MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

When we began 2021, we could never have envisioned the lingering effects of the pandemic and many of the global events that would unfold over the course of the next twelve months. For LCI, however, the opportunity and promise of 2021 to reconnect with “our people” spurred hope and support across our network. From attending our first in-person conference since 2019, to sharing a laugh virtually with survivors across the state, to giving hugs to people we hadn’t seen in almost two years, to dancing the night away at the Evening of Hope, to finally opening our doors to our new office space, these moments to reconnect reignited our spark, renewed our spirits and enabled us to collectively impact so many people affected by lung cancer this year.

Yet, while we were able to reconnect with so many, we also came together to mourn and to offer comfort as we experienced significant loss across LCI and within the greater lung cancer community last year. Our hearts are forever changed by having known such special people and their loved ones, and we are more emboldened than ever to continue carrying our mission forward in their memory.

While there are so many successes and memories from this past year, we are looking forward to continuing to expand our impact for those we serve in the coming year. We know there is so much more work to be done, and we are ready.

Thank you for your continued support and for all that you make possible,

Paige Humble
Chief Executive Officer
Lung Cancer Initiative

Left to Right: Triangle Lung Cancer Golf Classic; Meeting with Asheville provider team; Triangle LUNGe Forward 2-Mile Walk & Celebration
ABOUT US

Our Mission

Our mission is to advance survivorship and provide support to those affected by lung cancer through research, education and access programs.

Our Vision

To improve life for everyone affected by lung cancer.

Our Core Values

- Passionate support of survivorship
- Building Community
- Compassion
- Empathy
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Responsible stewardship

Expenses for Fiscal Year 2020

*2020 Audited Financials

View our [audited financials](#) and [990](#) online.
RESEARCH

In 2021, LCI funded $325,000 in lung cancer research through our Research Fellowships, Career Development Award and Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award. Since 2008, LCI has funded almost $2.8 million in lung cancer research to 51 researchers with the majority of the funding remaining in North Carolina.

2021 Research Fellowship Program

The purpose of the Research Fellowship program is to further the development of local lung cancer care and research programs across the state of North Carolina. By funding research activities of fellows, our goal is to help to further their careers and encourage their continued involvement in the field of lung cancer.

2021 Research Fellows

James Isaacs, MD, Duke University
Project: "Evaluating the Impact of PCSK9 on the Composition of the Tumor-Immune Microenvironment and Treatment Response to the Immune Checkpoint Blockade (ICB) in NSCLC" (Mentor: Neal Ready, MD, PhD; Scott Antonia, MD, PhD)

Jacob Stein, MD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Project: "Evaluating Barriers to Equitable Access to Precision Medicine in Advanced Lung Cancer" (Mentor: Marjory Charlot, MSc, MPH)

Safoa Afua Addo, MD, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
Project: "Circulating Immune Biomarkers as Predictors of the Response to Pembrolizumab and Weekly Low Dose Carboplatin and Paclitaxil in NSCLC and Poor Performance Status" (Mentor: Pierre Triozzi, MD; Jeff Petty, MD)

Christopher Pallas, MD, Atrium Health
Project: "Evaluation of Novel Predictive Biomarkers in Patients with Locally Advanced, Unresectable Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Treated with Durvalumab after Chemoradiotherapy" (Mentor: John Heinzerling, MD)

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Jacob Kaufman, MD
Duke Cancer Institute
2018 Research Fellow

"LCI is an incredible resource to promote lung cancer research in our state. It helped to launch my career as a lung cancer researcher and to discover novel science that I hope will benefit patients.”

Research outcomes
• I have identified a novel subset of lung cancer patients whose tumors exhibit unique biologic features making them resistant to immune therapy treatments.
• We have studied mechanisms of immune resistance pertinent to these tumors with a goal of identifying new treatment targets that could allow an effective immune response.

Career highlights
• Authored eight manuscripts
• Presented at five national and international conferences
• Awarded $200,000 in additional lung cancer research funding

“Dr. Kaufman is a promising early career physician scientist studying an important molecular variant of lung cancer. He will continue his career as a faculty research scientist at the prominent Ohio State University Cancer Center. LCI provided Dr. Kaufman funding early in his career that was critical to launching his research program.”— Neal Ready, MD, PhD
**Career Development Award**

Emily Ray, MD, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center was awarded the two-year, $150,000 Career Development Award for her project on the "Development of an Enhanced Risk Stratification System for Patients with Hospital-Diagnosed Advanced Lung Cancer."

**Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award**

Chuan-Yuan Li, PhD, Duke University, was awarded the Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award to support his work in targeting PCSK9 to enhance immunotherapy of LKB1/STK11-mutant lung cancer. The $50,000 one-year grant will fund Dr. Li’s research that explores a novel strategy to evaluate if inhibitors of the PCSK9 protein can overcome the resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitors in the LKB1-mutant lung cancers.

**Scientific Advisory Committee**

- Ed Kim, MD, Chair, City of Hope
- Jeff Clarke, MD, Duke Cancer Institute
- Neal Ready, MD, Duke Cancer Institute
- Paul R. Walker, MD, FACP
- Amy Cipau, LCI President
- Kathryn Mileham, MD, Atrium Health
- Jared Weiss, MD, UNC Health
- Chad Pecot, MD, UNC Health
- Jeff Petty, MD, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist

**Scientific Review Committee**

- Jeff Clarke, MD, Duke Cancer Institute
- Neal Ready, MD, Chair, Duke Cancer Institute
- Patti Pozella, DrPH, Advocate
- Liling Warren, PhD, Advocate
- Daniel Haggstrom, MD, Atrium Health
- Kathryn Mileham, MD, Atrium Health
- Praveen Namireddy, MD, East Carolina University
- Chad Pecot, MD, UNC Health
- Emily Harrison, PhD, UNC Health
- Jeff Petty, MD, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
- Li Yang, PhD, East Carolina University
- Thomas Lycan, DO, MHS, Atrium Health Wake Forest

**External Scientific Review Committee**

- John Minna, MD, UT Southwestern
- Liling Warren, PhD, Advocate Reviewer
- Piro Lito, MD, PhD, Memorial Sloan Kettering
- David Carbone, MD, PhD, Ohio State University CCC
- Ed Kim, MD, City of Hope
ACCESS

LCI is dedicated to assisting those affected by lung cancer and supporting patients in accessing appropriate education, screening, biomarker testing, treatment and clinical research.

Access to Care Gas Card Program

The Access to Care Gas Card Program supports patients in accessing appropriate care and treatment, including clinical trials. Patients may receive up to three $50 gas cards annually. In 2021:

- 522 $50 gas cards provided to 470 patients.
- Patients resided in 78 counties in North Carolina.
- 81% of recipients’ household income at or below $49,000.
- 70.4% of recipients identified as White and 26.8% as Black or African American.

Patient Emergency Fund

To support lung cancer patients who were financially impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, LCI established the Patient Emergency Fund in 2020 to help lung cancer patients stay healthy and to meet their basic needs. Recognizing the continued financial burden of a cancer diagnosis, LCI continued the program into 2021:

- 60 patients each received a $200 stipend for a total of $12,000 in funding.
- 97% of recipients indicated an annual household income of $49,000 or less.
- 58% of recipients identified as White and 41.7% as Black or African American.

REACH Community Grant Program

The Lung Cancer Initiative’s REACH Community Grant Program aims to empower and support community organizations to fill a gap in lung cancer care within their local communities. This program awards funding of up to $10,000 to support community-based organizations and non-profit institutions in their collaborative efforts to holistically assist the entire lung cancer community, particularly those who are uninsured, underinsured, and most impacted. Formerly the Access Grant program, this program began in 2016 and has collectively awarded $115,000 to 11 community organizations across North Carolina.

CATALYST FOR CHANGE: TOMMA HARGRAVES

Tomma Hargraves, lung cancer survivor and patient advocate, was named the winner of the 2021 Catalyst for Change Award at the third annual Cancer Community (C2) Awards hosted by AstraZeneca and Scientific American Custom Media. Tomma has provided leadership and support throughout LCI for more than 15 years and helped to develop programming to support lung cancer patients across NC, including the Access to Care Gas Card program.

Hear Tomma’s story by clicking the image below.
In 2021, LCI awarded one $10,000 grant to Atrium Health Foundation for a project focused on improving access to care in lung cancer screening patients through personalized navigation services. Through support from this grant, Levine Cancer Institute will seek to provide immediate and short-term assistance to reduce the burden of having to choose between basic needs and health for patients who are in the process of confirming a lung cancer diagnosis or those with a positive screen. Many of the patients that LCI sees face difficult obstacles including food insecurity, lack of transportation to get to potentially life-saving medical appointments and financial hardships that make it difficult to pay living expenses and utilities. This program will act as a bridge to connecting the patient with community-specific resources that will help address long-term needs.

