

# ANNUAL GRATITUDE AND IMPACT REPORT

2021



**CREATE  
HOPE**

**TAKE  
ACTION**

**END LUNG  
CANCER**



**LUNG CANCER INITIATIVE**

A NETWORK OF HOPE AND ACTION

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## 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.

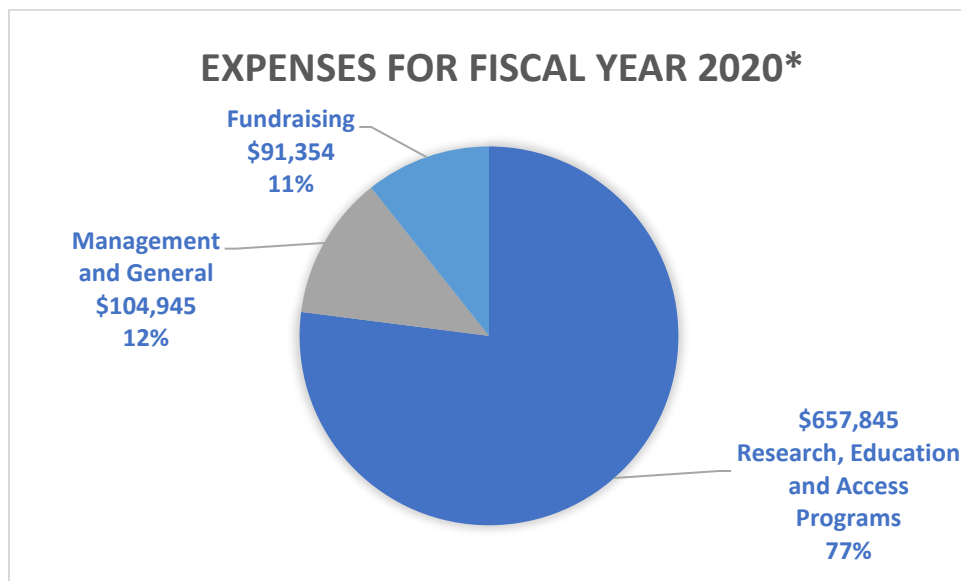
### Our Vision

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*



**Hafiz Muhammad Aslam, MD, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University**

Project: "PUF: A Potential Repressor of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Proto-Oncogenes"  
(Mentor: Myon Hee Lee, 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

## FROM OUR RESEARCHERS

To hear from some of the researchers that LCI has funded in recent years, click on the images below.



Shetal Patel, MD  
Career Development Award  
Recipient 2020-2021



Suneetha Amara, MD  
2020-2021 Research Fellow

- 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

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## 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.*

[Crafting Your Message](#)

[Find the Power in Your Story](#)

[Patient Navigation](#)

[The White Ribbon Project](#)

[Putting Advocacy Tools in Action](#)

[Supportive Care](#)

[New Lung Cancer Treatment Strategies](#)

## 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

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## 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*

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## 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.



**LUNGe Forward Run, Walk & Celebration Committee Chairs**



**Jen Colon, Triangle (at left)**



**Jen Ersek & Nolie Futch, Charlotte**



**Emily Parks, Triad**

**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  
Melanee 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



### Evening of Hope Committee

Angela Nicholson, Chair  
Janice Allen  
Kara Bruner  
Amy Cipau  
Tracey Clarke  
Jen L Colon  
Amanda David  
Shannon Dunston

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.

Liz Hinson  
Kearston Ingraham  
Mike McKay  
Susan Moore  
Kendall Nickel  
Hollyn Page  
Jennifer Payne  
Elatt Spiller  
Jequetta Sutton  
Jacquie Wells



Evening of Hope Committee  
Chair, Angela Nicholson  
*(center)*

## Triangle Lung Cancer Golf Classic



Triangle Golf Classic Chairs,  
Gary and Lynne Hicks

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

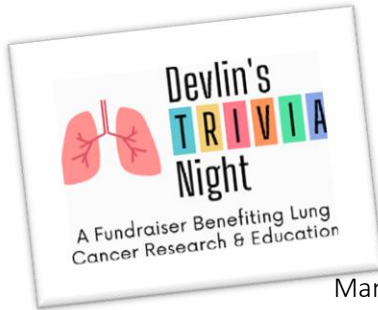
Gary Hicks, Co-Chair  
Lynne Hicks, Co-Chair  
Zack Bolzan  
Bill Duff  
J. Clyde Duncan  
Alice Floyd

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

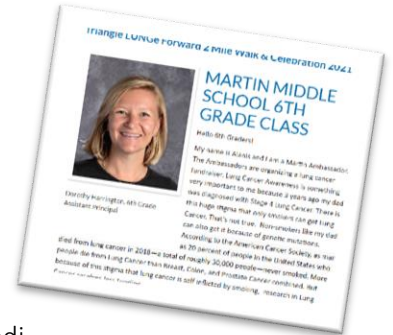
## Grassroots Events



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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades to support the Triangle LUNGe 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	John & CeCe Kennedy	Tracy Parks
Glenn Andrews	Tom Kleinknecht	Dr. Chad Pecot
Don & Carla Berryann	Bill & Ginny Kloepfer	Bill & BJ Peterson
Drs. Neal Ready & Lynn Bowlby	Clyde & Meredith Lundy	Gerald Postema
Dr. Gabriel & Amy Cipau	Karen McDonnell	Chris & Susanne Rallis
Jim & Tracey Clarke	Mike & Jaymie McKay	Jeff & Beth Richek
Dr. Jeffrey & Shannon Clarke	Dr. Hiren Mehta	Scott Riddle
Erin & Brent Coffey	The Menezes Family	Graham Self
Jennifer Dent	Dr. Kathryn Mileham	Drs. Shawn Sendlinger & Jennifer Garst
Nathan Doty	Collen Mitchell	Jim Sheegog
Dr. Jennifer Ersek	Jim & Polly Morlando	Michael Sulick
Dr. Douglas Hammer & Susan Moore	Mary Lynn & Tom Moser	Dr. Paul & Kathryn Walker
Bob & Tomma Hargraves	Justin Brian & Angela Nicholson	Brad Weddington
Gary & Lynne Hicks and Family	Katie Nifong	John & Roberta Wilder
Lucy & Paul Fedorkowicz	Emily Parks	Caroline Wrisley
Bo & Heather Hooper	Joellen Parks	Amanda Youth
Ben & Liz Hynson	Khaki Parks	
Dan & Nancy Johns	Sissy Parks	
	Stuart Parks	

## AWARDS & 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."

### MEET OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

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



*Click the image above to view.*



**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.



Left to Right: Staff team building with Rebuilding of the Triangle Together; LCAM Open House; Triad LUNGe Forward; Triangle LUNGe Forward



## 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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THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

