



A Breath of Hope
LUNG FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2022

STORIES THAT INSPIRE



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Leadership



Nancy Torrison, Executive Director

2022 was inspiring for those of us working for improved lung cancer patient outcomes in the U.S. The survival rate is creeping up, the FDA is approving one new therapy after another (extending patients' lives by years, not months), and A Breath of Hope's three key programs are impacting more patients than ever.

RESEARCH: Lung cancer research leads to better and longer futures for those diagnosed with lung cancer, and it is critical to increase the number of survivors living with the disease. Research funded by ABOH has led to important science and improved treatments with the power to heal and save.

PATIENT & FAMILY SUPPORT/EDUCATION: Studies show that patient education and support improve health outcomes. For the 600,000 people around the world that have visited our patient education program - YouandLungCancer.com, their improved knowledge could add months and years to their lives.

PUBLIC AWARENESS FOR EARLIER DETECTION: 74% of U.S. patients are diagnosed in stage 3 or 4. Stigma and poor awareness about screening are part of the problem. I am proud of the work we do to drive screening and earlier detection, and to replace the stigma with truth and kindness.

When I came to ABOH ten years ago, I thought of my Aunt Marcella as she slowly succumbed to lung cancer. She brought to our world a beautiful joy-filled personality, yet in her final days she said to me, "I guess I deserve to die. Just couldn't beat the smoking habit." My last words to Aunt Marcella were assurances that a habit like smoking did not reduce her value or impact on our family and the world, and she certainly didn't deserve to die.

As I continue my work here at ABOH, I recommit to helping our world view lung cancer for what it is - a cancer like many others caused by any number of risk factors. The truth is, if you have lungs, you can get lung cancer.



Randy Hertog, 2022 Board Chair

It is an honor to serve as the chairman of the board for A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOH). We are pleased that our work contributes to a U.S. survival rate that improves every year and an unprecedented number of new treatments. We continue to advance our mission by supporting those living with lung cancer, educating the public and patients with great tools like YouandLungCancer.com, advocating for earlier detection, and advancing treatment options.

130,000 Americans died of lung cancer in 2022 making it the number one cancer killer in the U.S. The smoking stigma and poor public awareness about risk factors and screening, along with limited screening eligibility led to this fact.

I lost my wife six years ago to stage 4 lung cancer that appeared out of nowhere. She had no symptoms or risk factors. Preventive screening, had she been eligible, may have caught her lung cancer earlier for better outcomes for our family.

I'm proud to be part of an organization that has a meaningful mission, strong staff and leadership, and an engaged board of directors. Together, we will realize our vision to defeat lung cancer and bring hope to those living with lung cancer today.

Patient & Family Support Program

SUPPORT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

While the lung cancer experience is different for everyone, it often brings up difficult emotions, such as fear, loss of control, or uncertainty about the future. This can impact quality of life and at times make the journey feel even more overwhelming.

With this in mind, A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation built its Patient and Family Support Programs to offer support and ease the burden during the lung cancer journey. Programs aim to offer the right services at the right time to support patients, caregivers, and family members when they need it most. ABOH services include rides to medical appointments, peer to peer companionship visits, and support groups.



A BREATH OF HOPE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation knows that anticipation of lung cancer screening, treatment and medical appointments leads to increased stress and anxiety. Patients shouldn't have to add worries about how they are going to get to the appointment. With a team of dedicated volunteers, A Breath of Hope offers lung cancer patients door-to-door rides to lung cancer screening, treatment and medical appointments.

In 2022, a Breath of Hope's Minnesota support program provided 290 rides in the Twin Cities area. In June 2022, A Breath of Hope launched a transportation program in Lee County, Florida and provided 23 rides during its first six months.

