



Maryland State Council on Cancer Control

2024 Report

Pursuant to Executive Order 01.01.2016.12 (2016)

## **Overview and 2024 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**

From July 2018 until August 2024, the Council was chaired by Dr. Kevin Cullen. Dr. Cullen, who specializes in head and neck cancer, is 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 and served as the Director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center until December 2023.

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 is the

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

Dr. Cullen resigned from the Council on August 6, 2024, and the Chair position remained vacant throughout the remainder of 2024. The Vice-Chair of the Council, Dr. Paul Celano, has been acting as Chair since Dr. Cullen's resignation.

### **Membership**

A complete list of current Council members is included in Appendix A. During 2024, there was one membership termination and two appointments to the Council. Membership changes are detailed below:

#### ***Membership Termination in 2024:***

- Kevin Cullen – Former Director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

#### ***Membership Appointments in 2024:***

- Taofeek Owonikoko – Director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Suna Sariscak – Maryland Department of the Environment designee

### **2024 Activities and Accomplishments**

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

In 2024, the Council met as a full committee on January 19, May 17, and September 20. The Council's Abeloff Award Subcommittee met on August 9. In addition, an advisory committee of the Council, the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee, met three 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 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference.

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

In 2024, the Council formed a subcommittee to identify nominations and select the winner of the 2024 Martin D. Abeloff Award (the Abeloff Award) to be presented at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference. The Abeloff Award recognizes individuals who have made substantial contributions to cancer control in Maryland and has been presented to notable Marylanders for more than a 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, the subcommittee selected Dr. Kevin Cullen for the Abeloff Award, in recognition of his distinguished career marked by transformative leadership in cancer research and patient care. As former Director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dr. Cullen spearheaded its rise to national prominence, culminating in NCI designation. His impact extended beyond the center, influencing state-level cancer policy through his leadership on the Maryland State Council on Cancer Control. Dr.

Cullen's unwavering commitment to patients is evident in his tireless advocacy for research funding, improved access to care, and innovative prevention programs. A dedicated mentor and passionate researcher, Dr. Cullen has consistently championed groundbreaking discoveries and improved treatment options for cancer patients.

### ***31<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference***

The Council held the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference in person on November 19, 2024, marking a welcome return to in-person gatherings after holding the conference virtually from 2020 to 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 141 participants in this conference. Presentations included *Cancer Registry Data in Research and Quality Improvement*, *Role of Community Based Organizations in Cancer Prevention and Control*, *Rising Cancer Rates in Younger Adults*, *Enhancing Cancer Screening and Advancing Health Equity Through Effective Patient Navigation*, and updates from the National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Maryland.

The conference agenda is included in Appendix B, and conference materials can be accessed online on the Maryland Department of Health website.

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

In 2024, the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee met on February 8, May 16, and September 12, and is currently chaired by Council member Robin Yabroff, PhD, MBA. 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 the Collaborative's workgroups. The 2021-2025 Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan is available online.

### **Anticipated Activities for 2025**

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 and other issues, including Council objectives and cancer-related legislation;
- Select a recipient for the 2025 Abeloff Award;
- Plan and hold the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference; and
- Continue participating 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 - 2024**

**Kevin Cullen, MD – CHAIR** (until Aug 2024)  
Former Director, University of Maryland  
Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum  
Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Roopa Biswas, PhD**  
Uniformed Services University of the Health  
Sciences

**Otis Brawley, MD, MACP, FASCO, FACE**  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public  
Health

**Paul Celano, MD, FACP, FASCO – Vice  
Chair**  
Greater Baltimore Medical Center

**Kathleen Connors-Juras**  
American Cancer Society

**Stacy Giles, MBA**  
TidalHealth Cancer Services

**Roger Harrell, MHA**  
Health Officer, Dorchester County Health  
Department

**Matthew G. Hjortsberg, Esq.**  
Past Chair, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
Board of Trustees, Maryland Chapter and  
Cancer Advocate

