Who We Are—What We Are Doing—Where We Are Going

Thanks to generous financial support from our donors in fiscal year 2021, Cancer Commons was able to provide scientifically sound advice and treatment navigation to all patients who turned to us for help.

**We provide high touch services** including one-on-one education and compassionate nurse navigation to help patients understand and evaluate which treatment and testing options are right for them and to successfully navigate the complex and bureaucratic cancer care system.

**We surface the insights patients need** by performing individualized research and assessing treatment options beyond the standard of care, by convening roundtables with world class experts to investigate specific cases, and by equipping patients and caregivers with the information and data they need to make critical decisions.

**We help patients gain access** to promising treatments including off-label therapies, clinical trials, and expanded access programs.

**Our accomplishments this year include:**

- Serving **74.5% more new patients** than in the previous fiscal year—**in addition to continuing to work with several hundred returning patients**—and our new website saw a **166% increase** in visitors.

- Supporting enhanced patient care—our **Nurse Navigator and new Patient Support Specialist** coordinate care and collaborate with patients to acquire medical records (which are used to create a personalized plan), assess patients’ condition, expectations, and treatment goals.

- Expanding the Virtual Tumor Board (“VTB”) program to serve **pancreatic and brain cancer patients**. VTBs are networks of national experts including oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, and clinical scientists, organized by cancer type. They review individual patient cases and provide best-in-class, detailed treatment options for patients to share with their oncologists and medical teams.

- Increasing our **library of treatment options** for cancer patients, by cancer type, based on the latest clinical and scientific evidence and informing patients of advancements through social media and original content.
“Everyone who has cancer or who knows someone with cancer should reach out to Cancer Commons. There is no better resource.”

The Cancer Commons team is driven to help advanced cancer patients learn about the best possible options for care. Our navigators, cancer specialists, and scientists take the time to understand each patient’s priorities, goals, and needs. We treat patients with dignity and boundless compassion—and we provide truthful answers, even when those answers are difficult.

Here’s what some of our patients have to say:

“I learned more about my trial options from Emma in a week than I did in 3 years of previous care. Every metastatic patient should know about Cancer Commons. And I love how they use the data to speed up the N-of-1 success stories.”

“Young your and caring outreach, response, and approach were heartwarming during this difficult time. Recommendations and reports were professional and very insightful. I felt as if a caring family member was with us. I cannot stress enough how supportive that feeling is.”

“I always say that Emma was an angel that appeared in my life. Rapidly, I saw that her advice was professional and that her insights matched the latest publications, so I have developed very strong trust in her. Moreover, what I appreciate the most about Emma is her human goodness and empathy. I have never felt I was just a case for her. She is really dedicated to the patient.”

“My family is so grateful for the information and guidance we received from Cancer Commons during a particularly stressful time where a decision needed to be made quickly. We are particularly thankful for the help and assistance of Matthew, who understood our need for timely answers and went above and beyond to get us that information through the incredible help of the Virtual Tumor Board as quickly as possible.”

“Our team: Emma, Kaumudi, Matt, Lola, Deb, and Lauren

“Cancer Commons is able to lay out options and validate the research I was doing so that I was empowered to push back on my surgeons and my radiologist in an educated way. I think that was incredibly valuable. And I was at one of the best cancer centers in the country.”

“The personalized second opinion did wonders to reassure that I was on the right path to manage my disease. The process was transparent and remarkably easy. My personal thanks to Lola for the constant feedback and communication.”

“Never have I experienced such attention and a genuine feeling of care. We can’t forget about [Matt’s] kindness and follow through. None of our doctors have come close to the level of service Matt has shown us. I wish that everyone at the time of their diagnosis could have the opportunity to meet with you guys. Truly you all are life savers.”

“I’ve been blown away by the responsiveness, sensitivity, expertise, and professionalism of your team. I certainly was supportive of Cancer Commons before, but I really did not fully understand its value and certainly had not experienced the effectiveness and competence of the staff. And while I understood the idea and Cancer Commons’ potential, I did not truly appreciate its power until now.”
Financial Overview

Our commitment to efficiency and transparency earned Cancer Commons the highest charity ratings including the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency and a Charity Navigator Encompass Rating of 100.

### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE (FY21)
- Contributions: $1,733,265
- Special Event and Misc Revenue: $6,280
- **TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE**: $1,739,545

### EXPENSES
- Program Services: $1,352,332
- Management and General: $176,505
- Fundraising: $169,178
- **TOTAL EXPENSES**: $1,698,015

### Change in Net Assets
- $41,530

### Net Assets, Beginning of Year
- $709,392

### Net Assets, End of Year
- $750,922

### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE (FY20)
- Contributions: $2,103,518
- Special Event and Misc Revenue: $868
- **TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE**: $2,104,386

### EXPENSES
- Program Services: $1,531,588
- Management and General: $203,779
- Fundraising: $194,519
- **TOTAL EXPENSES**: $1,929,886

### Change in Net Assets
- $174,500

### Net Assets, Beginning of Year
- $534,892

### Net Assets, End of Year
- $709,392
Looking Forward to Fiscal Year 2022
The next year will be pivotal in the development of Cancer Commons.

High Tech Meets High Touch
Cancer Commons will continue to provide highly personalized guidance and support for all patients. We also anticipate serving significantly more patients by leveraging software that translates a patient’s medical records into a concise case summary, generating an initial set of treatment options for consideration by our scientists. We then track the patient’s progress in a registry to learn what works best and use what we learn to inform the treatment of future patients.

Always Learning
Assisting more patients will accelerate our search for better treatments and permanent cures. Learning from every patient, every case we research, every expert with whom we collaborate, and from outcomes data as it becomes available, will usher in a new approach to clinical research that is faster and less expensive than traditional clinical trials and much more responsive to patient needs. And as we scale, the learnings will multiply—and that’s when we can really move the needle on how cancer is researched, and, ultimately, treated.

Launching Learning Health Systems
We have a plan to rapidly learn the best ways to treat a specific cancer with currently available tests and therapies. We are creating Learning Health Systems to study small cohorts with similar disease. Starting with brain, pancreatic, ovarian, and colorectal cancers, we will capture data on treatments, outcomes, and quality of life in a registry and analyze it in real time to improve decision making by our scientists and virtual tumor boards. By tightly integrating clinical research and care, learning health systems can provide each patient with the best possible outcome and at the same time accelerate our understanding of cancer.

A More Sustainable Model
To date, all of our services have been underwritten by philanthropy and provided free of charge. In order to scale, we are exploring a variety of fee-based “enhanced services” for patients looking for ongoing assistance. That said, no patient will ever be denied service, so philanthropy remains crucial.

Please spread the word about our organization and support our work as generously as you can.