

November 2024 | ISSUE #37

Patient and Family Advisory Council

Cuthbert Lab & Oncology Outcomes

Welcome

Our teams are pleased to share that we have submitted two notices of intent for new projects and will be working on the full grant applications over the coming months. The first is a peer navigation program to support the needs of rural cancer survivors. The second is on measuring cancer care complexity to inform future oncology workforce planning. We look forward to sharing more details at our next PFAC meeting on Monday, January 13th from 4-5:30pm over zoom.

In other news, a few team members are off to Barcelona this month to present at The Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research Conference. Christie will be presenting on the development of advisory councils, and Colleen will be presenting the results of our recent scoping review on survivorship resources for rural populations.

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Oncology Outcomes

Impact of Performance Status on Survival Outcomes and Health Care Utilization in Patients With Advanced NSCLC Treated With Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors.

STUDY PURPOSE

Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) have revolutionized treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).



Landmark trials testing ICIs in advanced NSCLC are difficult to extrapolate to real-world patient populations.

These studies exclude patients with poor Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status (ECOG PS).

Evaluate the impact of ECOG PS on clinical outcomes and health care utilization in patients with NSCLC treated with ICIs in real-world practice.

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE IMPACT



Poor ECOG PS



Worse survival outcomes.

More likely to use health care services.

30%

Of patients with advanced NSCLC in real-world practice have poor ECOG PS.

Considering the large proportion of patients with poor ECOG PS, there is an urgent need for randomized trials evaluating the efficacy of ICI in this high risk population.



[Click here for full article.](#)

Cuthbert Lab

THE STIGMA SURROUNDING OPIOID USE AS A BARRIER TO CANCER-PAIN MANAGEMENT

AN OVERVIEW OF EXPERIENCES WITH FEAR, SHAME, AND POORLY CONTROLLED PAIN IN THE CONTEXT OF ADVANCED CANCER

Hannah Harsanyi, Colleen Cuthbert, and Fiona Schulte

PURPOSE

Pain is a common cancer related symptom affecting advanced cancer patients.



Opioids are often considered the "gold-standard" therapy in cancer pain management.

Opioid stigma exists as a result of the opioid epidemic. This study aimed to overview the crucial role of opioids for pain management, and explore how perceptions of opioid use in cancer settings have been influenced by existing stigma

CONCLUSIONS:

Opioids are an essential therapeutic option for symptom and pain management among patients with advanced cancer.

Opioid stigma has become a significant barrier to pain management for patients with advanced cancer.

Healthcare professionals must be prepared to initiate and maintain conversations with patients such that stigma is reduced, not amplified or ignored.



Study Recruitment



We continue to actively recruit participants for several studies right now, including:

- ▶ Remote Assessment of Physical Fitness
Measures: Reliability and Validity Study
[Poster Link to Share](#)

If you think the studies might be relevant to your contacts, please feel free to share the website or poster links. For the additional details on each study click [here](#).



Coming Up

The next newsletter will release in December 2024.

The next PFAC meeting will be on Monday, January 13th from 4-5:30pm over zoom. Stay tuned for more details!

Previous issues of the PFAC newsletter have been posted online:
<https://www.cuthbertlab.com/advisory-council>

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