



# 2021 Annual Report

Kevin Cullen, MD, Chair

## **Overview and 2021 Council Activities**

### **History**

The Maryland State Council on Cancer Control (the Council) is a 25-member body appointed by the Governor. Members represent State agencies involved in cancer screening, prevention, and treatment services, as well as the general public, major academic medical institutions in Maryland's cancer community, national organizations, the business community, and health and scientific disciplines concerned with cancer control. In addition, several members of the Council are cancer survivors, one is a member of the Maryland State Senate, and one is a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. The Council was established by Executive Order 01.01.1991.22 on June 26, 1991. The mission of the Council was reaffirmed with updated Executive Orders in 1997 (01.01.1997.07), 2002 (01.01.2002.25), and 2016 (01.01.2016.12).

### **Council Mission**

The Council advises the Governor, other government officials, public and private organizations, and the general public on existing and potential policies, programs, and innovations to reduce and control cancer incidence and mortality among Marylanders, as described in the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. In cooperation with federal, State, and local governments, private organizations and academia, the Council is also charged with promoting and coordinating unified programs that identify and address the cancer care needs of Marylanders. Programs include public and private partnerships to improve access to prevention, screening, and treatment services. Additionally, the scope of the Council includes promoting and guiding the use of the Maryland Cancer Registry as a tool for research, planning, evaluation, and targeting of cancer control programs, as well as furthering the development of the Maryland Cancer Registry through the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee. Finally, the Council is charged with reviewing existing and planned cancer programs in the public and private sectors to ensure proper allocation of State resources.

### **Current Council Chair**

The Council is chaired by Dr. Kevin Cullen, Director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Cullen, who specializes in head and neck cancer, is also a Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and is head of its Oncology program. He joined the University of Maryland in January 2004.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Cullen completed his internship and residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts and received additional training at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). He served as the Interim Director of the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University from October 2000 to September 2002 and was Professor of Medicine, Oncology, and Otolaryngology at the Georgetown University School of Medicine. Dr. Cullen's research interests include cellular factors that promote the growth of cancer and molecular mechanisms that make some cancers resistant to treatment with chemotherapy. He is the author of numerous journal publications and has served on review panels for the NCI, the Veterans Administration Research Program, and other organizations. His honors include a special achievement award from the NCI and a 2011 appointment by President Obama to the National Cancer Advisory Board. Outside of the University of Maryland, Dr. Cullen serves on the external advisory boards of several NCI-designated cancer centers and

presently serves as immediate past chair of the American Cancer Society Board of Directors, having served as a member of the board since 2009.

### **Membership**

A complete list of current Council members is included in Appendix A. During 2021, there were no membership terminations and four people were appointed to the council. Membership changes are detailed below:

#### ***Memberships Appointed in 2021:***

- Otis Brawley, MD, MACP, FASCO, FACE – Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Clarence K. Lam, MD – Maryland Senate
- Tasha Museles – The Children’s Cancer Foundation, Inc.
- Adam I. Riker, MD, FSSO, FACS – Luminus Health

### **2021 Activities and Accomplishments**

#### ***Council Meetings***

In 2021, the Council met as a full committee on January 22, May 21, and September 17. The Council’s Abeloff Award Subcommittee met on June 25. In addition, an advisory committee of the Council, the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee, met two times. Council meetings consisted of discussions on Council objectives, implementation of the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, cancer-related legislation, updates from the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee, and planning for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference.

#### ***Martin D. Abeloff Award for Excellence in Public Health and Cancer Control***

In 2021, the Council formed a subcommittee to identify nominations and select the winner of the 2021 Martin D. Abeloff Award (the Abeloff Award) to be presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Control Conference. The Abeloff Award recognizes individuals who have made substantial contributions to cancer control in Maryland and has been presented to notable Marylanders for the last decade. The award is named for Dr. Martin Abeloff, a longtime member of the Council who succumbed to leukemia in 2007. Dr. Abeloff was a renowned medical oncologist and researcher, and was compassionate as well as devoted to his patients, colleagues, and public service.

This year, Dr. Douglas R. Lowy was selected for the award, in recognition of his work which paved the way to the creation of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which has the potential to prevent more than 90% of HPV associated cancers. Dr. Lowy is the Principal Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is also Chief of the Laboratory of Cellular Oncology in the Center for Cancer Research at NCI.

Dr. Lowy’s research includes the biology of papillomaviruses and the regulation of normal and neoplastic growth. In the 1980s, they studied the genetic organization of papillomaviruses and identified the oncogenes encoded by the virus. Starting in the 1990s, they focused on papillomavirus vaccines and the papillomavirus life cycle. Their laboratory was involved in the

initial development, characterization, and clinical testing of the preventive virus-like, particle-based HPV vaccines that are now used in the three FDA-approved HPV vaccines.

### ***28<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference***

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Conference (the Conference) was held on November 18, 2021. The Conference was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. A total of 202 people participated in this virtual conference. Presentations included: Cancer Control: The Low Hanging Fruit; Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Screening and Treatment; Controlling HPV-Associated Cancers by Vaccination and Screening; updates from Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Maryland; Advance Care Planning: If Not You, Who?; and Financial Hardship among Cancer Survivors in the United States.

The Conference agenda is included in Appendix B, and conference materials can be accessed at [https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/cancer/Pages/sccc\\_home.aspx](https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/cancer/Pages/sccc_home.aspx).

