

# THE PROSTATE CANCER ADVISORY COUNCIL 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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<http://prostatecanceradvisorycouncil.org/>

## Situation Analysis

The Florida Prostate Cancer Advisory Council (PCAC) was established in 2004 by state statute 381.911 and remains under the direction of the University of Florida Prostate Disease Center (UFPDC). The task of PCAC is to advise the Governor, State Surgeon General and State Legislature on statewide issues regarding prostate cancer incidence and mortality as well as related health disparities for access to care and prostate cancer treatment. PCAC is a collaborative, multi-institutional and inter-disciplinary advisory body focused on a communication platform that promotes education and awareness as well as improved detection and management of prostate cancer statewide. The Council is required to file an annual report update to the Governor, State Surgeon General and the Florida Legislature.

Membership in the UFPDC/PCAC is by appointment of the executive director of the UFPDC in consultation with the Department of Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and State Surgeon General to cover a geographically and institutionally diverse advisory council that shall consist of 9 members:

- Two persons from prostate cancer survivor groups or cancer-related advocacy groups.
- Four persons, one of whom is a physician licensed under chapter 458, one of whom is a physician licensed under chapter 459, one of whom is a scientist, one of whom is the executive director of the UFPDC or designee.
- Three persons who are engaged in the practice of cancer related medical specialty from health organizations committed to cancer research and control.

## 2024 PCAC Proposed Membership Renewals

- **Nicole Bixler, DO, MBA, FACOFP**
  - Statute: Medical Doctor/ physician licensed under chapter 459 (DO)
  - Term: January 2023 - January 2025            1 Year
- **Daniel Landau, MD**
  - Statute: Cancer Related Specialty
  - Term: January 2023 - January 2025            1 Year
- **Ali Kasraeian, MD**
  - Statute: Medical Doctor/ physician licensed under 458 (MD)
  - Term: January 2023 - January 2025            1 Year
- **Raymond W. Pak, MD, MBA**
  - Statute: Cancer Related Specialty
  - Term: January 2023 - January 2025            1 Year
- **Paul Hull, MPH (took over November 2023 for Megan Wessel)**
  - Statute: Patient Advocate/Prostate Cancer Survivor Group
  - Term: January 2023 - January 2025            1 Year

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PCAC 2023 Activities:

- The PCAC leadership worked on formulating a 3-year strategic plan to improve access to prostate cancer screening in African American men. (Attachment I) It highlighted available state infrastructure that may serve for a state-wide initiative to improve prostate cancer awareness and access to screening for underserved populations.
- PCAC briefed the DOH on the proposed prostate cancer initiative “Bridging the Gap in Minority Awareness of Prostate Cancer Screening and Early Detection of Prostate Cancer in African Americans in Florida.”
- PCAC updated CCRAB at their September 29, 2023 meeting on prostate cancer early detection awareness activities.
- The interim 2023 chair worked with UF leadership to prepare the incoming Executive Chair to continue long term PCAC activities.

### PCAC December 2023 Annual Meeting

Dr. Julio Pow-Sang, 2023 Interim Chair PCAC, opened the meeting by introducing Dr. Tariq Benadir, the newly appointed Executive Chair. He then reported that Megan Wessel resigned as she was moving in the organization. Mr. Paul Hull, American Cancer Society Vice President for Regional Advocacy was appointed as member to fill the vacated position for the Patient Advocate/Prostate Cancer Survivor Group slot. The annual meeting addressed challenges with implementing and maintaining prostate cancer awareness and early detection initiatives statewide, education of practitioners to improve best treatment of men with metastatic prostate cancer. Challenges and opportunities in implementing statewide initiatives towards these goals were discussed and action recommendations were adopted for 2024

Dr. Julio Pow-Sang began by presenting a proposal for a 3-year Outreach Program that would engage the Regional Cancer Collaboratives and other state resources. (Attachment)

Limitations on implementation and resources needed were highlighted and included:

Limitations:

1. Cultural Resistance: Overcoming cultural taboos and misconceptions about prostate cancer and screenings may be challenging.
2. Budgetary Constraints: Implementing large-scale awareness campaigns and clinics will require sufficient funding.
3. Access to Healthcare: Ensuring adequate access to healthcare facilities and providers in underserved areas may pose logistical challenges.
4. Sustainability: Maintaining long-term engagement and momentum in the community may be difficult.

Resources Needed:

1. Funding: Secure financial support from government grants, private donors, and corporate sponsors to cover program expenses and outreach efforts.
2. Partnerships: Collaborate with local healthcare providers, community organizations, and advocacy groups to leverage existing networks and resources.
3. Educational Materials: Develop culturally relevant educational materials in multiple formats, including print and digital.

4. Media Channels: Allocate resources for media campaigns through television, radio, social media, and online platforms.

Dr. Tarik Benidar discussed Diagnostic Equipoise to Standard of Care in the context of disparities. He presented current epidemiologic data showing increased mortality rates in African American men and different rates of mortality comparing counties throughout Florida. His recommendations included:

1. Community Outreach and engagement
2. Treatment Equipoise
  - Treating all patients to the level I evidence standard of care.
  - This might require early and more frequent surveillance for high-risk men.
3. Exploring the biological/genomic differences unique to this patient population

Dr. Noah Hammarland presented on the Use of Machine Learning to Address and Identify Treatment Disparities. Social determinants of health. He formulated an action plan that included:

1. Implementing a natural language processing approach to find social determinant barriers recorded in clinical notes.
2. Identify barriers using current clinical workflows.
3. Learn about important to health care access.
4. Matching patients with social interventions to address disadvantages before they become barriers to care.

Dr. Ali Kasraeian updated on the Florida Urological Society/Florida Society of Clinical Oncology project in improving management of advanced prostate cancer.

This program provided guidelines to urologists, including:

1. In men with recurrent and advanced prostate cancer, consider referral to medical oncology early.
2. Recommend multi-disciplinary care of men with recurrent and advanced prostate cancer including urology, medical oncology, and radiation oncology.
3. The critical role of communication and coordination of care between specialists

Dr. Matthew Abramowitz addressed Radiation Disparities in AA Men with Prostate Cancer and presented opportunities to improve radiation therapy delivery with newer technologies.

Dr. Ricks-Santi addressed Genomic Differences in AA Patients with Prostate Cancer Unmet Needs. She proposed:

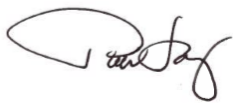
1. Comparing Florida data with TCGA.
2. Correlating mutational status with clinical outcomes.
3. Identifying druggable/ therapeutic targets.
4. Creating validation cohorts.
5. Determine the impact of microenvironment on tumor using spatial transcriptomics technology.

Drs. Ramzi Salloum and Danny Armstrong updated the board on respective statewide activities by CCRAB and BRAC related to cancer control and research in prostate cancer. CCRAB reviewed previous discussions regarding prostate cancer screening and increased scrutiny of men at risk for prostate cancer secondary to racial and hereditary risks. Dr. Armstrong reviewed current state-provided funding for biomedical and cancer research. He stressed the opportunity for PCAC to promote application to these funds through collaborative efforts between institutions across the state.

#### PCAC 2024 Initiatives

- Assess challenges and opportunities in implementing statewide prostate cancer early diagnosis awareness amongst African American men.
- Improving diagnostic equipoise as standard of care in the state of Florida.
- Seek sources of funding for prostate cancer awareness initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Julio Pow-Sang, MD

Chair, Genito-Urinary Oncology

Moffitt Cancer Center

Executive Director

Prostate Cancer Advisory Council