

# ACTIONS

FALL 2016 | ISSUE 31 CONGRESSIONAL FAMILIES CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAM | OF THE PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION



CONGRESSIONAL FAMILIES  
CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAM  
OF THE PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION

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## Twenty-Fourth Annual Congressional Families Luncheon Honors Cancer Prevention Leaders

*"Screening Matters" was the theme of the 24th Annual Action for Cancer Awareness Awards Luncheon—and the importance of early detection was made clear by the personal stories of honorees, presenters and other guest speakers.*

The event honored **Patricia Mica** (spouse of Rep. John Mica, Florida), **Summer Sanders** (Olympic champion and television host) and **Amy Robach** (ABC's "Good Morning America" news anchor) for publicly sharing their personal experiences to raise awareness about cancer and the importance of

being screened to detect it early, when it is most treatable.



Left to right: Marcelle Leahy (VT), Alfredia Scott (GA), Caroline Aderholt (AL), Paula Zahn, Lisa McGovern (MA), Greg Simon, Pat Mica (FL), Amy Robach, Summer Sanders

The program opened with remarks from **Greg Simon**, Executive Director of the Cancer Moonshot Task Force (led by Vice President Joe Biden), who outlined the Task Force's work to accelerate progress in innovation by breaking down silos and facilitating collaboration among stakeholders.

Democratic Leader **Nancy Pelosi** echoed Mr. Simon's sense of urgency to make progress and noted that nearly every family is touched by cancer, remembering a treasured colleague **Rep. Mark Takai** (Hawaii), who recently lost his life to pancreatic cancer.



Left to right: LeeAnn Johnson (OH), Debbie Meadows (NC), Wendy Nugent (FL), Nomaswazi Mahlangu (South Africa)

The Congressional Families Program Executive Director **Lisa McGovern** then took the podium and provided a brief description of the Program, which began in 1991 through a partnership between the Congressional Club and

the Prevent Cancer Foundation. Prevent Cancer Foundation's Founder and President **Carolyn "Bo" Aldigé** spoke about the Foundation's 30 years of work in bringing the critical role of prevention to the forefront of the fight against cancer. Master of Ceremonies **Paula Zahn** (Investigation Discovery Channel) presided over the remaining program, periodically pausing to recognize Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol who came to support the Program and its mission.

Continued on page 4

## Save the Date

### Think About The Link® Congressional Briefing

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Russell Senate Office Building,  
Room SR-325

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Read more about Think About  
The Link® on page 3.

### 23rd Annual Spring Gala

Friday, March 10, 2017

National Building Museum

The 2017 Spring Gala will be held  
under the gracious patronage  
of His Excellency, **Ambassador  
Armando Varricchio** and  
**Mrs. Varricchio** of Italy.

### Dialogue for Action® on Cancer Screening and Prevention 2017

April 19-21, 2017

Hilton McLean Tysons Corner  
McLean, VA

To learn more about this annual  
conference focused on evidence-  
based cancer screening, check  
out page 3.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



# Giving Thanks

## Dear Congressional Family Members & Friends,

On September 22, our Program hosted its 24th Annual Action for Cancer Awareness Awards Luncheon honoring congressional spouse Pat Mica of Florida, who recently completed her treatment for colon cancer; breast cancer survivor Amy Robach of “Good Morning America;” and Olympic Gold Medalist and television host Summer Sanders, a three-time melanoma survivor. Each shared powerful stories of finding and facing cancer and emphasized the importance of being screened for colon, breast, skin and other preventable cancers. Many spouses and Members of Congress were on hand to hear the message in person. If you were unable to join us (or would like to hear their remarks again!), please



**watch our luncheon video at [www.congressionalfamilies.org](http://www.congressionalfamilies.org).** You will be moved and inspired to make and keep your screening appointments; I was.

While planning for the luncheon, I became acutely aware that I was not practicing what I was preaching. I was due for my annual mammogram in May. June, July and August flew by—I was very busy working, traveling back and forth to Massachusetts, getting our son Patrick ready for college, helping our daughter Molly get to and from summer school and participating in social groups. The next thing I knew, it was September. No mammogram.

Every day at work, I felt a nagging sense of guilt. Here I was focusing on people whose lives had been saved by cancer screenings, yet I hadn’t scheduled my own. I finally just picked up the phone and made a mammogram appointment for September 23—the day after the luncheon. I was so proud of myself when it was done. Building on that success, I immediately made an appointment for a full physical; a dermatology appointment is next, to check my many moles from a sun-filled youth.

