



2020 Annual Impact Report

A



LUNG CANCER INITIATIVE
of North Carolina
A NETWORK OF HOPE AND ACTION

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The past year was difficult for all of us, and certainly a critical time for those we serve in the lung cancer community. At the beginning of the year we were thrilled to have moved into our brand-new office on Glenwood Avenue. We could never have envisioned at our Annual Meeting last February, that many of the programs and events that we were eagerly planning would look so different months later. We also could never have fully comprehended the isolation and pervasive uncertainty that quickly became the reality across our network – and across our world.

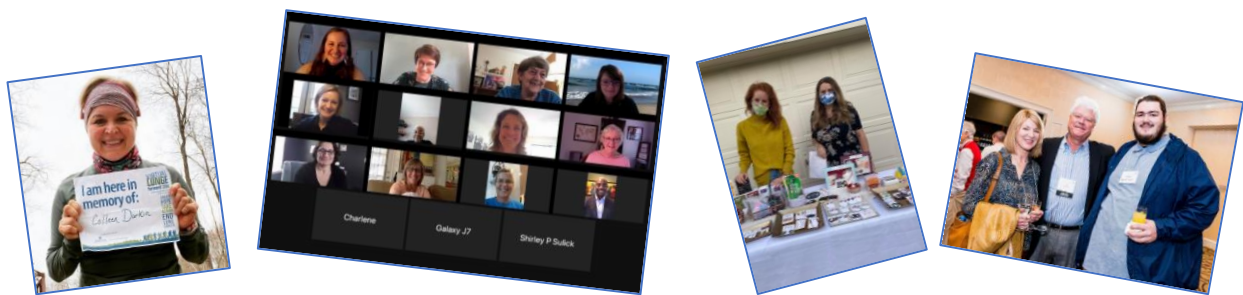
However, as everyone in our community had to do, we regrouped. We took a close look at what our role was in supporting lung cancer patients and their families during this critical time, which required us to look at things a little differently. We sought partnerships throughout the community to develop new programs and initiatives, many of which are now a mainstay at LCI including our survivor luncheon series and patient emergency fund. From fully funding our research grants to delivering community education, we also worked hard to find ways to continue our existing programs.

I invite you to review last year’s annual impact report which outlines our mission delivery for 2020. I also encourage you to take a look at a few [video highlights](#) from the past year, including the faces of the many supporters who stepped up to make hope possible.

As we begin 2021, we know we still have many challenges ahead, but we are motivated now more than ever. We look forward to partnering with all of you to more effectively deliver our mission across North Carolina and beyond because together, there is so much more we can do!



Paige Humble
Executive Director
Lung Cancer Initiative



Left to Right: Virtual Charlotte LUNGE Forward; Virtual Triad LUNGE Forward Survivors’ Celebration; Grassroots Fundraiser, Flourish Market; 2020 February Annual Meeting

ABOUT US

Our Mission

Our mission is to advance survivorship and provide support to those affected by lung cancer through research, education and access programs.

