's most vulnerable communities. Participants enjoyed a tour of Bronzeville, led by urban historian Shermann "Dilla" Thomas, and a networking event at Bronzeville Winery.



Upcoming Events

BRONZEVILLE NIGHTS

August 10 & September 6, 2024
(5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
Timothy Center
[For more information](#)

THE CHRIS-TIA DONALDSON BREAST CANCER EQUITY SYMPOSIUM

October 17, 2024
(12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
Webinar
[For more information](#)

LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH EVENT

November 5, 2024
(10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research
Center
[For more information](#)

MOVEMBER

November 16, 2024
(10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
Near North Health
[For more information](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

EXPO FOR TODAY'S BLACK WOMAN

August 2, 2024
(1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
McCormick Place
[For more information](#)

8TH ANNUAL RUN FROM PROSTATE CANCER

August 14 & September 1, 2024
Southside YMCA
[For more information](#)





Everybody Say Love: Pride Month Celebration

Gilda's Club Chicago, in collaboration with the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, hosted a vibrant social night for the LGBTQIA+ community at their Wells Street Clubhouse.

The evening featured a panel of esteemed speakers, including Rev. Shawna Bowman, Adan Quanes, and Walter Watson Swift, who discussed intimacy, relationships, and community health. The event began with a yoga session, "Yoga for Queer Bodies," and concluded with a writer's workshop led by Ameranthe Zinzani.

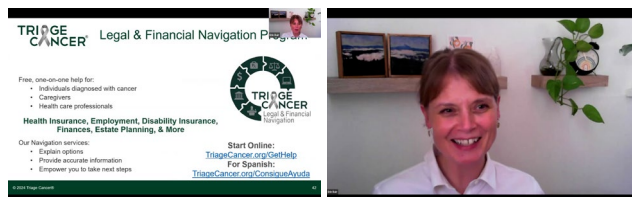


Rainbow Pride with Richard M. Daley Library

Lurie Cancer Center and the Richard M. Daley Library collaborated to honor and support the LGBTQIA+ community with a day of activities raising awareness of health determinants affecting this community. Dr. Lauren Beach spoke on advancing health equity through research and community engagement with sexual and gender minority populations and people with HIV. Near North Health provided health screenings, Project Vida offered STI testing, and educational materials were offered covering sexual safety, early detection, and cancer prevention.

Finances and Health

Triage Cancer and the Lurie Cancer Center jointly hosted an event aimed to provide crucial knowledge and practical advice to help individuals navigate the complex intersection of health, personal finance, and medical insurance. Sessions were recorded and can be viewed at https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJYcr5PhvvTsQ1PZ_i2htDEo00Un0EJr8



Session 1:

Choosing Health Insurance That's Right for You

This session covered insurance options, laws regarding pre-existing conditions, consumer protections, how to choose a suitable insurance plan, and how to obtain financial assistance to pay for health insurance.

Session 2:

Balancing Work and Cancer

This session shared details of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reasonable accommodations, taking time off, and options for replacing lost income.

Session 3:

Managing Your Finances with Cancer

This session provided practical tips for organizing finances, including gathering tax documents, finding help with everyday tasks, managing household chores, and handling bills and paperwork. The speaker also covered documents necessary to create an estate plan, considerations for creating a plan, and options to protect medical decision-making rights.





Two Teams, One Cause at the Southside YMCA

The Blue Hat Foundation and Run from Prostate Cancer joined forces to host a Final Four Men’s Basketball Tournament event in the Woodlawn neighborhood. The event aimed to raise awareness in the community about colorectal and prostate cancer, emphasizing the importance of early detection in improving health outcomes. Representatives from Near North Health generously provided health screenings for any interested attendees.



Lab Social

Dr. Dario Roque, Assistant Professor of Gynecologic Oncology at Northwestern Medicine, was the featured speaker at this year’s first Lab Social event. Dr. Roque delivered an engaging presentation that gave community members the opportunity to view footage of a robotic surgery. Attendees were also invited to control the robot under the guidance of Dr. Roque. This unique, interactive experience undoubtedly enhanced the audience’s understanding of the role of cutting-edge technology in gynecologic cancer treatment at Lurie Cancer Center.

Southland Family Wellness Expo

Lurie Cancer Center, UI Health, and UChicago hosted a collaborative event at UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial Hospital to connect community members with cancer resources. The event offered cancer screenings, resources, and family-friendly activities in the Southern Cook County, which has increasingly high incidence rates for almost all cancers.



Connecting with Old Irving Park

The Lurie Cancer Center hosted an event at the Old Irving Park YMCA to initiate a relationship with community members and establish itself as a resource for important cancer education information. Representatives from the cancer center provided documentation on cancer screening recommendations and surveyed residents to guide future educational programming. The cancer center looks forward to building a strong partnership and hopes to improve cancer outcomes through education in the Old Irving Park community.



Lurie Cancer Center Supports Girl Scout's Gold Award Project

The Lurie Cancer Center answered the call to help Girl Scout Rachel, who is working to support cancer patients after being inspired by a family member's experience. For her Gold Award project, Rachel assembled drawstring bags filled with items that she felt would be helpful for patients undergoing chemotherapy. The bags were delivered to the Lurie Cancer Center's Supportive Oncology department and distributed to patients receiving treatment in the clinic.

Fitness and Facts with Dr. Robinson

Dr. Patricia Robinson, Associate Director, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, was the featured speaker at June's Fitness and Facts, held at the Timothy Center in Bronzeville. Dr. Robinson presented on the connection between cancer and diabetes and other metabolic disorders, and provided helpful information on the prevention of metabolic disorders and cancer risk reduction. The next Fitness and Facts will be held in October.



Fitness and Facts with Dr. Murphy

Dr. Adam Murphy, Professor of Health Equity Research in Urology, presented information on prostate cancer to community members at the Timothy Center, located in the heart of Bronzeville on Chicago's South Side. His presentation was part of the Fitness and Facts program,

which aims to provide neighborhood participants with health education and an opportunity to attend a group fitness class. Dr. Murphy's presentation highlighted the importance of early detection and shared information on the latest treatment options. He went on to encourage participation in clinical trials to ensure that patients of all ethnicities and races are able to benefit from the resulting findings and treatments.

Juneteenth Celebration

The Center for Health Equity Transformation (CHET) celebrated Juneteenth with an event at Parkway Social Chicago in the Bronzeville neighborhood. The event honored African American culture and community and cancer survivors who have used art and creativity to be free from cancer. Featured guests included cancer survivor Delores King and DJ Stazi, who created a space of light, joy, and healing. Event hosts worked with Fortune House, a Black-owned art gallery in Bronzeville, to display artwork by adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. Guests received signed copies of *The Breast is Yet to Come: The Ultimate Testimony*, a book written by a Chicago-based collective of 12 women known as the Butterflies, who provide honest testimony about the struggles of living with cancer as well as their triumphs as survivors.



Lurie Cancer Center has a long-standing history of commitment to advocacy, education, outreach and engagement. Our community partnerships and programs aim to identify and address barriers to cancer health equity and improve outcomes in traditionally underserved neighborhoods. Working together with new and existing organizations in our communities, our efforts include:

- Expanding awareness and improving access to cancer services, treatment and clinical trials
- Providing up-to-date information and community-based screening programs to reduce cancer risk and increase early detection
- Identifying the social and economic challenges in underserved neighborhoods to guide our efforts
- Developing educational resources to improve health literacy and raise awareness about follow-up and survivorship care
- Advocating for public policy changes to ease the burden of cancer
- Supporting healthy lifestyle changes to reduce cancer risk

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