**REACH Community Grant Committee**

Kenisha Bethea, MPH  
Kimberly Alexander Bratcher, MPH  
Kara Bruner  
Colleen Christensen, LCI Staff  
Jenni Danai, MPH, LCI Staff  
Angela Hopper  
Jennifer Ersek, MSPH, PhD  
Susan Moore, PhD

**EDUCATION**

LCI is dedicated to furthering education about lung cancer through community and provider education initiatives. Throughout 2021, educational opportunities were designed to be accessible to all of those who were seeking it and to focus on timely topics including expanded lung cancer screening guidelines and comprehensive biomarker testing.

**Community Education Series**

LCI relied on partners across the state to deliver community education to 148 participants through seven community education programs including radon awareness, caregiver support, debunking myths about clinical trials, research and treatment updates, and biomarker testing. This year’s series was tailored to meet specific interests and needs of participants and topics. All programs were offered virtually and can be viewed online.

Left to Right: Jimmy Ruiz, MD, Health Disparities; Elizabeth Speight, CRNA, MHA, Clinical Trials; Neal Ready, MD, Clinical Trials
Advocacy Summit: “Advancing Survivorship”

Seventy-five survivors, advocates, caregivers and providers gathered virtually over two days in May to learn how to be more effective advocates and to “advance survivorship” in their own communities. Keynote speaker Heidi Nafman-Onda, who is a lung cancer survivor and founder of The White Ribbon Project, shared her own personal journey and the impact that she has had through her advocacy work. Click on the below topics to view the video presentations from the Summit.

Provider Education Summit

In August, 76 providers came together for a virtual summit all about “A Comprehensive Approach to Treating Lung Cancer.” Thought leaders from across North Carolina presented information to community oncologists on topics including lung cancer screening, disparities in lung cancer care, advancements in treatment, surgical treatment of lung cancer and comprehensive biomarker testing. This program is available for viewing online.

Comprehensive Biomarker Testing: Bridging the Biomarker Gaps

New biomarkers are being discovered at a rapid pace, unlocking new breakthrough treatments for patients and their families. Unfortunately, many patients still don’t get the biomarker testing they need, especially in North Carolina, where utilization of this important tool remains low in certain areas.

In 2021, LCI joined Lilly in a new campaign called “Bridging the Biomarker Gaps” to expand access to comprehensive biomarker testing and give patients and providers clinically actionable information to inform their course of treatment. Through this collaboration, Lilly provided support for a community education and provider education session about comprehensive biomarker testing as well as a biomarker testing survey to help establish a baseline for future support needed in raising awareness and utilization of comprehensive biomarker testing.
Lung Cancer Screening

In December, LCI sponsored the annual North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians Conference including a keynote presentation about lung cancer screening to 621 registered participants by Dr. Pierre Onda, a family physician and co-founder of The White Ribbon Project. LCI also organized a break-out session for 75 registered participants about “Tools to Implement Lung Cancer Screening in Your Practice” led by Dr. John Doty, a pulmonologist at Atrium Health.

LCI is a partner in the North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control and a part of the early detection subcommittee. In November, this group launched a webinar for primary care providers in North Carolina about lung cancer screening.

Provider Education Committee
Jason Akulian, MD, MPH
Jared Weiss, MD
Lynn Bowlby, MD
Ed Kim, MD
Hiren Mehta, MD

BJ Peterson, PhD
Louise M. Henderson, PhD
Jimmy Ruiz, MD
Aundrea Oliver, MD
Mellisa Wheeler, MHA

SURVIVORSHIP

Throughout the year, we remained focused on looking for ways to keep lung cancer survivors and their loved ones connected across North Carolina. Seventy-eight survivors engaged with us through a variety of opportunities throughout the year including our weekly luncheons and annual Survivor’s Day Celebration in June. Medical experts including Dr. Kathryn Mileham, Levine Cancer Institute and Dr. Jennifer Garst, Duke Cancer Institute also held fireside chats with lung cancer survivors across North Carolina.

Survivors’ Luncheon Series

This series was originally developed out of necessity when in-person meetings became difficult early in the pandemic. This series has continued to evolve and is an opportunity for survivors to meet and network with other survivors. The group meets the first Wednesdays of every month and includes opportunities to socialize as well as topics of interest to attendees including exercise, nutrition and mindfulness-based stress reduction.
Wellness Retreat

Wind River Cancer Wellness Retreats led the fourth annual Lung Cancer Survivor Wellness Retreat funded by LCI virtually in August. Twelve lung cancer survivors and an all-survivor led team participated in this virtual event to teach wellness and stress reducing techniques as well as to foster a network among survivors.