A BREATH OF HOPE COMPANIONSHIP PROGRAM

Sometimes just talking about what you are going through with someone who understands can change your day. A Breath of Hope's Peer-To-Peer Companionship program pairs those who have been through the lung cancer journey with current patients and caregivers. Patients and caregivers can choose how often they connect with their companion and how they want to connect - phone calls, texts, coffee dates, or other in-person visits.



A BREATH OF HOPE SUPPORT GROUPS

Support Groups offer new tools and resources through education presented by a professional facilitator. Meetings also include time to share personal experiences, feelings, and coping strategies.

A Breath of Hope offers a monthly virtual support group for patients, survivors, and caregivers. With a new topic and facilitator each month, this group is a resource for learning and an opportunity to build your support network. In 2022, the Survivor and Caregiver Group had an average monthly attendance of 15 people.



A Breath of Hope's Grief and Loss Group is a resource for those who have lost a loved one to lung cancer. Led by a Licensed Grief Counselor, this group offers a monthly educational topic and time to share, gain new tools, and receive support from others with a shared experience. In 2022, the Grief and Loss Group had an average monthly attendance of six people.

A Breath of Hope hosts several support groups in partnership with local healthcare partners, including a newly launched support group in Southwest Florida.

A Breath of Hope could not achieve our mission without the support of its amazing, dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers have all been touched by lung cancer and wish to give back to others. In 2022, 25 support volunteers made a difference in the lives of many people living with lung cancer.

Research

Ongoing research funding is critical to identifying new therapies that contribute to longer and better lives for people living with lung cancer.



2022 was a good year for the ABOH Research Program. Our two funded researchers, Dr. Kipp Weiskopf and Dr. Jaime Schneider, both reported important discoveries in their labs, and both were published this year!

Dr. Jaime Schneider is a thoracic oncologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston and an instructor in medicine at Harvard Medical School. She received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and completed her MD/PhD degrees at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

Dr. Schneider's research focuses on using integrative metabolomics approaches to identify resistance mechanisms in oncogene-driven lung cancer. Her most recent report identified a distinct metabolic signature in ALK-driven lung tumors marked by altered handling of purine nucleotides across different model systems including patient-derived cell lines, orthotopic mouse model of ALK+ NSCLC, and in patient tumor specimens. Her team validated several hits from their phosphoproteomic screen that identified novel metabolic targets of oncogenic signaling that directly modulate cellular metabolism. They were very excited that certain metabolic targets of oncogenic signaling undergo differential regulation in drug-resistant patient-derived cell lines.

Currently, Dr. Schneider's lab is expanding the battery of resistant lines for metabolomics experiments and correlating whether nucleotide metabolite profiles align with post-translational modifications and regulation of these metabolic targets.

Dr. Kipp Weiskopf is a member of the Hematology and Oncology Fellowship Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA, and a Whitehead Fellow at Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, MA. He leads a laboratory that studies how macrophages interact with cancer cells with an emphasis on the development of novel immune-based therapies for cancer.

Dr. Weiskopf received his undergraduate degree at Amherst College in Amherst, MA. After graduating, he was awarded a Churchill Scholarship and earned an M.Phil. degree

from the University of Cambridge. Dr. Weiskopf subsequently attended Stanford University and earned an M.D. and a Ph.D. in Cancer Biology as a member of the Medical Scientist Training Program.

At the end of the ABOH funding period (December 2022), Dr. Weiskopf's lab had achieved the major goals of their research project. They demonstrated that targeted therapies for EGFR mutant lung cancer make cancer cells more vulnerable to macrophage attack. Consequently, these therapies are most effective when combined with new drugs that stimulate macrophages to attack and eliminate cancer cells by engulfing them via a process known as phagocytosis. They found that EGFR inhibitors could downregulate "don't eat me" signals on the surface of the cancer cells as a contributing mechanism.

