



**cancer**  
commons

**10**  
YEARS

ANNUAL REPORT FY2022

# A Decade of Service to Cancer Patients & Caregivers

[cancercommons.org](https://cancercommons.org)

# Looking Beyond our First Decade

*“I was completely lost looking at trials. I didn’t know what the terms meant or where to start looking. When I received the call from [our Scientist], he explained (much better than our oncologist) all of our choices and the order he would start looking at trials. It gave me so much insight.”*

—Amanda, wife of  
Glioblastoma patient

As we reflect upon the last year and the past decade, we first want to thank our generous donors for making it possible for Cancer Commons to serve and empower many thousands of advanced cancer patients and their loved ones.

Our team of nurse navigators and PhD scientists help people facing cancer cope with fear and anxiety, determine their priorities, and establish a sense of control. We research options such as additional testing, potential treatments, clinical trials, and Expanded Access. Our team presents these options in plain language so patients and caregivers can work with their oncologist to determine the most promising plan of action and feel confident they are making the best possible decisions.

**We remain committed to continuous learning and open knowledge sharing.** We assist our current patients, while learning from each one, so we can help others urgently seeking answers. We also publish educational articles to inform patients of the latest advancements in the field of precision oncology.

**In FY2022 we served more than a thousand patients and caregivers.** We enhanced our navigation services significantly, adding a dedicated patient navigator who provides assistance with registration, identifies patient needs including goals of treatment, and supports patients and caregivers in collecting medical records. Our personal outreach increased completed registrations from 55% to 85%.

Toward our goal of making Cancer Commons sustainable, we successfully piloted and established new fee-based programs to provide a continuum of care and services beyond those customarily provided at no charge.

**Cancer Commons Plus** is a subscription program that provides monthly outreach to patients and caregivers to assess progress, address questions and concerns, discuss developments with treatment, and help patients/caregivers plan ahead. **Clinical Trials Access Assistance** provides navigation, management of the trial/treatment options list, communication and coordination with trial site(s), and guidance throughout the application and decision process.

Thanks to a generous grant, we also launched a quarterly webinar series, the **Pat Looney Educational Series For Client Empowerment**. Topics included cutting edge treatment options for breast cancer, validating the caregiver experience, understanding biomarker testing, and next level tools for cancer case management.

**For FY2023, our focus is on making the extraordinary ordinary—providing greater community access to personalized care.** As we already deliver our services via web, phone, and email, we are well-positioned to reach populations that have suffered historical barriers to high-quality care.

We ask for your continued support to help us serve more patients with our current programs—and build new programs with the potential to reach thousands more patients each year. **As we begin a new decade, we renew our dedication to every courageous patient and caregiver who turns to us, and honor the commitment of our supporters and compassionate Cancer Commons team.**