Survivor Steering Committee
Lawanna Best
Tomma Hargraves
Chuck Holley
Angela Hopper
Jennifer Kiger
Ginny Kloepfer
Meredith Lundy
Mike Smith
Mary Frances White

“"The Wind River Lung Cancer Retreats have been a great way to connect with fellow survivors from all across the state. The retreats have helped me learn different ways to reduce stress and even how to eat healthier. It has allowed me to make such meaningful connections and embrace having fun again!"” Wellness Retreat Participant

AWARENESS

From community health fairs, to events including the LUNGe Forward Run, Walk & Celebration series, to collaborating with groups like The White Ribbon Project, LCI partners with others to raise awareness of lung cancer throughout the community. Many of these efforts would not be possible without our dedicated volunteer committees.

Health Fairs

Although health fairs were just starting to come back during the pandemic in 2021, LCI was proud to participate in three virtual health fairs for Cotton, Inc., Brooks Pierce Law Firm and GRYT Health and one in-person health fair for the City of Raleigh.

White Ribbon Builds

Many of LCI’s advocates teamed-up with The White Ribbon Project, a national organization that seeks to increase awareness by sharing white ribbons throughout the lung cancer community and beyond to unify the lung cancer community and increase public recognition of the white ribbon as a lung cancer symbol. On World Lung Cancer Day on August 1, LCI partnered with Chris Draft, Duke Cancer Institute, Duke Raleigh Hospital and UNC Health on a build to raise awareness of lung cancer. CBS 17 highlighted the build on World Lung Cancer Day.

LUNGe Forward Runs, Walks & Celebrations

This year’s LUNGe Forward in-person and online events in Charlotte, the Triad and the Triangle were all held on one day of awareness on September 18 and included two new community-led events in Southeastern
North Carolina and South Carolina. Collectively, these events raised $351,989 to fuel LCI’s mission. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year’s event also included a virtual program for those who could not participate in-person.

**Triangle LUNGe Committee**
- Jen Colon, Chair
- Janice Allen
- Joann Beaudoin
- Amy Cipau
- Lee Ellen Coffey
- Shannon Dunston
- Lynne Hicks
- Liz Hynson
- Kearston Ingraham
- Meredith Lundy
- Kevin Nunnery
- Jennifer Payne
- Jim Sheegog
- Elatt Spiller
- Jaquetta Sutton
- Carolyn Yantorn

**Charlotte LUNGe Committee**
- Jen Ersek, Co-Chair
- Nolie Futch, Co-Chair
- Hope Brooks
- Sharon Buige
- Terri Conneran
- Monique Deadeaux
- Julie D’Orso
- Allison Dyer
- Alisa Goldstein
- Tammra Granger
- Elizabeth Hess
- Maddie Hosking
- RaShawn Lee
- Gabrielle Leonard
- Raychelle Leonard
- Lyndsey Lonnen
- Tim Keesling
- Amber Klobchar
- Constance Krull
  (Herron)
- Olivia Madigan
- Mandi Medlin
- Kelley Mickler
- Steven Orlick
- Karen Paris
- Denise Reynolds
- Annette Rich
- Jeff Richek
- Genni Salzer
- Caitlin Sellers
- CS Smith
- Susan Soto
- Alexa Tahan
- Michelle Walls
- JR Ware
- Renee Ware
- Caroline Wrisley

**Triad LUNGe Committee**
- Emily Parks, Chair
- Melaniee Bennett
- Shannon Brady
- Quentin Gunter
- Jenner Lee
- Kelli Liles
- Deidre Moyer
- Becky Neighbours
- Scott Riddle
- Gwen Sellers
- Susan Smith
- Bob Steele
- JoAnn Steele

**South Carolina LUNGe Committee**
- Angie Derrick, Chair
- Valerie Byrd Fort
- Karen McDonnell
- Krystal Miller
- Karen Williams Brown

**Southeastern North Carolina**
- Erika Acker, Co-Chair
- Lori Boldt, Co-Chair
- Lorraine Sieminski
Evening of Hope Live Celebration and Auction

Two-hundred forty-five participants attended the 2021 Evening of Hope Gala at North Ridge Country Club and raised $158,480 to benefit Lung Cancer Initiative. The event included a silent and live auction, live music from That Nation Band, dinner and dancing. This year’s event also congratulated C2 Award Winner Tomma Hargraves and celebrated the impact of LCI’s gas card program.