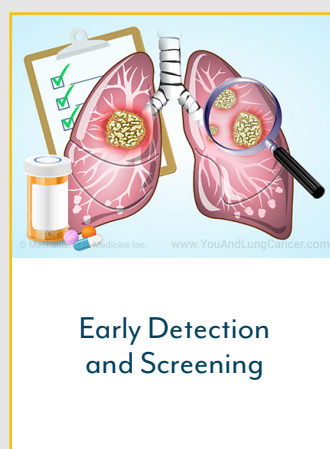
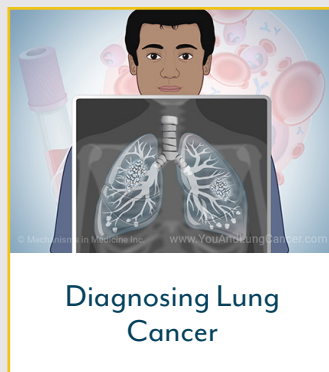
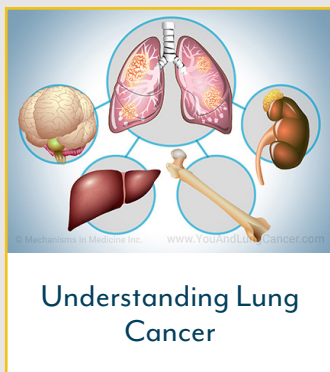
Their research study provides the scientific rationale for clinical trials that will combine EGFR inhibitors with drugs targeting macrophages. They believe that this combination strategy can be a major breakthrough for the treatment of patients with EGFR mutant lung cancer.



Patient Education

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation is thrilled to host the Animated Guide to Lung Cancer, an online global patient education resource that meets patients where they're at to deliver important knowledge following a diagnosis. The program has drawn more than 600,000 visits from 130 countries since its launch in late 2017. Most of our visitors self-identify as patients and caregivers, but a second group of frequent visitors is healthcare providers. 99% of patients who use the program report a commitment to better manage their disease, which leads to improved outcomes! More about this program at www.YouandLungCancer.com.

2022 saw the addition of a new learning module about clinical trials. Clinical trial awareness, activation, enrollment, and participation are suboptimal among all lung cancer patients in the U.S. However, it is particularly low among African Americans and Native Americans. Our goal is to promote an increased understanding of lung cancer clinical trials, alleviate the manifold minority/ethnic disparities, address subgroup issues, and inform lung cancer patients of the benefits and need for clinical trial participation.



It's essential that clinical trials include people with a variety of lived experiences and living conditions, as well as characteristics like race and ethnicity, age, sex, and sexual orientation so that all communities can benefit from scientific advances.

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR NEWEST LEARNING MODULES SCHEDULED TO GO LIVE IN 2023:

Early Detection

Part 1: Early Detection and Screening in Lung Cancer: Addressing Population Commitment and Participation to Improve Lung Cancer Outcomes

Part 2: Early Detection and Screening of Lung Cancer in Black Americans and Native Americans: Addressing Urgent Needs and Disparities in Underserved Populations

Biomarkers - A Deep Dive into Understanding Your Mutation

Common Biomarkers: Understanding Your Mutation: Providing an Understanding of Common NSCLC Biomarkers, Genetic Mutations and Therapies for Best Achievable Patient Outcomes.

The deep dive into biomarkers will address the most current trends in NSCLC biomarkers and demystify specific driver mutations; link mutations to precision therapies; and make available a 'deeper understanding of current advances and FDA-approved treatments associated with specific mutations in the rapidly evolving area of NSCLC management and treatment.