### ***Cancer Registry Advisory Committee***

The Cancer Registry Advisory Committee met on February 11 and October 21, 2021 and is currently chaired by Council member Elizabeth Platz, ScD, MPH. Meeting topics included issues and updates surrounding Maryland Cancer Registry quality assurance and data management activities, data use and dissemination, data submission, data use policy and procedures, Maryland Cancer Registry regulations, and cancer research and surveillance activities. The Cancer Registry Advisory Committee chair reported activities at each of the scheduled Council meetings.

### ***Maryland Cancer Collaborative***

The Council supported the Maryland Cancer Collaborative (the Collaborative) in implementing priority strategies selected from the 2021-2025 Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. Several Council members actively participated in Collaborative workgroups, and one Council member served as the Council liaison on the Collaborative's steering committee. The 2021-2025 Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan is available at [https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/cancer/cancerplan/SiteAssets/Pages/publications/Cancer-MD-Maryland\\_FINAL%20-1.pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/cancer/cancerplan/SiteAssets/Pages/publications/Cancer-MD-Maryland_FINAL%20-1.pdf)

### **Anticipated Activities for 2022**

Moving forward, the Council plans to continue its activities during the next year as outlined below:

- Hold three full Council meetings, as well as additional subcommittee meetings on an as-needed basis, to discuss progress on Council activities as well as other issues, including Council objectives and cancer-related legislation;
- Select a recipient for the 2022 Public Health Award;
- Plan and hold the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference; and
- Continue participation in the Maryland Cancer Collaborative to implement goals, objectives, and strategies from the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.

## Appendix A

### Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Members - 2021

**Kevin Cullen, MD - CHAIR**

Director, University of Maryland  
Greenebaum Cancer Center

**Biana Arentz**

Cancer Survivor

**David Bennett**

Brain cancer advocate

**Senator Joanne Benson**

Maryland Senate

**Arun Bhandari, MD**

Chesapeake Oncology Hematology  
Associates

**Otis Brawley, MD, MACP, FASCO,  
FACE**

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public  
Health

**Kathleen Connors-Juras**

American Cancer Society

**Catherine Fenwick, RN, BSN**

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

**Liza Fues**

George Washington Cancer Center

**Stephanie Cooper Greenberg**

Erwin & Stephanie Greenberg Foundation

**Donna Gugel, MHS**

Maryland Department of Health

**Roger Harrell, MHA**

Health Officer, Dorchester County Health  
Department

**Dominique Haynes, MHA, RN, OCN,  
CPHQ**

Adventist HealthCare

**Kathleen Hoke, JD**

University of Maryland Francis King Carey  
School of Law

**Matthew G. Hjortsberg**

Past Chair, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Board of Trustees, MD Chapter and Cancer  
Advocate

**Clarence Lam, MD**

Maryland Senate

**Mark Mank, MS**

Maryland Department of the Environment

**Tiffany Mathis**

The Journey Continues; Cancer Survivor

**Christine Miller**

Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults

**Joan Mischtschuk, RN, MS**

Peninsula Regional Medical Center

**Tasha Museles**

President, The Children's Cancer  
Foundation, Inc.

**William Nelson, MD**

Director, Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns  
Hopkins

**Vacant**

President, University of Maryland at  
Baltimore, or designee

**Elizabeth Platz, ScD, MPH**

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public  
Health

**Adam I. Riker, MD, FSSO, FACS**  
Chairman of Oncology, Cancer Service  
Line, Luminis Health

**Paul B. Rothman, MD**  
CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine

**Sheree Sample-Hughes**  
Maryland House of Delegates

**Eden Strotsky-Himelfarb, BSN, RN**  
Johns Hopkins Medicine; Cancer Survivor

**Michele Walsh**  
Cancer Survivor

Appendix B



**The 28th Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control  
Cancer Conference**

**Thursday, November 18, 2021**

- 9:30 – 9:45**      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Kevin Cullen, MD, Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control
- 9:45 – 10:30**      **Cancer Control: The Low Hanging Fruit**  
Otis Brawley, MD, MACP, FASCO, FACE, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Oncology
- 10:30 – 11:15**      **Impact of COVID-19 on Cancer Screening and Treatment**  
Laura Makaroff, DO, Senior Vice President, Prevention and Early Detection, American Cancer Society
- 11:15 – 11:30**      **Abeloff Award**  
Kevin Cullen, MD, Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control
- 11:30 – 12:00**      **Controlling HPV-Associated Cancers by Vaccination and Screening**  
Douglas R Lowy, MD, Principal Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute.
- 12:00 – 12:30**      **Break**
- 12:30 – 1:00**      **Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Maryland: Updates**  
**University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum  
Comprehensive Cancer Center-Initiated COVID-19 Related Research**  
Ashkan Emadi, MD, PhD, University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Overview of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins**  
Otis Brawley, MD, MACP, FASCO, FACE, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Oncology
- 1:00 – 1:45**      **Advance Care Planning: If Not You, Who?**  
Madeline Steffens, BSN, RN, CHPN, Shore Regional Palliative Care Program Coordinator, University of Maryland Shore Regional Health
- 1:45 – 2:30**      **Financial Hardship among Cancer Survivors in the United States**

Robin Yabroff, PhD, MBA, Scientific Vice President, Health Services  
Research, American Cancer Society

**2:30 - 2:45**

**Closing Remarks**

Kevin Cullen, MD, Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control