Evening of Hope Committee
Angela Nicholson, Chair
Janice Allen
Kara Bruner
Amy Cipau
Tracey Clarke
Jen L Colon
Amanda David
Shannon Dunston
Liz Hinson
Kearston Ingraham
Mike McKay
Susan Moore
Kendall Nickel
Hollyn Page
Jennifer Payne
Elatt Spiller
Jequetta Sutton
Jacquie Wells

Triangle Lung Cancer Golf Classic

The third annual Triangle Lung Cancer Golf Classic was held in October at the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club in Durham and raised $35,305 to benefit lung cancer research and education through LCI’s programs.

Triangle Golf Classic Committee
Gary Hicks, Co-Chair
Lynne Hicks, Co-Chair
Zack Bolzan
Bill Duff
J. Clyde Duncan
Alice Floyd
Anderson Garrett
Beth Hefner
Ben Hynson
Liz Hynson

Left to Right: Evening of Hope; Triangle Lung Cancer Golf Classic; Triangle LUNGe Forward; Evening of Hope
Grassroots Events

Several advocates hosted their own events in their local communities to raise awareness and funds for lung cancer research and education.

In Hickory, advocates at Hickory High School hosted a virtual trivia night in memory of their beloved teacher, Helen Devlin.

In Raleigh, middle schooler Alanis Menezes led Martin Middle School in a fundraiser challenge among the 6th, 7th and 8th grades to support the Triangle LUNG Forward and raised a total of $1,059.

In Durham, more than 300 supporters united for the Jodi Koviach Memorial Run and raised more than $15,000 in her memory.

Supporters in the Triangle also stepped out for the annual Wine Walk at Lafayette Village and shopped to make a difference at several Flourish Market fundraising events.

Collaborations

LCI works closely with partners through collaboration and participation in community associations including:

LungCAN (Lung Cancer Action Network)
NC Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination & Control
Health Research Alliance
National Lung Cancer Roundtable
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Duke Cancer Institute Community Advisory Council
NC Center for Nonprofits
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
ESC of the Triangle
GIVING HOPE SOCIETY

The Giving Hope Society recognizes the generosity and impact of individuals and families who are sustaining donors to LCI. Society members contribute a minimum of $1,000 annually in unrestricted cash gifts to the organization. Donations can be in memory or in honor of a loved one, made toward a LCI event, or a special gift directed toward the Society. The care and kindness of our Society members fuels critical research, education, awareness and access programs across the state.

All members were honored during a Giving Hope Society open house in October where Shetal Patel, MD, 2021 Career Development Award Recipient and Neal Ready, MD chair of LCI’s Scientific Review Committee shared perspectives on the impact of lung cancer research funding.

Thank you to our 2021 Giving Hope Society Members

Tammy Allred, RN, OCN
Glenn Andrews
Don & Carla Berryann
Drs. Neal Ready & Lynn Bowly
Dr. Gabriel & Amy Cipau
Jim & Tracey Clarke
Dr. Jeffrey & Shannon Clarke
Erin & Brent Coffey
Jennifer Dent
Nathan Doty
Dr. Jennifer Ersek
Dr. Douglas Hammer & Susan Moore
Bob & Tomma Hargraves
Gary & Lynne Hicks and Family
Lucy & Paul Fedorkowicz
Bo & Heather Hooper
Ben & Liz Hynson
Dan & Nancy Johns
John & CeCe Kennedy
Tom Kleinknecht
Bill & Ginny Kloepfer
Clyde & Meredith Lundy
Karen McDonnell
Mike & Jaymie McKay
Dr. Hiren Mehta
The Menezes Family
Dr. Kathryn Mileham
Collen Mitchell
Jim & Polly Morlando
Mary Lynn & Tom Moser
Justin Brian & Angela Nicholson
Katie Nifong
Emily Parks
Joellen Parks
Khaki Parks
Sissy Parks
Stuart Parks
Tracy Parks
Dr. Chad Pecot
Bill & BJ Peterson
Gerald Postema
Chris & Susanne Rallis
Jeff & Beth Richek
Scott Riddle
Graham Self
Drs. Shawn Sendlinger & Jennifer Garst
Jim Sheegog
Michael Sulick
Dr. Paul & Kathryn Walker
Brad Weddington
John & Roberta Wilder
Caroline Wrisley
Amanda Youth
AWS & RECOGNITION

LCI Annual Awards Update & Celebration

In March, LCI held our online Annual Awards Update and Celebration where we looked back at our accomplishments in 2020 and honored the below award recipients for their commitment to LCI and to the lung cancer community.

