

Coordinating Efforts to Translate Science into Better Outcomes for Cancer Survivors



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Between 20-92% of patients treated for cancer develop toxicities that often go unaddressed, limiting their functioning, health, quality of life, and ability to work. To optimize patient wellness, we must prevent these conditions where possible or prescribe timely therapies that reduce impairment and prevent disability when impairments cannot be eliminated. This involves building a better model of care where toxicity risk and assessment begins at the time of cancer diagnosis and continue through and beyond cancer treatment. In this model, physical impairments and psychosocial symptoms are assessed and treated

and exercise and nutrition interventions are provided to optimize functioning, health, and quality of life. To implement this vision, the United States is working on simultaneous strategies to improve oncology and survivorship care. Efforts include implementing evidence-based changes in healthcare delivery, patient education and empowerment, provider training, and policy reform, and informing new research initiatives to fill emerging gap areas.

Catherine M. Alfano, Ph.D. is the Vice President of Survivorship at the American Cancer Society (ACS) where she provides vision and leadership to ACS research, programming, and policy efforts nationwide to improve the lives of cancer survivors. She previously served as Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)'s Office of Cancer Survivorship where she created seminal funding opportunity announcements in cancer survivorship and administered the majority of the NCI grant portfolio of rehabilitation and lifestyle change trials in cancer survivors. Dr. Alfano trained as a rehabilitation psychologist and has focused her career in cancer survivorship. Dr. Alfano earned her PhD in clinical psychology with an emphasis in behavioral medicine from the University of Memphis. Her doctoral work focused on physical activity and health outcomes research and on interventions to help people adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle. She completed her residency in clinical rehabilitation psychology at the University of Washington Medical Center. Following her residency, she completed a clinical fellowship in oncology at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, as well as a post-doctoral research fellowship in Biobehavioral Cancer Prevention and Control at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the University of Washington. Her research interests include optimizing interventions and models of care for cancer rehabilitation and survivorship; healthy behavior change; and the integration of biological and behavioral pathways governing health, aging, and cancer prognosis. She has extensive expertise in population-based prospective cohort studies of cancer survivors and in lifestyle behavior change trials in cancer survivors and in people at heightened risk for cancer.

Date	Tuesday 31 st January, 2017
Time	1:00pm – 2:00pm
Room	113
Location	Public Health Building, Herston.