

"Cheers to the Vice President's Leadership of Cancer Moonshot: Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation Invites All of America to Join the Fight"

I cannot express the excitement I have after attending the Moonshot summit in Washington D.C. —excitement and *hope* for the future for all cancer patients. I was honored to meet with both Vice President Joe Biden and Greg Simon, executive director of the White House Cancer “Moonshot” Taskforce during the patient advocacy leader roundtable summit. As a cancer survivor, this was an opportunity to include the patient voice in the conversation, and I applaud the Vice President for giving patients and advocacy a seat at his table.

For the past decade I have dedicated my life to the advancement of Lung Cancer care, in the hope that, as a survivor, I could bring the patient perspective to the center of the conversation. My family and I started the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation to make Lung Cancer a chronically managed disease by 2023.

Now, in the spirit of collaboration, I invite all of us to look at making ALL cancers chronically managed diseases. So how do we do this? We do it together!

The Big Idea

It will take big ideas to be able to use the ‘c’ word for CURE for cancer, as against the ‘c’ word for ‘control’ that patients today have to settle with. Right now, 80% of all cancer patients are treated in community hospitals and clinics —and tapping into them is critical in meeting the administration’s goal of completing 10 years of research in 5 years. One of the biggest roadblocks to advancing cancer research is *access* to bio-specimens and patient data that hold the answer to many unanswered questions on the biology of the disease. In our community hospitals there are specimens that are used for pathology and then discarded . We need to get these specimens into a centralized open-source, open-access biorepository managed by experienced brokers with no vested interests other than advancing the state of the science and accelerating the search for cures to help patients *today*. This centralized biorepository can host bio-specimens from all cancer patients that are well annotated with clinical, pathologic, demographic and outcomes data, and will offer itself as a resource to anyone in the field willing to ask critical questions that address unmet medical needs. The oversight committee for this effort can be comprised of cancer patients, representatives from patient advocacy groups for ALL cancers, and all stakeholders involved in the healthcare delivery enterprise. It will take a village as we collaboratively and collectively fight cancer and deliver on Vice President Biden’s promise to accelerate what was to be done in 10 years, in five.

Collecting samples from the community where 80% of cancer patients are treated, will add the statistical power to address questions on each individual molecular subtype of cancer as we move into the era of precision medicine (matching the right treatment to the right patient, at the right time) and each slice of the cancer pie becomes smaller and smaller. This could be the most prominent biorepository in the world. Making these bio- and data-repositories ‘open-source’ and

‘open-access’ will break down the silos that impede cutting-edge research that can impact cancer patients lives’ today, and those of cancer patients of tomorrow. We owe it to our children

How We Will Fund This Effort

In 1971, President Richard Nixon declared the war on cancer, which now is beginning a key period. President Obama’s billion-dollar commitment to the Cancer Moonshot initiative is a great start, but it falls upon all Americans to continue the momentum – because at some point in our lives we will all be touched by cancer as patients or friends and family members of those who become sick. There are various funding alternatives in the public and private sector, but one simple suggestion is making a \$10 a year commitment to a respected organization. This way every American will have the opportunity to be part of the Cancer Moonshot Initiative and ultimately, the cure.

So, again I applaud the President, the Vice President, and all the people who helped put this summit together and for making cancer a top priority. Together we can beat cancer. Let’s do this America!

About the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation

The Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation (ALCF) is one of the largest philanthropies (patient-founded, patient-focused, and patient-driven) devoted exclusively to eradicating Lung Cancer through research, early detection, education, and treatment. The Foundation’s goal is to work with a diverse group of physicians, organizations, industry partners, individuals, patients, survivors, and their families to identify solutions and make timely and meaningful change and turn lung cancer into a chronically managed disease by 2023. The ALCF was established on March 1, 2006, as a 501c(3) non-profit organization and has raised nearly \$30 million for lung cancer research and related programs. For more information about the ALCF please visit www.lungcancerfoundation.org or follow us on Facebook or Twitter