It is important to take charge of our health at every age, but especially as we get older. Cancer is predominantly a disease of aging. We are often diligent about making sure our children, spouses and other loved ones get seen and get screened, but we neglect scheduling our own medical appointments. Don’t let that happen! Your family and loved ones need you healthy, and you owe it to them as well as to yourself.

So this Thanksgiving, I am giving thanks for my health, for good medical care and for our ability to afford it. I feel truly blessed. And I am thankful for the opportunity to urge all of you, my friends, to make those screening appointments—and keep them. We need you healthy, too!

Wishing you a happy, healthy holiday season,

Lisa McGovern, Executive Director

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR OP-ED OUTREACH!

Each month, the Congressional Families Program offers Members and spouses template op-eds about cancer prevention and early detection to be personalized and tailored for local use. Thank you to the following Members and spouses who requested state statistics in the past few months to share this vital information in their home communities:

**Bobbi Barrasso – Wyoming**  
**Rep. Dan Benishek – Michigan**  
**Amy Carter – Georgia**  
**Monica Conyers – Michigan**  
**Vera Davis – Illinois**  
**Rep. Debbie Dingell – Michigan**  
**Diana Enzi – Wyoming**

**Brenda Fleischmann – Tennessee**  
**Barbara Grassley – Iowa**  
**Mikey Hoeven – North Dakota**  
**LeeAnn Johnson – Ohio**  
**Dr. Wayne Kye – New York**  
**Marcelle Leahy – Vermont**  
**Mary McKinley – West Virginia**

**Debbie Meadows – North Carolina**  
**Elizabeth Roskam – Illinois**  
**Rep. Roger Williams – Texas**

Learn more about how you can educate your community  
on cancer prevention and early detection at  
[www.congressionalfamilies.org/resources](http://www.congressionalfamilies.org/resources).

## A CAMPAIGN TO BE PROUD OF: THINK ABOUT THE LINK®

The Prevent Cancer Foundation is wrapping up the first year of its multi-year education campaign, Think About The Link®. Launched in January, this initiative increases awareness of the connection between certain viruses and cancer, focusing on human papillomavirus (HPV), hepatitis B and hepatitis C. The objective is to increase screenings for the viruses, increase immunization rates for HPV and hepatitis B, and raise awareness of—and access to—treatment options for hepatitis C.

In its inaugural year, Think About The Link® reached audiences with a briefing on Capitol Hill (featuring remarks by **Rep. Debbie Dingell** and **Dr. John Schiller**, Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research), as well as through grassroots events in key states including New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Texas and California. In addition, more than 300,000 daily visitors to Times Square can see a 10-second advertisement promoting the campaign through November 30.

The Prevent Cancer Foundation recently announced that country music singer, songwriter and activist **Naomi Judd** will join the campaign as a spokesperson in the second year. Ms. Judd, who is a former registered nurse and a hepatitis C survivor, will share her personal journey with hepatitis C to raise awareness about viruses and related cancers. Stay tuned for announcements on future events featuring Ms. Judd.



Attendees at Think About the Link® City Hall Press Briefing in San Francisco

## LEARN MORE ON DECEMBER 13

### THINK ABOUT THE LINK® BRIEFING

Russell Senate Office Building,  
Room SR-325, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Read about the campaign at  
[www.preventcancer.org/thinkaboutthelink](http://www.preventcancer.org/thinkaboutthelink).

## CONFERENCE ON CANCER SCREENING AND PREVENTION TO BE HELD APRIL 2017

**Are you or someone you know a health care professional or advocate?** Every year the Prevent Cancer Foundation hosts the **Dialogue for Action® on Cancer Screening and Prevention** conference to convene a diversity of stakeholders committed to realizing the lifesaving potential of cancer screening for all communities. The Dialogue emphasizes evidence-based cancer screening and prevention, covering issues related to primary prevention and guideline-based cancer screenings (for colorectal, cervical, breast and lung cancers) and additional cancer screenings (such as for ovarian and prostate cancers).

**The 2017 Dialogue will be held in McLean, Virginia, on April 19-21.** Hot topics will include health equity, trends in cancer prevention and early detection, the "One Million Patients" initiative, and Big Data. The audience (including primary care

physicians, medical specialists, nurses and nurse practitioners, physician assistants, public health educators, researchers, insurers, advocates and survivors) is encouraged to take the dialogue back to their communities and workplaces to promote appropriate screening and prevention. State-of-the-art presentations and interactive, dynamic conversations provide participants with tools and effective strategies for use in both clinical and public health settings.

