



Maryland State Council on Cancer Control

2025 Report

Pursuant to Executive Order 01.01.2016.12 (2016)

Overview and 2025 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

Taofeek K. Owonikoko, MD, PhD, is the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Distinguished Professor in Oncology and the Executive Director of the University of Maryland's National Cancer Institute-designated Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. He also holds the role of Senior Associate Dean of Cancer Programs at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Associate Vice President of Cancer Programs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. As a translational physician-scientist who is board-certified in medical oncology, hematology, and internal medicine, Dr. Owonikoko has a clinical focus on the management of patients with lung cancer. His research interests span the spectrum of preclinical experimental therapeutics, biomarker discovery, and translation of promising laboratory findings into lung cancer clinical trials. Dr. Owonikoko has authored/co-authored more than 250 peer-reviewed original manuscripts, including reports of original research in leading journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, Cell, Science, Nature, JCO, Lancet Oncology, Cancer Discovery, and Cancer Cell. His work has been broadly cited with more than 60,700 citations.

Membership

A complete list of current Council members is included in Appendix A. During 2025, there were four membership terminations and two appointments to the Council. Membership changes are detailed below:

Membership Terminations in 2025:

- Stacy Giles – Executive Director, Cancer Services, TidalHealth
- Roger Harrell – Health Officer, Dorchester County Health Department
- Nicholas Lambrou – Chief, Gynecologic Oncology, Luminis Health
- Victoria Nefflen – Cancer survivor

Membership Appointments in 2025:

- Lucy Wilson – Health Officer, Baltimore County Health Department
- Kaitlyn Hegarty – Quality Coordinator, Stem Cell Transplant and Immunotherapy Program, Inova
- Paul Sonder – Senior Director, Cancer Services, TidalHealth

2025 Activities and Accomplishments

Council Meetings

In 2025, the Council met as a full committee on January 17, May 16, and September 19. The Council's Abeloff Award Subcommittee met on October 6. 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 32nd Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference.

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

In 2025, the Council formed a subcommittee to identify nominations and select the winner of the 2025 Martin D. Abeloff Award (the Abeloff Award) to be presented at the 32nd 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 former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan for the Abeloff Award in recognition of his leadership, courage, and lasting contributions to cancer prevention, research, and patient care in Maryland. His personal journey with non-Hodgkin lymphoma brought visibility and compassion to the fight against cancer, while his administration's Maryland Cancer Moonshot directed more than \$216 million toward expanding cancer research, treatment access, and survivorship initiatives across the state. In addition, his wife, former First Lady Yumi Hogan, was recognized for her role as a caregiver and advocate, supporting her husband throughout his treatment and championing healing through the arts for pediatric cancer patients via the Yumi C.A.R.E.S. Foundation.

32nd Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference

The Council held the 32nd Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference in person on November 20, 2025. There were 156 participants at this conference. The conference highlighted emerging science and practical strategies shaping cancer prevention and control across Maryland. Presentations explored the power of cancer registry data to inform policy, advances in ovarian cancer prevention, culturally responsive survivorship support for Hispanic/Latino communities, and new tools for mapping structural and community-level factors that influence cancer outcomes. Attendees also heard updates from Maryland's NCI-designated cancer centers, including innovations in lung cancer early detection and the growing role of artificial intelligence in cancer care. Rural health leaders showcased equity-focused prevention models in underserved regions, and the keynote speaker, Dr. Otis Brawley, delivered a compelling exploration of the rising trend of early-onset cancers.

The conference agenda is included in Appendix B, and conference materials can be accessed online on the Council's website.¹

Cancer Registry Advisory Committee

In 2025, the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee met on February 10, May 12, and September 10, and is currently chaired by Council member Robin Yabroff, PhD, MBA. Meeting topics included issues and updates surrounding Maryland Cancer Registry (MCR) quality assurance and data management innovations, reporting compliance and workflow improvements, data submission processes, data governance and regulatory considerations, and ongoing activities related to cancer surveillance, reporting infrastructure, and research support. The Cancer Registry Advisory Committee chair reported activities at each of the scheduled Council meetings.

Maryland Cancer Collaborative

Several Cancer Council members served as members of the Maryland Cancer Collaborative (MCC) and participated in the selection of priority strategies included in the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (Maryland Cancer Plan), as well as in the formation and implementation of MCC workgroups charged with advancing these strategies. MCC workgroup updates are provided at each Cancer Council meeting, creating regular opportunities for Council members to review progress, provide guidance, and offer recommendations for future cancer control efforts based on the Council's work. Through this ongoing engagement, the Council continues to guide implementation of the State's comprehensive cancer control priorities and inform future policy, systems, and programmatic efforts.

Recommendations for Future Cancer Control Efforts

Based on the Council's activities and engagement with state and community partners, the Council presents the following recommendations to guide future cancer control efforts in Maryland:

¹ The State Council on Cancer Control's website can be accessed at https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/cancer/pages/sccc_home.aspx.