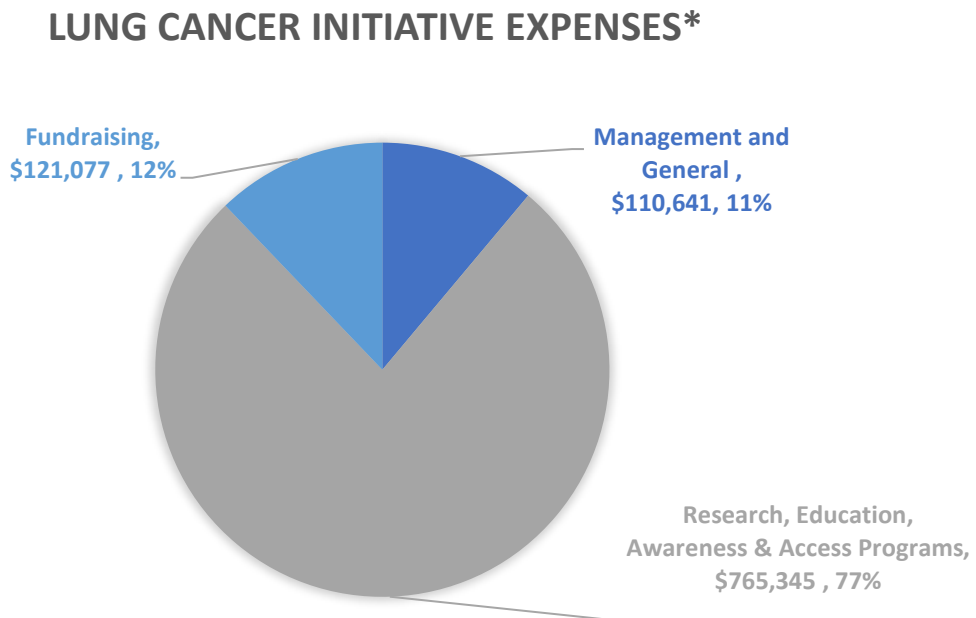
Our Vision

To improve life for everyone affected by lung cancer.

Our Core Values

- Passionate support of survivorship
- Building Community
- Compassion
- Empathy
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Responsible stewardship

Expenses for Fiscal Year 2019



**2019 Audited Financials*

View our [audited financials](#) and [990](#) online.

RESEARCH

In 2020, LCI funded \$325,000 in lung cancer research through our Research Fellowships, Career Development Award and Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award. Since 2008, LCI has funded almost \$2.5 million in lung cancer research with the majority of the funding remaining in North Carolina.

2020 Research Fellowship Program

The purpose of the Research Fellowship program is to further the development of local lung cancer care and research programs across the state of North Carolina. By funding research activities of fellows, our goal is to help to further their careers and encourage their continued involvement in the field of lung cancer.

2020 Research Fellows



Shetal Patel, MD, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Project: “Combination Strategies Targeting Myeloid Cells in Squamous Lung Cancer”
Dr. Patel will seek to understand the role of innate immune checkpoints in lung cancer treatment response.



Anna Ivanina, PhD, Levine Cancer Institute

Project: “Using Phosphodiesterase Isoenzymes Inhibitors to Enhance Pemetrexed Activity in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer” Dr. Ivanina will repurpose existing drugs targeting metabolic pathways to enhance the potency of a chemotherapeutic drug that is currently used in the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer.



Janardhana Ponnatapura, MD, Wake Forest University Health Sciences

Project: “Immunotherapy Induced Pneumonitis in Lung Cancer Patients: Role Of Imaging To Predict Long Term Outcomes” Dr. Ponnatapura will study lung cancer patients who experience immunotherapy related pneumonitis and classify them into different subsets based on computed tomography (CT) findings.



Carolyn Glass, MD, PhD, Duke University Medical Center

Project: “Identifying Epigenetic Biomarkers that Predict Response to Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer Patients” Dr. Glass will work to identify specific molecular epigenetic biomarkers that may be able to predict who and who does not respond to immunotherapy.



Suneetha Amara, MD, East Carolina University

Project: “Analyzing the Role of GPR4 in Immune Mediated Adverse Events in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer” Dr. Amara will study GPR4 as a biomarker to improve immunotherapy for lung cancer patients.

Career Development Award



Through the Career Development Award, LCI aims to support and provide research funding to emerging research leaders early in their career who plan to continue their focus in the field of lung cancer. **Shetal Patel, MD, PhD**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the 2020 grant recipient for her project titled, "Metabolic Reprogramming of the Tumor Microenvironment to Enhance Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer."

While immune checkpoint antibodies have rapidly changed the treatment approach for lung cancer, the

"We believe this work will directly lead to novel combination treatment approaches for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer." --Shetal Patel, MD, PhD, 2020 Career Development Award Recipient

majority of patients do not respond to treatment. Recent studies have implicated metabolic factors in the tumor microenvironment that may influence the function of multiple tumor-associated immune cell populations. Dr. Patel's study aims to help understand how manipulating

nutrient balance in the tumor with a glutamine antagonist impacts T-cell function and anti-tumor activity. Dr. Patel's team will specifically focus on testing this in a model of CAR-T cell therapy, an emerging approach for cancer immunotherapy.

Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award



Salma Azam, PhD EnFuego Therapeutics Inc., was awarded the 2020 Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award. Dr. Azam's \$25,000 grant will support her innovative work aimed at stopping KRAS proteins from being made in cancer cells.

Through her research, Dr. Azam is developing a new drug with the ability to stop mutated KRAS proteins from being made in cancer cells, which would result in cancer cell death. This new drug has been designed to be taken up by cancer cells and no other tissue, which would reduce the chances of causing negative side effects in patients. In this project, mouse models will be used to test the drugs' ability to enter tumors, reduce the amount of KRAS, and ultimately decrease disease burden.

