

June 10, 2020

To: Cancer Physicians, Cancer Committee Chairs, and Cancer Center Administrators at Illinois Hospitals

Re: Statewide Collaboration Opportunity to Coordinate and Improve Cancer Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Colleagues:

**The newly formed Illinois Cancer Collaborative (ILCC), with the support of the Illinois State Chair of the Commission on Cancer, is pleased to invite your institution to participate** in this first-of-its kind statewide cancer collaborative. The ILCC is an opportunity for Illinois hospitals to partner together to rapidly and efficiently address the unique challenges that we all face in providing safe and optimal cancer care to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rapid and unexpected rise of the COVID-19 pandemic has upended norms in healthcare delivery over the course of just several weeks. Nowhere has COVID-19 disrupted normal patterns of care more than with cancer patients. No institution has been spared from the unanticipated difficulties that COVID-19 has contributed to the already complicated care of cancer patients. The commonality of the problems faced by institutions related to cancer care because of COVID-19 offers a crucial opportunity for institutions statewide to collaborate and pool their experience, expertise, and knowledge to develop consensus protocols, algorithms, and best practice guidelines that can be utilized by all hospitals.

ILCC will form and facilitate five multidisciplinary working groups focused on four high volume clinical areas: breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer) and one additional group focused on hospital/cancer center operations. These groups will evaluate existing evidence and guidelines, combine these with their own expertise and knowledge of the issues that Illinois cancer patients and facilities face, and collaboratively develop consensus protocols, algorithms, and best practice guidelines for oncology care in Illinois during each phase of the COVID-19 pandemic (mitigation, containment, recovery), and develop metrics to assess adherence and uptake. The ILCC Coordinating Center will facilitate dissemination and implementation of the ILCC COVID-19 oncology best practice protocols, algorithms, and guidelines to hospitals statewide. *There will be no cost to participation.*

ILCC offers a unique and valuable opportunity for Illinois hospitals to quickly and efficiently cooperate in addressing the problems and questions regarding caring for our cancer patients during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect this effort will form the foundation of an ongoing statewide cancer collaborative focused on improving cancer care. Please let us know if you are interested in participating and we will send you a brief application. We aim to initiate activities as soon as possible. For more information **please join our webinar on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00pm (Zoom link: <https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/91270330679>)**, or contact the ILCC Coordinating Center at [info@ilcancer.org](mailto:info@ilcancer.org).

Sincerely,



Anthony Yang, MD MS FACS  
Director, Illinois Cancer Collaborative



Karl Bilimoria, MD MS FACS  
Executive Director, Illinois Quality Improvement Collaboratives



Urjeet Patel, MD  
State Chair, Commission on Cancer