**Miranda R. Jones, PhD**  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public  
Health

**Cheryl Knott, PhD**  
University of Maryland at Baltimore

**Clarence Lam, MD, MPH**  
Maryland Senate

**Nicholas C. Lambrou, MD, FACOG, FACS**  
Luminis Health

**Carol LaMere, RN**  
Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital Cancer  
Institute

**Dina G. Lansey, MSN, RN**  
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer  
Center at Johns Hopkins

**Tasha Museles**  
The Children’s Cancer Foundation, Inc.

**Victoria L. Nefflen**  
Cancer Survivor

**William Nelson, MD, PhD**  
Director, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive  
Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins

**Taofeek Owonikoko, MD, PhD**  
Director, University of Maryland Marlene  
and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive  
Cancer Center

**Paul B. Rothman, MD**  
Chief Executive Officer, Johns Hopkins  
Medicine

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

**Suna Sariscak, MS**  
Maryland Department of the Environment

**Khrystin Shanklin**  
Cancer Survivor

**Susanne Tameris, MHA**  
Luminis Health

**Pamela Williams, MHA**  
Maryland Department of Health

**Robin Yabroff, PhD, MBA**  
American Cancer Society

## Appendix B



# **The 31st Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference**

**Tuesday November 19, 2024**

Anne Arundel Medical Center, Doordan Institute, 7th Floor, Belcher Pavilion  
2000 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

**8:50 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.**

- 8:00 – 8:50**                    **Registration, Breakfast, and Networking**
- 8:50 – 9:00**                    **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Susannah Beckerman, MA, Deputy Director, Cancer and Chronic Disease  
Bureau, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Maryland  
Department of Health
- 9:00 – 10:15**                    **Cancer Registry Data in Research and Quality Improvement**  
Robin Yabroff, PhD, MBA, Scientific Vice President, Health Services  
Research, American Cancer Society
- Registry Data as Part of Quality Improvement Efforts*  
Nicole Fowler, ODS-C, Manager of Cancer Registry and Accreditations, UM  
Upper Chesapeake Health, University of Maryland Medical System
- Data in Research: Examining Access to Colonoscopy Providers in  
Maryland and Associations with Late-Stage Colorectal Cancers  
(2010-2023)*  
Michael R. Desjardins, PhD, MA, Assistant Research Professor, Spatial  
Science for Public Health Center, Department of Epidemiology, Johns  
Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Oncology,  
Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Data in Research: Capturing Changing Neighborhood Conditions and its  
Effect on Breast Cancer Mortality in Maryland from 2000-2019*  
Katherine Ho, PhD Student, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public  
Health
- 10:15 – 11:00**                    **Role of Community Based Organizations in Cancer Prevention and  
Control**

Olivia Stanford, Community Health Educator & Research Program  
Coordinator, Office of Community Outreach and Engagement, Johns  
Hopkins School of Medicine

**11:00 – 11:45**

**Rising Cancer Rates in Younger Adults**

William Dahut, MD, Chief Scientific Officer, American Cancer Society

**11:45 – 12:00**

**Abeloff Award**

William Nelson, MD, PhD, DSc, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control

**12:00 – 1:00**

**Lunch**

**1:00 – 1:30**

**Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Maryland: Updates**

**Lung Cancer Screening and Treatment**

Katherine Scilla, MD, FACP, University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart  
Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

**The Transformation of Cancer Care by Research**

William Nelson, MD, PhD, DSc, Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel  
Comprehensive Cancer Center

**1:30 – 2:30**

**Enhancing Cancer Screening and Advancing Health Equity Through  
Effective Patient Navigation**

Shana O. Ntiri, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Family &  
Community Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Medical  
Director, Baltimore City Cancer Program, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of  
Community Outreach & Engagement, University of Maryland Marlene and  
Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

**2:30 – 2:45**

**Closing Remarks**