Financials

INCOME

Contributions	570,997
Grant Revenue	340,000
Circle of Light Donations	47,500
Memorial & Honorarium Donations	88,157
In-Kind Donations	30,028
Special Event Revenue (Net of Expense)	194,149
Event Registration Fees	91,009
Merchandise Sales (Net of Expense)	286
Interest Income	392

TOTAL INCOME **\$1,362,518**

EXPENSES

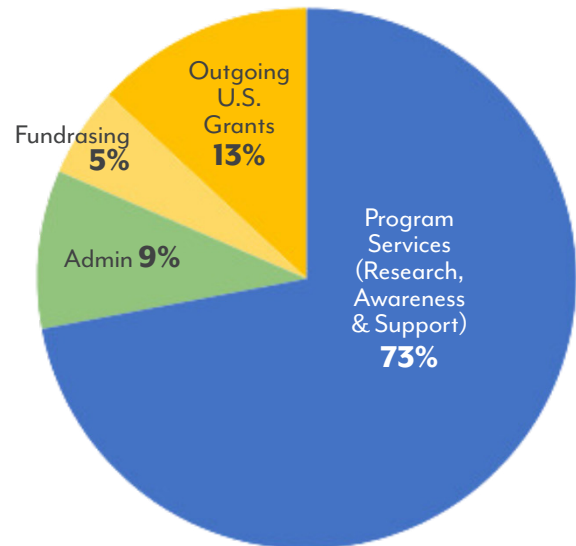
Patient Support Expenses	151,799
Research Fellowships	154,098
WRAP Program (100% Awareness)*	246,573
Operating Expenses (75% Program)	42,370
Payroll Expenses (75% Program)	507,624

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$1,102,464**

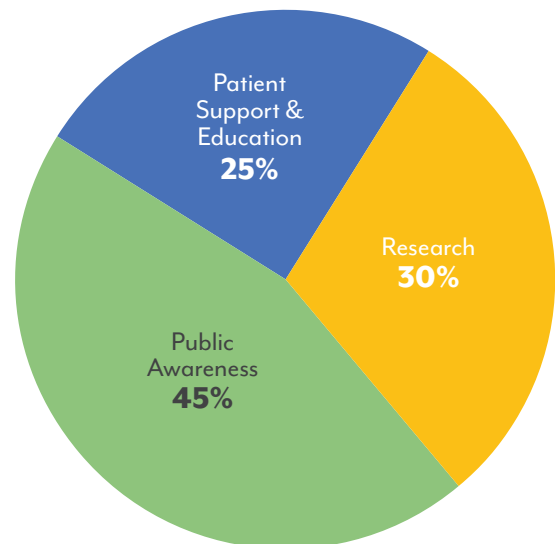
Total Assets	1,317,945
Total Liabilities	60,182

TOTAL NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCE **\$1,250,346**

2022 EXPENSES



2022 PROGRAM EXPENSES



*Awareness Program - WRAP: White Ribbon Awareness Program includes awareness events, billboards, media campaigns, public speaking engagements, social media outreach, targeted email campaigns, Minnesota Screening Meeting for earlier detection.

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOH), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, works diligently to earn the trust of our donors. ABOH is in excellent standing with the Charities Review Council and has earned a Gold Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. For a full report of our 2022 financial activities, view our 990 on our website abreathofhope.org, or visit smartgivers.org.



2022 IN REVIEW

Rides given to patients:

300 MN & SWFL



Presentations & Community Events on Lung Cancer Awareness & Education:



5,500+

Support Group Meeting Attendance:

484 Participants



Events: **6** MN & SWFL



2,036+ People

Stories That Inspire



Paul Vitale, Stage 4 Lung Cancer Survivor

Longtime speaker and author, Paul Vitale, suffered a major life setback when he was diagnosed with stage 4 non-small cell lung cancer in February of 2022. Though his prognosis was six to nine months when he was diagnosed, he knows he has been deeply blessed by prayer and cutting-edge medicine to be in year two of his fight for life. Along with his beloved wife Mitzi and their four children, Paul remains hopeful for a complete recovery.

Paul's journey began with a fractured back, pulmonary embolisms, and subsequent deep vein thrombosis. Most recently, he has received radiation on a tumor located in his spine and pressing on his spinal cord. While his medical team focuses on targeting the cancerous spot, he and his family pray faithfully that the radiation and immunotherapy treatment will kill the cancer.