"We are trying to find one of the 'holy grails' of cancer - how to stop the notoriously undruggable mutant KRAS, which has been known for decades to be one of the most important drivers of lung cancer." --Salma Azam, PhD, 2020 Vicky Amidon Innovation in Lung Cancer Research Award Recipient

Scientific Advisory Committee

Jeff Petty, MD, Chair, Wake Forest Baptist Health

Jeffrey Clarke, MD, Duke Cancer Institute

Amy Cipau, MBA, LCI President

Ed Kim, MD, City of Hope

Kathryn Mileham, MD, Atrium Health

Praveen Namireddy, MD

Chad Pecot, MD, UNC Healthcare

Patti Pozella, DrPH, MBA, Advocate

Neal Ready, MD, Duke Cancer Institute

Jimmy Ruiz, MD, Wake Forest Baptist Health

Nitika Sharma, MD

Liling Warren, Advocate

Jared Weiss, MD, UNC Healthcare

ACCESS

LCI is dedicated to assisting those affected by lung cancer through our access programs, designed to assist patients in accessing appropriate education, screening, biomarker testing, treatment and clinical research.

Access to Care Gas Card Program

The Access to Care Gas Card Program supports patients in accessing appropriate care and treatment, including clinical trials. Patients may receive up to three \$50 gas cards annually. In 2020:

- 450 \$50 gas cards provided to 397 patients.
- Patients resided in 72 counties in North Carolina.
- 80% of recipients' household income at or below \$49,000.
- 65% of recipients identified as White/Caucasian and 28.7% as Black/African American.

Patient Emergency Fund

In an effort to support lung cancer patients who were financially impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, LCI established the Patient Emergency Fund to help lung cancer patients stay healthy and to meet their basic needs. In 2020:

- 80 patients each received a \$250 stipend for a total of \$20,000 in funding.
- 89% of recipients indicated an annual household income of \$49,000 or less.
- 53% of recipients identified as White, 41% as Black and 6% as Hispanic.

Access Grants

Through our access grant program, LCI seeks to award up to three \$10,000 grants annually to assist institutions in improving access to lung cancer screening, treatment, clinical trials, comprehensive biomarker testing or precision medicine for uninsured or underinsured individuals.

In 2020, LCI awarded one grant to **Elon University** for a project focused on fall prevention in lung cancer patients. The project will evaluate the risk of falling in individuals with a history of lung cancer. Those at high risk of falling will be offered a virtual, home-based intervention designed to improve physical function and balance with the goal of reducing future falls.

The remaining two access grants were repurposed in order to support the COVID-19 Patient Emergency Fund.

Access to Care Grants Committee

Kenisha Bethea, MPH

Kimberly Alexander Bratcher, MPH

Kara Bruner

Colleen Christensen, LCI Staff

Jenni Danai, MPH, LCI Staff

Jennifer Ersek, PhD

Susan Moore, PhD

Elatt Spiller

“Many of our patients live 50+ miles from our cancer center and would not be able to come for daily radiation and chemo treatments if they didn't have access to the gas card program.” -NC Patient Navigator



[VIEW A MESSAGE FROM LCI FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, AMY CIPAU ABOUT THE PATIENT EMERGENCY FUND](#)

EDUCATION

LCI is dedicated to furthering education about lung cancer through community and provider education initiatives. Throughout 2020, efforts shifted to ensure important and timely information could still be accessible to all of those who were seeking it.

Community Education Series

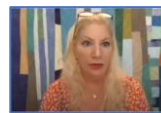
LCI relied on partners across the state to deliver community education to 171 participants through five community education programs including coping with lung cancer during COVID-19, financial hurdles with a cancer diagnosis, research updates, and lung cancer screening. This year's series was tailored to meet specific interests and needs of participants and topics were largely developed in response to evolving needs throughout the pandemic. All programs were offered virtually and can be [viewed online](#).

Advocacy Summit: "It's All About You"

Fifty-eight survivors, advocates, caregivers and providers gathered virtually over two days in August to learn how to be more effective advocates by using their own personal stories. Keynote speaker Sharon Delaney-McCloud shared her own personal experiences in helping attendees build their resilience to be the best advocate they can be. Sessions were recorded and are available online.