**Marty Tenenbaum, PhD**  
Founder &  
Chairman of the Board



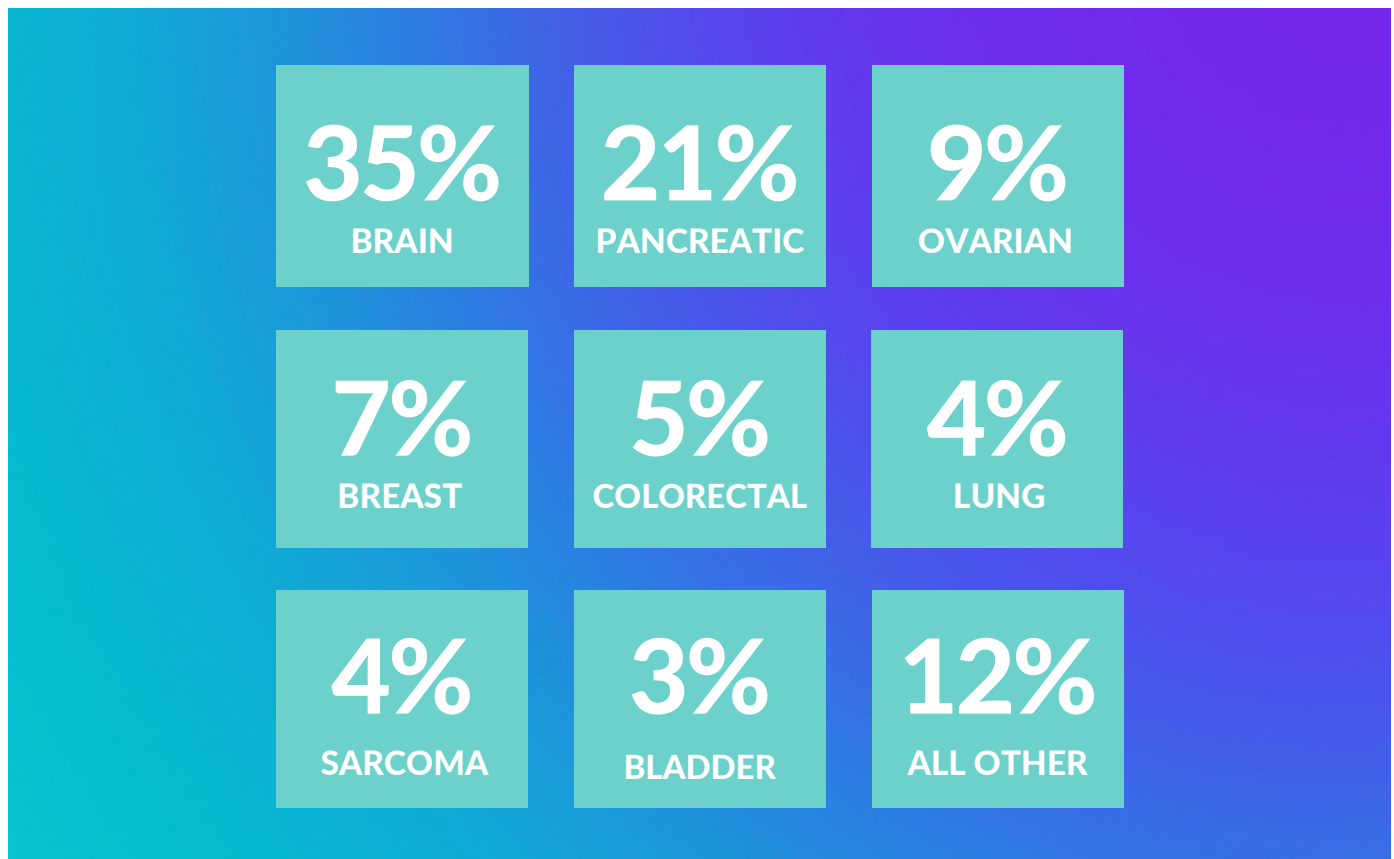
**Rebecca Driscoll**  
CEO



**Shelley Frisbie**  
CFO & COO

# Your Impact on Patients & Caregivers

In FY2022, Cancer Commons provided information and services to 1,068 registered patients and caregivers. Many of the patients who turn to us are facing advanced and difficult-to-treat cancers.



Cancer Commons **Virtual Tumor Boards (VTB)** are networks of national experts including oncologists, pathologists, 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 discuss with their oncologists and medical teams. Since the program began in mid-FY2021, we have convened VTBs for 119 brain cancer patients and 143 pancreatic cancer patients.

Our Virtual Tumor Board program has provided opportunities to collaborate with large advocacy organizations and serve greater numbers of patients.

# Vital Collaborations

**We are honored to share our latest collaboration with the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN).**

The purpose of the grant-funded project is for Cancer Commons to help pancreatic cancer patients referred by PanCAN achieve their best possible treatment outcomes.

Patients are provided with Virtual Tumor Board review and services and are enrolled in a longitudinal study assessing individualized therapies.

The collaboration is intended to contribute to improved outcomes for both current and future patients. At the conclusion of the grant period, Cancer Commons and PanCAN may collaborate on analysis of the data and learnings for potential co-publishing.



**We are also very pleased to share the launch of a new, collaborative study with the Musella Foundation For Brain Tumor Research & Information.** This project seeks to improve outcomes for glioblastoma (GBM) patients and identify promising therapies for development.

The study uses genomic sequencing and other biomarker testing to identify individualized treatment regimens and capture and analyze clinical outcomes to inform treatment for future patients.

Cancer Commons provides eligible patients with case review by a panel of neuro-oncology experts from across the country, assists with determining and beginning the next line of treatment, and follows up at regular intervals to provide additional assistance.

# Advocacy-to-Advocacy Outreach

We are excited to share our new strategies to bring access and education to patients receiving treatment in community health systems—greater than 80% of all US cancer patients.

