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National Minority Quality Forum’s Diverse Cancer Communities Working Group Published in the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s Journal of Oncology Practice

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jan. 19, 2021)—The National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) announced today that its Diverse Cancer Communities Working Group manuscript has been published in the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s Journal of Oncology Practice.

“Development of an Actionable Framework to Address Cancer Care Disparities in Medically Underserved Populations in the United States: Expert Roundtable Recommendations” is authored by national cancer experts from LUNGevity Foundation, CancerCare, Fox Chase Cancer Center/Temple Health, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, Tufts Medical School, BMS Foundation, and features actionable insights on impactful practices to erase cancer disparities across the care continuum.

“We can improve cancer outcomes for communities of color and rural areas by closing gaps in screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, both in clinical practice and in policy,” said NMQF President and CEO Dr. Gary A. Puckrein, Ph.D. “This evidence-based, expert driven framework can help all stakeholders work together to build a cancer care system that delivers high-quality cancer care to all of America’s diverse populations.”

Karen M. Winkfield, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Director of the Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance, who was lead author on the manuscript, agrees.

"This article summarizes recommendations from experts around the country who share ‘real world’ strategies that have successfully moved the needle and improved health equity in their communities,” she said.

“This novel publication will serve as a toolkit to bolster health care and community stakeholder
efforts dedicated to patient and community engagement, research and education. While the
impetus for this paper was cancer health equity, the current COVID pandemic highlights the
need for this work across all areas of health and health care. It is our hope that this important
framework will be used to inform, evaluate and implement approaches to making health equity a
reality where each of us work, live and play."

Nina Bickell, MD, MPH, Associate Director of Community Engaged and Equity Research at The
Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai, echoed those thoughts.

“The COVID-19 pandemic and its disproportionate impact on communities of color and other
vulnerable populations underscores the critical importance of addressing inequities in health
care,” she said.

“The pandemic has exacerbated disparities in care for other health conditions, including cancer,
so our effort to develop a practical and sustainable cancer care continuum framework couldn’t be
more timely. This framework is applicable to high-prevalence cancers in underserved and racial
or ethnic minority communities, and we hope it leads to more equitable care and healthier lives
for all.”

To learn more, download the manuscript from the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s

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**About National Minority Quality Forum**
The National Minority Quality Forum assists health care providers, professionals, administrators, researchers, policymakers, and community and faith-based organizations in delivering appropriate health care to minority communities. This assistance is based on providing the evidence in the form of science, research, and analysis that will lead to the effective organization and management of system resources to improve the quality and safety of health care for the entire population of the U.S., including minorities.