[Click to Watch - Day 1](#)



[Click to Watch - Day 2](#)

Provider Education

LCI partnered with Duke Health on a project as a part of the Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and the Community Engaged Research Initiative (CERI) Population Health Improvement Award. Collaborative projects included two primary care provider focus groups to gain insight on provider's perceptions through lung cancer screening.

LCI works closely with the provider education committee to plan meaningful provider education and resources for their patients throughout North Carolina.

Provider Education Committee

Jared Weiss, MD, Chair
Lynn Bowlby, MD
Ed Kim, MD

Hiren Mehta, MD
BJ Peterson, PhD
Melissa Tanner, MBA, PMP

SURVIVORSHIP



This year, LCI launched our Survivor Steering Committee to ensure survivors are actively engaged in the planning and programming across our organization.

Throughout the year, we remained focused on looking for ways to keep lung cancer survivors and their loved ones connected across North Carolina and were pleased that 108 survivors engaged with us through a variety of opportunities throughout the year. Notable speakers Adam Klein from CBS' Survivor and

Chris Draft, former NFL football player additionally joined survivors during special events. Medical experts including Dr. Kathryn Mileham, Levine Cancer Institute; Dr. Jennifer Garst, Duke Cancer Institute; and Dr. Hiren Mehta, UNC Rex Healthcare also provided up-to-date information for survivors related to COVID-19 via fireside chats and video updates.

Survivors' Luncheon Series

This series was originally developed out of necessity when in-person meetings became difficult early in the pandemic. This series has continued to evolve and is an opportunity for survivors to meet and network with other survivors. The group meets the first Wednesdays of every month and includes opportunities to socialize as well as topics of interest to attendees including exercise, nutrition and mindfulness-based stress reduction.

Wellness Retreat

Wind River Cancer Wellness Retreats led the third annual Lung Cancer Survivor Wellness Retreat funded by LCI in October. Twelve lung cancer survivors and an all-survivor led team participated in this virtual event to teach wellness and stress reducing techniques as well as to foster a network among survivors.



HEAR LUNG CANCER SURVIVOR,
PHUONG HYUNH [SHARE HER JOURNEY](#)

Survivor Steering Committee

Lawanna Best
Jon Gorman
Tomma Hargraves
Chuck Holley
Angela Hopper
Jennifer Kiger
Ginny Kloepfer
Meredith Lundy
Mike Smith
Mary Frances White

AWARENESS

From community health fairs, to events including the LUNGe Forward Run, Walk & Celebration series, LCI partners with others to raise awareness of lung cancer throughout the community. Many of these efforts would not be possible without our dedicated volunteer committees.

Health Fairs

Although health fairs looked quite different in 2020, LCI was proud to participate in the Aware for All – Raleigh Virtual Community event designed to educate the public about the importance of clinical research. Hosted by CISCRP, the interactive event included a health fair with a five-minute lung cancer risk assessment offered by LCI.

Virtual LUNGe Forward Run, Walk & Celebrations



This year's LUNGe Forward events were each held virtually and collectively raised **\$307,607**. Although individuals were not able to gather in person, a virtual campaign in Charlotte, a week's worth of virtual events in the Triangle and a live stream celebration of hope in the Triad remembered those that have been lost to lung cancer and celebrated survivorship and hope. Virtual programs in the [Triangle](#) and the [Triad](#) are still available for viewing.

Triangle LUNGe Committee

Jen Colon, Chair
Dede Benissan
Maura Boselowitz
K'ri Boseman
Julina Butterworth
Amy Cipau
Lee Ellen Coffey
Renu Dale
Amanda David
Kimberly Debaun
Missy Eddy
Lori Marucci Flowers
Sonja Gorman
Lynne Hicks

Phuong Huynh
Liz Hynson
Donna Best Lindsay
Meredith Lundy
Isaack Martinez
Debra Mosley
Kevin Nunnery
Jennifer Primrose
Jan Rice
Jim Sheegog
Elatt Spiller
Jaquetta Sutton
Courtney Thomas
Grant Warren
Carolyn Yantorn

Charlotte LUNGe Committee

Jen Ersek, Co-Chair
Nolie Futch, Co-Chair
Emily Baldrige
Sharon Buige
Doris Castevens
Jen Colon
Terri Conneran
Tracy & Casey
Delahunt
Jennifer Dent
Allison Dyer
Deniece Edgeworth
Tammra Granger
Alisa Goldstein

