



Summary Report

Living with Cancer: From Diagnosis to Survivor **Holiday Inn Conference Center · Tinton Falls, NJ** **Friday, October 1, 2010 · 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

The Living with Cancer: From Diagnosis to Survivor, jointly hosted by the New York Metro Division of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS), the SynCure Cancer Research Foundation and The Wellness Community, provided a substantive FREE educational program for cancer patients and survivors, their friends and family, the health care support community, and the general public. This program aimed to help patients and their families get the information they need to take an active role in their treatment experience, feel less overwhelmed and have a better quality of life. This was the fifth year for this joint SynCure and LLS program and the symposium was a great success. There were 175 registrants and an audience of approximately 110; although the turnout was considered very good, it was adversely impacted by a major rainstorm that hit the area the day of the event that caused flooding and poor driving conditions.

The Agenda for the symposium was as follows:

- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & EXHIBITS
- 9:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
Colleen Thornton, Patient Services Manager, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Stephen Roman, Advisor to the Board, SynCure Cancer Research Foundation
- 9:40 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. **Frankly Speaking about Cancer Treatment and Side-Effects**
Stacie Corcoran, RN, Sr. Clinical Nurse Manager, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NYC
- 10:20 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **The Importance of Clinical Trials**
Anthony Mato, M.D. Hackensack University Medical Center, NJ
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. BREAK
- 11:15 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. **Session A: New Developments in Blood Cancer Research**
Roger Strair, M.D., Ph.D, Professor, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Session B: New Developments in Solid Tumor Research
Generosa Grana, M.D. Director, Cooper Cancer Institute, NJ
- Noon - 12:45 p.m. LUNCHEON and EXHIBITS
- 12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Session A: Employment & Insurance Issues for Cancer Survivors**
Joyce Matola, New Jersey Society of Oncology Managers
Session B: Coping with a Cancer Diagnosis
Jan Tryba, LCSW, The Wellness Community
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Q&A Panel Session with Speakers
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Wrap-up and Evaluations

The program began with an informal continental breakfast and exhibits by several cancer organizations:

- The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, New Jersey Chapter
- The Wellness Community, Northern Jersey Shore Chapter
- Millennium

Following brief introductions by representatives of LLS and SynCure, the morning session consisted of four 30-40 minute PowerPoint-assisted talks by speakers from Hackensack University Medical Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and Cooper Cancer Institute. Following a lunch, there were two simultaneous sessions intended to help cancer patients deal with employment and insurance issues, as well as how to best cope with the psychological and social effects of a cancer diagnosis. There was then a Q&A session during which the panel of speakers addressed written questions from the audience.

Several companies from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry generously provided financial support for the program. Without their support, the program would not have been possible.

The sponsors were:

- **Celgene**
- **Lilly**
- **Millennium**
- **Onconova**
- **sanofi-aventis**

In addition, **Asbury Park Press** newspaper supported the program by providing advertisements for the program at a substantially reduced rate.

At the conclusion of the program, attendees were asked to complete a comprehensive, anonymous 3-page information and evaluation form for the program. Based on both the answers to specific questions and the written comments, the program was very well received. For example, the participants were asked their level of agreement (ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”) with the following statement: “*I would recommend this workshop and educational kit to others with cancer and their loved ones*”. The responses were 72% “*Strongly Agree*”, 27% “*Agree*”, and one person “*Neutral*”.

The following is a sampling of the comments received:

1)	Excellent, top-flight quality. Well done!
2)	I found it very informative—layman language.
3)	Keep up the good work! Good program.
4)	Very good. The speakers were very knowledgeable.
5)	This was the first workshop we attended and it was great.
6)	The speakers were excellent.
7)	Excellent speakers! Great information.
8)	Most helpful was understanding the standards of clinical trials.
9)	I believe this was a great service for all who attend.
10)	Terrific. Each presenter was great. Materials top-notch.
11)	The program empowered me with knowledge and information not given by doctors.
12)	Great speakers! Very informative.

In conclusion, The Living with Cancer: From Diagnosis to Survivor symposium in Tinton Falls, NJ provided a highly valued program.