**Survivor of the Year: Angela Hopper**

Angela Hopper has used her journey as a lung cancer survivor to support and encourage others by sharing her story and raising awareness of lung cancer on social media. Angela has been an active participant in LCI’s Online Survivor Luncheons, as well as helping lead committee meetings throughout 2020.

Angela has participated on Mission Hospitals Patient Advisory Council as a lung cancer representative for nearly seven years. Angela serves on the Survivor Steering Committee, helping LCI guide programs in ways that ensure they meet lung cancer survivors’ needs. We are grateful to Angela for the time that she gives back to the lung cancer community as an inspirational advocate who constantly maintains a positive approach to the cancer journey.

**Volunteer of the Year: Sarah Mims**

Sarah Mims has been volunteering with LCI since being a remote Programs Intern last summer. As an intern, Sarah helped LCI start developing a database of cancer centers across NC and helped sort through Patient Emergency Fund applications.

Sarah has continued to embrace the lung cancer community and advocate on its behalf. We are inspired by Sarah's dedication and commitment to serving the lung cancer community.

**Healthcare Provider of the Year: Rev. Adrian Dixon**

Director of Chaplain Services and Education, Rev. Adrian Dixon's dedication to those affected by lung cancer is phenomenal. Rev. Dixon, who leads the Spiritual Care program at Duke Raleigh Hospital, has been a supporter of LCI for many years, often going above and beyond to provide support and patient-centered care to the lung cancer community. From sending a special video message to share at LCI’s Day of Remembrance, to participating in a panel on Coping with Covid-19 & Cancer, Rev. Dixon always shows up for the lung cancer community.

According to his nominator, “Rev. Dixon supports LCI and the lung cancer community because he truly has compassion and empathy for all of those he encounters.”

Watch the 2021 Annual Meeting online to hear from each of the 2021 Award recipients as well as researchers and leaders from across LCI.
Caregiver of the Year: Brianna Pierce

Brianna Pierce has exemplified what it means to be a dedicated caregiver by the care she has provided her mother, Sandy, who was diagnosed with lung cancer. Even though Brianna is a wife, mother, and full-time worker, Brianna has been by her mother's side since her lung cancer diagnosis.

According to Brianna’s nominator, “She has shown more compassion and empathy than most people are capable of. She constantly shows me her deep love and her desire to keep me safe and alive as long as possible.”

Committee Members of the Year: Raychelle Leonard & Sharon Buige

Raychelle Leonard and Sharon Buige both received this year’s “Committee Member of the Year” award due to their efforts and teamwork in helping the Charlotte LUNGe Forward event planning committee. The Charlotte LUNGe Forward event was the first of LCI's events impacted by COVID-19. Raychelle volunteered to take notes during committee meetings as it transitioned to an online format while Sharon oversaw the coordination of packet pickups.

We appreciate Raychelle and Sharon for their time, energy, and support to further the mission on the committees which they serve. They have worked hard to raise lung cancer awareness and funds to support research and programming efforts.

Other Distinctions

Guidestar 2021 Seal of Transparency

LCI earned a 2021 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, the world’s largest source of nonprofit information. By sharing metrics that highlight progress Lung Cancer Initiative is making toward its mission, the organization is helping donors move beyond simplistic ways of nonprofit evaluation such as overhead ratios.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Cipau, MBA, MA, President & Founder
Advocate

Jennifer Garst, MD, Board Chair
Duke Raleigh Hospital

Emily Parks, Secretary
Organize for Success

Justin Brian Nicholson, Treasurer
Sterling Capital

Jason Akulian, MD
UNC Health

Jeffrey Clarke, MD
Duke Cancer Institute

Liz Hynson
Lung Cancer Advocate

Hiren Mehta, MD
UNC Health/UNC Rex

Aundrea Oliver, MD
ECU Heart Institute

Chad Pecot, MD
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Chris Rallis
Pappas Capital

Jim Sheegog
Rowhill Consulting Group

Michael Sulick
Lung Cancer Advocate

STAFF

Paige Humble, MBA, Chief Executive Director

Colleen Christensen, Patient & Community Outreach Specialist

Jenni Danai, MPH, Chief Mission Delivery Officer

Sue Daniels, Office Manager

Lynne Hicks, CPA Director of Finance

Lane Moore, Communications & Development Specialist

Sandy Oehler, Director of Special Events

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