

Cancer Strategic Clinical Network™ Patient and Family Advisors

The Cancer SCN (CSCN) extends its sincere thanks to our patient and family advisors who contribute in so many ways to priority setting, planning, and implementing various initiatives. Their voices, stories and experiences are invaluable and continue to inspire and inform our work. Below are perspectives from a few of our patient advisors.



“I volunteered shortly after recovering from two surgeries and radiation to treat my tongue cancer. Little did I know at the time but my post-surgery hospital stay was reduced from 14 days to 10 days because of the CSCN’s Head and Neck Cancer Clinical Pathway. I know if my cancer diagnosis and treatments had been quicker, radiation and a second surgery may have been avoided. This is why I’m so excited to be a patient advisor on the CSCN’s Accelerated Cancer Diagnosis Initiative. Once implemented, it will truly be transformative, saving the healthcare system resources and improving patient outcomes. I am a member of the CSCN Core Committee and know my thoughts and perspectives are heard and valued. I’ve learned so much and have a renewed appreciation of the complexities of Alberta’s healthcare system. I’m very grateful for all the treatments I have received so it’s a privilege and so worthwhile to contribute a patient voice to the CSCN’s research and unique innovations.”



““I remember my first meeting with the CSCN, walking into a room filled with individuals who were highly educated and trained, incredibly skilled and committed to excellence in every aspect of their work. I paused and took a few deep breaths and reminded myself that I was there to share the perspective, experience and voice of a caregiver. That day I facilitated a session with my friend, Tricia Antonini, and afterwards we agreed that our voice had been heard and that we had made an impact. That was January 2013, and the warm welcome and value I felt that day has intensified.”



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Clinical Network™

Inspiring solutions.
Together.

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The CSCN Leadership & Core Committee have an unwavering commitment to embedding the patient and family voice in all initiatives. This past year they invited advisors from the Core Committee to be part of co-designing the Accelerated Cancer Diagnosis Initiative. I always appreciate the strong engagement and communication that has become regular practice for the CSCN. It has been such a privilege for me to be part of the team and to have the opportunity to inform many initiatives; all with the same goal of improving patient experience and care, improving quality of life & enhancing survivorship, and to wisely use the funding available. Over the past seven years, I have seen the CSCN "live the values" of AHS which includes compassion, accountability, respect, excellence, and safety."



"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in the fall of 2015, and underwent surgery and chemotherapy. The following year, I became a patient advisor for the CSCN. I feel honoured to be part of this dedicated, inspiring team, and am proud of the work we have accomplished. I appreciate the CSCN's leadership, whose vision and persistence is improving the lives of cancer patients. My perspective as a cancer patient is valued and respected. From participating in a breast cancer perioperative working group that created patient educational materials to attending patient focus groups, my involvement with the CSCN has been an empowering and positive experience for me. I hope to contribute to the work of the CSCN for years to come."