Maintain and/or Increase Cancer Funding to sustain and strengthen existing cancer prevention and control infrastructure

- **Preserve Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF) Funding:** Maintain CRF funding exclusively for its original legislative intent: tobacco-related disease prevention, tobacco cessation, cancer screening, treatment, research, and related healthcare costs.
- **Strengthen Anti-Cancer Investments:** Increase line-item allocations to Maryland Department of Health (MDH) anti-cancer initiatives - specifically the CRF Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening, and Treatment (CPEST) Program.

Implement the 2026-2030 Maryland Cancer Plan

- **Strategic Framework:** Promote the use of the 2026-2030 Maryland Cancer Plan as the primary framework for all state cancer policies, resource allocation, and collaborative action among healthcare providers and community organizations.
- **Focus on Health Equity:** Prioritize the plan's strategies to narrow racial and geographic disparities in cancer outcomes.
- **Address Emerging Risks:** Use the plan to guide responses to new public health threats, such as the rise in e-cigarettes, vaping, and environmental cancer exposures.

Maximize the Utility of the MCR

- **Data for Planning:** Promote MCR data as a critical tool for research, planning, and evaluating the effectiveness of cancer control programs across the state.
- **Support Data Modernization:** Continue guiding the optimization of the MCR through the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee to ensure data remains timely, accurate, and accessible for policy decision-making.

Drive Research and Innovation

- **Sustain Academic Partnerships:** Continue supporting Maryland's academic cancer centers to drive breakthroughs in precision oncology, immunotherapy, and early detection tools.
- **Promote Economic Growth through Research:** Support research that generates federal funding and new patents, maintaining Maryland's position as a national leader in cancer science.

Appendix A
Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Members - 2025

Taofeek Owonikoko, MD, PhD - Chair
Executive 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

Theodore DeWeese, MD
Chief Executive Officer, Johns Hopkins
Medicine

Kathleen Connors-Juras
American Cancer Society

**Kaitlyn Hegarty, MBA, MSN, RN, OCN,
CBCN**
Inova Stem Cell Transplant and
Immunotherapy

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

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.

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

Sheree Sample-Hughes, MS
Maryland House of Delegates

Suna Sariscak, MS
Maryland Department of the Environment

Khrystin Shanklin
Cancer Survivor

Paul Sonder
TidalHealth Cancer Services

Susanne Tameris, MHA
Luminis Health

Pamela Williams, MHA
Maryland Department of Health

Lucy Wilson, MD, ScM
Baltimore County Health Department

Robin Yabroff, PhD, MBA
American Cancer Society

Appendix B



The 32nd Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference

November 20th, 2025

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.

AGENDA

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|----------------------|---|
| 8:00 – 8:50 | Registration, Breakfast, and Networking |
| 8:50 – 9:00 | Welcome and Opening Remarks
<i>Taofeek Owonikoko, MD, Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control</i> |
| 9:00 – 9:45 | Beyond the Numbers: Using Cancer Registry Data to Inform Practice and Policy
<i>Robin Yabroff, PhD, MBA, Scientific Vice President, Health Services Research, American Cancer Society</i> |
| 9:45 – 10:15 | The Event Horizon of Ovarian Cancer Prevention
<i>Rebecca Stone, MD, MS, Associate Professor of Gynecologic Oncology, Johns Hopkins University</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Cancer Survivorship in the Hispanic Community
<i>Brenda V. Roig, MPH, Director of Mental Health & Survivorship, Nueva Vida</i> |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Mapping Community Resources and Challenges: Interactive Data Visualization and Analytics Tool from the Rise Above Study
<i>Cheryl L. Knott, PhD, Professor, Department of Behavioral and Community Health, University of Maryland, College Park</i> |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | Abeloff Award
<i>Kevin J. Cullen, MD, Professor of Oncology, Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center</i> |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Lunch |

12:30 – 1:00

Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Maryland: Updates

Lung Nodule Program: Patient Care Journey for Early Detection of Lung Cancer

Ashutosh Sachdeva, MBBS, MBS, Associate Professor of Medicine, Director, Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pulmonology Program Chief, Section of Interventional Pulmonology and Onco-Pulmonology, University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Medicine

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

1:00 – 1:45

Equity in Action: Innovative Models for Cancer Prevention Across Rural Maryland

Beth Fields Dowdell, DNP, CRNP, CEN, NRP, Director, Community Health and Outpatient Care Management, Meritus Medical Center

Caitlin Kirkpatrick, BSN, RN, Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening, and Treatment Program Supervisor, St. Mary's County Health Department

Katherine Rodgers, EdD, MPH, Director of Community Health Initiatives, Population Health Management, TidalHealth

1:45 – 2:30

Keynote: Emerging Trends in Early-Onset Cancer

Otis Brawley, MD, MACP, FASCO, FACE, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Oncology, Johns Hopkins University

2:30 -2:45

Closing Remarks

Taofeek Owonikoko, MD, Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control