To learn more, visit [www.preventcancer.org/dialogue-for-action](http://www.preventcancer.org/dialogue-for-action).



Panelists at 2016 Dialogue for Action® Conference

## Awards Luncheon

*Continued from page 1*

**Patricia Mica** was presented the first award for Congressional Leadership by **Caroline Aderholt** (spouse of Rep. Robert Aderholt, Alabama). Ms. Mica has been a leader in the Republican spouse community for decades and a long-time supporter of the Congressional Families Program. A year ago she was diagnosed with colon cancer and her treatment was completed this summer. Ms. Mica encouraged the audience to not put off screenings or avoid warning signs, and is creating a support system for those with cancer in her home community.

**Summer Sanders'** award for Excellence in Cancer Awareness was presented next by fellow melanoma survivor **Marcelle Leahy** (spouse of Sen. Patrick Leahy, Vermont). Ms. Sanders, who has faced three melanoma diagnoses, uses her platforms on television and social media, as an athlete and program host, to focus on skin cancer prevention and early detection. She stressed the importance of knowing your body, looking for changes and advocating for yourself if something seems strange.

**Amy Robach** was presented the final award for Distinguished Service in Journalism by **Alfredia Scott** (spouse of Rep. David Scott, Georgia). Prodded by her "Good Morning America" producers and co-host Robin Roberts (a breast cancer survivor and past Congressional Families honoree), Ms. Robach agreed to an on-air mammogram shortly after her 40th birthday. The mammogram led to her breast cancer diagnosis—the first in her family. Ms. Robach has become a passionate advocate for women to begin receiving regular mammograms at age 40.

Twenty-five members of Congress, including **Sen. Patrick Leahy (VT)**, **Rep. Robert Aderholt (AL)**, **Rep. Charles Dent (PA)**, **Rep. Debbie Dingell (MI)**, **Rep. Doris Matsui (CA)**, **Rep. John Mica (FL)**, **Rep. Jim McGovern (MA)**, **Rep. Chris Van Hollen (MD)** and **Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)**, joined nearly 50 congressional and diplomatic family members and other advocates committed to our vision to Stop Cancer Before It Starts!®

The audience departed the luncheon with a renewed commitment to cancer prevention and excitement for next year's 25th anniversary luncheon. Congratulations to our honorees!



*Left to right:* Helen Green (TX), Barbara Morris Lent (NY), Judy Benishek (MI), Billie Gingrey (GA), Cathy Boozman (AR), Tamra Bentsen (TX), Katie Posey (FL), Julie Reichert (WA), Lydia Foley



*Left to right:* Lisa McGovern (MA), Ann Ashford (NE), Mary Nolan (MN), Rep. Cheri Bustos (IL), Rep. Rick Nolan (MN)



*Left to right:* Alfredia Scott (GA), Amy Robach, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)



Greg Simon, Executive Director of the Cancer Moonshot Task Force



Amy Robach and Rep. Charlie Dent (PA)



Rep. Doris Matsui (CA)

## A Walk in the Park for Cancer Prevention at the 8th Annual Prevent Cancer 5K

More than 700 runners, walkers and dogs gathered at Nationals Park on September 25—a brisk but sunny fall morning—for the 8th Annual Prevent Cancer 5K Walk/Run and Health Fair. The event raised more than \$290,000 to support cancer prevention through research, education, outreach and advocacy. This year's 5K event was part of "DC Calls It Quits," a week-long initiative of the DC Tobacco Free Coalition and the DC Department of Health to "inspire, equip and support DC residents to quit smoking"



Participants, donning Prevent Cancer Foundation's signature green or their own creatively designed team shirts, were greeted by a face painter, the Washington Nationals' Teddy mascot and volunteers eager to cheer them to the finish line. Fitness instructor GeniLee energized the crowd with a warm-up routine before the runners and walkers hit the course, weaving through Nationals stadium and the Navy Yard neighborhood, then back to the park for the finish line.