For many cancers, clinical trials offer the best—and sometimes only—treatment options, but tragically, patient participation in clinical trials is less than 4%.

Additionally, while there are close to 100 cancer therapies linked to identifiable biological markers, 60% of patients who could benefit do not receive necessary testing. And of those who are tested, as many as 40% with actionable genetic mutations never receive the relevant therapies.

- **Support**  
Oncology Nurse Navigators, PhD Scientists, Key Opinion Leaders (KOL) provide navigation and case review
- **Outreach**  
Expand reach to urban, rural, and other underserved populations through community advocacy groups
- **Education**  
Implement metric-driven educational programs on biomarker testing, treatments, and clinical trials
- **Longer-Term Follow Up**  
Conduct conversational assessments and gather Patient Reported Outcomes through patient/caregiver consent

**Cancer Commons is one of only a handful organizations working to help community-based patients benefit from leading edge science.** We work in partnership with community-based advocacy organizations to provide assistance to advanced and metastatic patients in need of Cancer Commons' scientific expertise.



Our new collaboration with **Michelle's Place Cancer Resource Center** in Temecula, California, allows us to connect with local patients, and serves as a model for future partnerships with community-based advocacy groups.

Michelle's Place, which sees 80-100 patients per month, can now refer advanced and metastatic patients to Cancer Commons to receive high-touch navigation—and testing and treatment options that take into consideration the latest evidence-based scientific advancements.

Patients and caregivers continue to receive support in their community, with the added benefit of all that Cancer Commons provides.

**This partnership is part of Cancer Commons' commitment to equitable access and to helping more patients identify their best possible treatment options. We welcome inquiries from other community-based advocacy organizations to discuss potential collaboration.**

# Financial Overview

Our commitment to efficiency and transparency has earned Cancer Commons the highest charity ratings, including the **Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency** and a **4-Star, 100% rating** from Charity Navigator.

## CANCER COMMONS

### Statement of Financial Activities

*Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022*

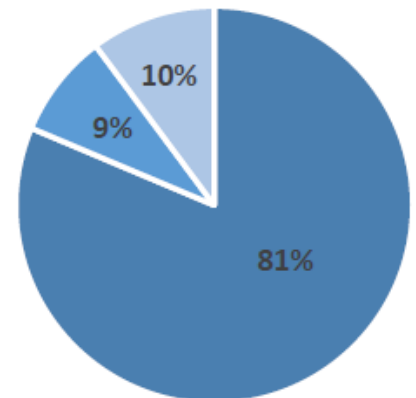
#### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$1,629,304
Government Grants	100,274
Special Event and Misc Revenue	26,055
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,755,633</b>

#### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,412,381
Management and General	146,975
Fundraising	177,099
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,736,455</b>

Change in Net Assets	<b>\$19,178</b>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<b>\$750,922</b>
Net Assets, End of Year	<b>\$770,100</b>



- Program Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising



## Our Leadership Team



**Marty Tenenbaum, PhD**  
 Founder &  
 Chairman of the Board



**Rebecca Driscoll**  
 CEO



**Shelley Frisbie**  
 CFO & COO

## Our Board of Directors



**Paul Billings, MD, PhD**  
 Vice Chair of the Board, Cancer Commons  
 CEO & Director, Biological Dynamics Inc.



**Laurence J. Marton, MD**  
 Trustee Emeritus, American Association  
 for Cancer Research Foundation &  
 Executive Chair, Omnix



**Vern Norviel, JD**  
 Partner | Patents & Innovations  
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**David D. Daly, MA**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Cellworks



**Gladys H. Monroy, PhD, JD**  
 Member of the Board of Trustees  
 American Association for  
 Cancer Research Foundation



**Edgar D. Staren, MD, PhD, MBA**  
 Clinical Professor, University of Arizona  
 College of Medicine (Phoenix) &  
 President, TransMed7, LLC

## Our Patient Services & Science Team



**Emma Shtivelman, PhD**  
 Chief Scientist



**Kaumudi Bhawe, PhD**  
 Scientist



**Adrienne Nugent, PhD**  
 Scientist



**Deb Christensen,**  
 MSN, APRN, AOCNS, OCN  
 Director of Patient Services



**Lauren Levine, MA**  
 Patient Navigation Specialist



**George Lundberg, MD**  
 Editor in Chief

**Thank you for your  
sustaining support.**



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**[www.cancercommons.org/donate](http://www.cancercommons.org/donate)**