Elizabeth Hess
Rachel Langley
Rashawn Lee
Raychelle Leonard
Tim Keesling
Amber Klobchar
Paloma Macchiavello
Khaki Madera
Angie Madigan
Olivia Madigan
Mallory Maynard
Glenda Mayo
Kelly Mickler
Karen Paris

LUNGe Forward Run, Walk & Celebration Committee Chairs



Jen Colon, Triangle



Jen Ersek & Nolie Futch, Charlotte



Emily Parks, Triad

Lung Cancer Initiative Annual Impact Report 2020

Denise Reynolds
Jeff Richek
Susan Sota
Alexa Tahan

Heather Thomas
Bella Travis
Sally Trufan
Renee Ware

Amber Wright
William Worrilow
Caroline Wisley

Triad LUNGe Committee

Emily Parks, Chair
Melanee Bennett
Lori Flowers
Quentin Gunter
Michele Hursey
Mary Ingram

Jenner Lee
Kelli Liles
Becky Neighbours
Ruby Ray
Scott Riddle
Starr Sargent

Gwen Sellers
Susan Smith
Bob Steele
JoAnn Steele

Evening of Hope Live Online Celebration and Auction



The 2020 Evening of Hope Live Online Celebration and Auction raised **\$118,628** to benefit Lung Cancer Initiative. The event included a silent auction and highlighted the lung cancer journey of [Phuong Huynh](#) and included special guest speaker Coach Mike Krzyzewski, Duke men's basketball coach. The virtual event can still be viewed [online](#).

Evening of Hope Committee

Angela Nicholson, Chair
Kara Bruner
Madison Call
Amy Cipau
Tracey Clarke
Jen L Colon
Amanda David
Missy Eddy
Liz Hynson

Robert Marquart
Mike McKay
Susan Moore
Jennifer Payne
Jane Pedersen
April Query
Elatt Spiller
Jequetta Sutton
Jacquie Wells
Stephanie Wilson



Evening of Hope Committee
Chair, Angela Nicholson

Triangle Golf Classic

The second annual Triangle Lung Cancer Golf Classic was held in Cary, NC and raised \$21,950 to benefit lung cancer research and education through LCI's programs.



Triangle Golf Classic Chair, Gary Hicks

Triangle Golf Classic Committee

Gary Hicks, Chair
Bill Duff
J. Clyde Duncan
Alice Floyd
Anderson Garrett
Beth Hefner

Lynne Hicks
Ben Hynson
Liz Hynson
Katie Nifong
Graham Self

Collaborations

LCI works closely with partners through collaboration and participation in community associations including:

LungCAN (Lung Cancer Action Network)
NC Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination & Control
Health Research Alliance
National Lung Cancer Roundtable
National Lung Cancer Roundtable Stigma Subcommittee
North Carolina Alliance for Health
Duke Cancer Institute Community Advisory Council
NC Center for Nonprofits
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce



GIVING HOPE SOCIETY



The Giving Hope Society recognizes the generosity and impact of individuals and families who are sustaining donors to LCI. Society members contribute a minimum of \$1,000 annually in unrestricted cash gifts to the organization. Donations can be in memory or in honor of a loved one, made toward a LCI event, or a special gift directed toward the Society. The care and kindness of our Society members fuels critical research, education, awareness and access programs across the state.

All members were honored during a Giving Hope Society virtual cocktail social where members heard from Dr. Emily Harrison, the 2019 Career Development Award Recipient as well as Dr. Jennifer Garst, LCI Board Chair and Dr. Ed Kim, LCI former board member and 2021 Scientific Advisory Committee Chair.

Thank you to our 2020 Giving Hope Society Members

Tammy Allred, RN, OCN	Dr. Douglas Hammer & Susan Moore	Clyde & Meredith Lundy
Bob & Pat Barker		Chad Mastny
Don & Carla Berryann	Bob & Tomma Hargraves	Dr. Hiren Mehta
Drs. Neal Ready & Lynn Bowlby	Gary & Lynne Hicks and Family	Justin Brian & Angela Nicholson
William Brinker	Jeremy & Natalie Holden	Emily Parks
Kara Bruner	Bo & Heather Hooper	Joellen Parks
Dr. Gabriel & Amy Cipau	Ben & Liz Hynson	Khaki Parks
Jim & Tracey Clarke	Dr. Michael Ignelzi & Gay Maness	Sissy Parks
Dr. Jeffrey & Shannon Clarke	Dan & Nancy Johns	Stuart Parks
Jennifer Dent	Drs. Edward & Florence Kim	Tracy Parks
Dr. Jennifer Ersek	Tom Kleinknecht	Dr. Chad Pecot
	Bill & Ginny Kloepfer	