"Carpe Diem" (Seize the Day) has become Paul Vitale's motto and inspiration as he makes the most of each and every 'today' while focusing on letting go of the worries of tomorrow.

"Boy, if I have learned one thing after all these years; life can be one big, messy, glorious adventure...and how blessed we are!" — Paul Vitale



Mr. Vernon Satterfield, Lung Cancer Survivor

In August of 2012, Mr. Satterfield would retreat to bed, but his coughing fits would keep both him and his wife awake. She knew something wasn't right and insisted that he be seen by a doctor. She made him an appointment and that is when everything changed.

After receiving a chest x-ray, a spot showed up on his right lung and after more tests, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. Mr. Satterfield and his wife were in shock but put their trust in their medical team and their God. Mr. Satterfield said, "I looked up at the doctor and told him 'OK, it's in my body, so what are we going to do to get rid of it?'"

Treatment was tough on Mr. Satterfield, but he had faith that he was going to get through it, even when he was told that there was nothing else that they could do for him. After transferring his care to the University of Minnesota, his tissue sample revealed a match for a clinical trial.

Mr. Satterfield continued to put his trust in God and in science. His wife, four children and pastor helped him be strong and fearless. By May 2017, he was told that there were no more signs of cancer in his body.

Mr. Satterfield's advice to others living with lung cancer is this: "Do not let fear set in and rob you of peace. Fear will scare you out of something you are supposed to have in your life."



Christi Connelly, Stage 4 Lung Cancer Thrivor

Christi Connelly's journey began with a routine Breast MRI on October 25, 2018, when scans showed an opacity in Christi's upper right lung. After numerous tests, the CT-guided biopsy of the mass revealed Lung Cancer. Her first thought was, "How can this be? I have never smoked a day in my life!" Her husband Steve looked at her and said, "GAME ON honey!"

Since that first call and throughout the journey, Christi has relied on her faith in God to give her strength, hope, and acceptance of the journey and its many challenges.

After Christi's initial lung cancer diagnosis, surgery, and 'all clear', the cancer came back and she continues to receive treatment today, but she feels grateful. Christi said, "I live life to the fullest, taking every opportunity as a gift. Joy can be found even in the gray and cold days of winter if you keep your eyes on the One that provided that day! Living with stage 4 lung cancer is really not that bad and actually, quite a beautiful thing as I do not take any day or moment for granted. At midday, my energy is spent and I am forced to: Be still and know that HE is GOD! Forced stillness has become my biggest blessing."

"I have felt the love and support of family and so many wonderful friends," Christi shared. "We have cried a little and laughed a lot and continue to be filled with nothing but hope!!" — Christi Connelly



Jaye Press, Stage 4 Lung Cancer Survivor

Jaye's lung cancer journey began with a persistent cough in 2018. She was diagnosed with pneumonia, then several months later following a series of tests, Jaye was diagnosed with stage 4 adenocarcinoma of the lung that had spread to her lymph nodes. She was 63 years old.

Jaye's initial treatment plan included chemo and radiation. However, once she received comprehensive biomarker testing, a gene mutation was identified that allowed her to start receiving targeted immunotherapy based on her markers. She has been on immunotherapy since 2020 and feels lucky to have suffered few side effects from this therapy.

Jaye knows that detecting lung cancer early through annual low-dose CT scans can save tens of thousands of lives each year. Though she quit smoking 33 years prior to her diagnosis, there is a public misconception that if you have already quit, there is no need to be screened. This simply isn't true.

Jaye is doing well today, and her scans are stable. She continues to support other survivors living with lung cancer and lives each day with a heart filled with hope!

As a former smoker, Jaye is a big advocate for preventative lung cancer screening. She wants other former and current smokers to talk to their doctors to find out if they are eligible to be screened each year.

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ABREATHOFHOPE.ORG

info@abreathofhope.org | 952-405-9201
PO Box 387, Wayzata, MN 55391