When participants returned to the park they received goodie bags (for both humans and their four-legged friends) and Subway sandwiches to refuel. Then they could explore the health fair, which featured free flu shots (courtesy of Walgreens) and oral and skin cancer screenings from local dentists and dermatologists. Attendees could also take a walk through the Prevent Cancer Super Colon<sup>®</sup> to learn more about colorectal cancer, practice their swings at the batting cages, pose for photos at a photo booth and visit the Captain Cookie food truck. Check out photos at [www.facebook.com/preventcancer](http://www.facebook.com/preventcancer).

It's never too early to start fundraising for next year's 5K! It's a great way to spend time with family and friends while getting a little exercise and supporting cancer prevention. Recruit your team now and stay tuned for an announcement for the 2017 Prevent Cancer 5K!

## Obesity & Cancer

According to experts, in the near future obesity will overtake tobacco as the leading preventable cause of cancer in the United States. Approximately two-thirds of American adults and one-third of children are overweight or obese. The good news is that even a modest weight loss of 5–10 percent of body weight can have a big payoff in health benefits. Here are some tips to use or share:

### Healthy Weight Tips

[preventcancer](http://preventcancer.org)

#### Increase Daily Activity

Combine a cardiovascular workout with some muscle strengthening exercises.

Pace yourself to lower risk of injuries.

Aim to exercise at least 30 mins, each day.

#### Skip Sugary Drinks

Soda, fruit and sports drinks offer zero nutritional value.

Replace with water.

#### Slow and Steady

Face the benefits and challenges that come with losing weight.

Be patient. Plan goals to work toward.

#### Eat Moderately

Control food portions.

Be constantly aware of your eating habits throughout the day.

#### Turn the TV OFF

TV viewing is the leading behavioral predictor of obesity.

The risk of obesity increases 25% for every 2 hours viewed daily.

#### Sleep Right

Get an average of 7 hours of sleep each night.

Lack of sleep increases cravings for sweets.

#### Keep a Log

Keep track of everything you eat and drink.

Include all portion sizes.

#### Make Realistic Goals

Initial goal should be 5-10% of your current weight.

Breaking weight loss into several stages will make it much more likely for you to reach your goal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [PREVENTCANCER.ORG](http://PREVENTCANCER.ORG)

**Obesity increases the risk of dying from many cancers.**

**These include cancers of the:**

- Breast
- Cervix
- Colon and Rectum
- Esophagus
- Gallbladder
- Kidney
- Liver
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Ovary
- Pancreas
- Prostate
- Stomach
- Uterus

**preventcancer**  
FOUNDATION

Stop Cancer Before It Starts!™

## CONGRESSIONAL FAMILIES MISSION AND HISTORY

The Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program is a bipartisan effort, founded in 1991, to increase the public's understanding of cancer prevention and early detection. Families of Senate, House, Cabinet, Supreme Court and the Diplomatic Corps are invited to work within their respective constituencies to educate the public. The Congressional Families Program offers educational events, materials and resources, enabling its members to bring the message of cancer prevention and early detection back to their communities.

[www.congressionalfamilies.org](http://www.congressionalfamilies.org)



The Prevent Cancer Foundation is one of the nation's leading voluntary health organizations and the only U.S. nonprofit focused solely on cancer prevention and early detection. Founded in 1985, it has elevated cancer prevention to prominence and fulfills its mission through research, education, outreach and advocacy across the country. Our public education programs have applied this scientific knowledge to inform the public about ways they can reduce their cancer risks.

**STOP CANCER BEFORE IT STARTS!®**

[www.preventcancer.org](http://www.preventcancer.org)

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Are you receiving Lisa's e-mails with invitations to special events? Please contact her at [lisa.mcgovern@preventcancer.org](mailto:lisa.mcgovern@preventcancer.org) or call her at 703-519-2113.



CONGRESSIONAL FAMILIES  
CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAM  
OF THE PREVENT CANCER FOUNDATION

1600 Duke Street, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314

# SAVE THE DATE

italy  
icon of innovation

### The Prevent Cancer Foundation Annual Spring Gala

Friday, March 10, 2017  
National Building Museum

Honorary Patrons  
His Excellency, the Ambassador of Italy  
Armando Varricchio and Mrs. Varricchio

Cancer Champion  
House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy

Honorary Congressional Co-Chairs  
Senator Pat Roberts, Senator Charles E. Schumer  
Representative Pat Tiberi, Representative Frank Pallone

Gala Co-Chairs  
Hollyn Kidd Schuemann  
Jason Van Pelt

Corporate Committee Co-Chairs  
Kathryn Rand  
Amy Best Weiss



Ticket and Sponsorship  
Information:  
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save the date