Bill & BJ Peterson	Drs. Shawn Sendlinger & Jennifer Garst	John & Roberta Wilder
Gerald Postema	Jim Sheegog	Megan Wrisley
Chris & Susanne Rallis	Michael & Shirley Sulick	Robert Youth
Jeff & Beth Richek	Dr. Paul & Kathryn Walker	
Graham Self		

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

LCI Annual Awards



At the 2020 annual meeting, LCI honored three individuals who were nominated by fellow advocates, survivors and volunteers from across LCI.

Elatt Spiller, Volunteer of the Year: This award recognizes the impact, dedication and generosity of someone who gives their time freely to support the mission of LCI. Health fair volunteers, community presenters, grassroots event planners, and other volunteers may be nominated.

Jon Gorman, Survivor of the Year: This award recognizes someone who has been diagnosed with lung cancer and who has used their journey to support others as a source of inspiration and hope.

Dr. Jeffrey Blum, Caregiver of the Year: This award is given in recognition of the compassion and devotion of someone who takes care or has taken care of an individual diagnosed with lung cancer.

Dr. Jen Ersek, Committee Member of the Year: This award recognizes the time, energy, and support given by a committee member who is exceptionally dedicated to supporting LCI's mission. Volunteers serving on the Evening of Hope Gala committee, Marketing committee, Access Grant committee, or any of the LUNGe Forward committees may be nominated.

Pam Boswell, Healthcare Professional of the Year: This award recognizes an oncologist, nurse navigator, or any other healthcare professional that goes above and beyond in an effort to provide supportive and patient centered care to lung cancer survivors. Primary care physicians, oncologists, nurse navigators, clinical social workers, and other healthcare professionals may be nominated.

Other Distinctions

Cure Media Group Inaugural Lung Cancer Heroes

LCI Board Chair, **Dr. Jennifer Garst** was awarded an inaugural Lung Cancer Hero Award for the impact that she has made in the lives of her patients and in the community through LCI and was featured in the national publication, Cure Magazine.

Triangle Business Journal Healthcare Hero Awards

LCI President & Founder, **Amy Cipau** was honored as a 2020 Healthcare Hero for her nonprofit leadership and impact throughout the Triangle community and was featured in the Triangle Business Journal.

Guidestar 2020 Seal of Transparency

LCI earned a 2020 Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information. By sharing metrics that highlight progress Lung Cancer Initiative is making toward its mission, the organization is helping donors move beyond simplistic ways of nonprofit evaluation such as overhead ratios.

“Your gift has allowed us to continue his treatments without worry of the little things needed to keep us going day to day. For instance, our tires were nearly bald but your gift helped pay for new tires! So often it is forgotten, how important every penny is when you are experiencing a crisis like cancer.” –Patient Emergency Fund Recipient



Left to Right: Virtual Charlotte LUNGe Forward; Virtual Triad LUNGe Forward; Virtual Triangle LUNGe Forward; 2020 February Annual Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Cipau, MBA, MA, President & Founder
Advocate

Jennifer Garst, MD, Board Chair
Duke Raleigh Hospital

Emily Parks, Secretary
Organize for Success

Justin Brian Nicholson, Treasurer
Sterling Capital

Jeffrey Clarke, MD
Duke Cancer Institute

Liz Hynson
Lung Cancer Advocate

Ed Kim, MD
Levine Cancer Institute
Atrium Health

Hiren Mehta, MD
UNC Health/UNC Rex

Chad Pecot, MD
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Chris Rallis
Pappas Capital

Jim Sheegog
Rowhill Consulting Group

Shirley Sulick
Lung Cancer Survivor & Advocate

STAFF

Paige Humble, MBA, Executive Director

Colleen Christensen, Engagement Coordinator

Kirsis Concepcion, Database Coordinator

Jenni Danai, MPH, Senior Director of Programs

Lynne Hicks, CPA Director of Finance

Michelle McLean, Operations Manager

Lane Moore, Communications & Development
Specialist

Sandy Oehler, Director of Special Events

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

