

**Attachment 6**

**NCI Cover Letter, Society Support Letters &  
FAQs**



National Institutes of Health  
National Cancer Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

May 30, 2008

«Name»  
«CompanyName»  
«AddressLine1»  
«AddressLine2»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear Dr. «LastName»:

We are writing to request your participation in a survey of physicians' knowledge, attitudes, and practices with respect to post-treatment follow-up care of adult cancer survivors. Survey data will be used to examine physicians' needs relevant to the provision of follow-up care for cancer survivors and to improve the care delivery experience of both physicians who provide survivors' health care services and survivors who receive such care.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, is seeking to obtain information about the clinical experiences of 2,200 randomly selected General Internists, Family Medicine physicians, Obstetrician-Gynecologists, and Medical Oncologists. There are over 10 million survivors of cancer in the United States, yet little is known about how and where they are treated after the acute phase of cancer treatment. We are interested in your views of how these individuals are treated in your practice, and how treatment in the future might best be implemented. We will combine your responses with those of other surveyed physicians, and use these data to publish publicly-available reports and journal articles with the goal of informing health care policy and improving health care.

Completing the enclosed questionnaire should take no longer than 20 minutes, and space is left at the end should you wish to provide comments. The information you provide is confidential. Providing the information is voluntary; there are no penalties for not responding to the information collection as a whole or to any particular questions. Your answers will be stored separately from your identity, and only aggregated findings will be reported. A \$50 check is enclosed as a token of our appreciation for your participation.

There are many competing demands on your time, but please take few minutes to complete this one-time survey and return it in the addressed envelope provided. If you have questions or would prefer to complete your survey by telephone with a researcher, please call to set up a time at 800-XXX-XXXX Ext XXXX, weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time; or e-mail [ResearchAsst@westat.com](mailto:ResearchAsst@westat.com). If you have more general questions about the study, please call Dr. Contact Person at NCI (301-XXX-XXXX or [contactperson@mail.nih.gov](mailto:contactperson@mail.nih.gov)), or Dr. Caroline McLeod, Westat, (800-937-8281 ext. 2786 or [carolinemcleod@westat.com](mailto:carolinemcleod@westat.com)).

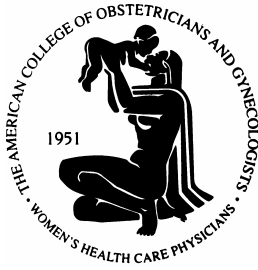
Your participation in this survey is both critical and much appreciated. Thank you in advance for your valuable contribution to this important study.

Sincerely,

Dr. Noreen M. Aziz  
Senior Program Director  
Office of Cancer Survivorship  
National Cancer Institute, NIH

Dr. Paul K. Han  
Program Director  
Outcomes Research Branch  
National Cancer Institute, NIH

Enclosures



## Office of the Executive Vice President

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG

Telephone: 202/863-2525

Fax: 202/863-1643

January 2009

Dear Colleague:

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health, with support from the American Cancer Society, is conducting a national survey of 2,200 primary care and medical oncologists to examine post-treatment follow-up care of cancer survivors diagnosed with breast or colorectal cancer. Little is known about the post-treatment follow up care and surveillance provided to this population after the acute stage of cancer treatment is over. This important gap in knowledge needs to be addressed since cancer survivors represent a fast growing population with potentially unique and complex health care needs.

It is important that we obtain your perspective on this important topic, and I encourage you to participate. Our contribution to a high response rate is vital to ensuring the validity of the findings. Upon completion of the study, data will be analyzed and disseminated through public health conferences and peer-reviewed journal articles. By completing the survey, you will be assisting the NCI in its quality of care efforts, especially those relating to cancer survivors in the United States.

In conclusion, I encourage you to contribute your invaluable support by completing and returning the enclosed survey. Your participation is critical to the continuation of the fight against cancer.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG  
Executive Vice President



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June 1, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health, with support from the American Cancer Society, is conducting a national survey of 2,200 primary care and medical oncologists to examine post-treatment follow-up care of cancer survivors diagnosed with breast or colorectal cancer. Little is known about the post-treatment follow up care and surveillance provided to this population after the acute stage of cancer treatment is over. This important gap in knowledge needs to be addressed since cancer survivors represent a fast growing population with potentially unique and complex health care needs.

It is important that we obtain your perspective on this important topic, and we encourage you to participate by filling out the enclosed survey. Your contribution to a high response rate is vital to ensuring the validity of the findings. Upon completion of the study, data will be analyzed and disseminated through public health conferences and peer-reviewed journal articles. By completing the survey, you will be assisting the NCI in its quality of care efforts, especially those relating to cancer survivors in the United States.

Cancer survivorship is a key issue for all ASCO members and one that ASCO is addressing on several fronts. We encourage you to contribute your invaluable support by completing and returning the survey.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely

Richard L. Schilsky, MD  
President, ASCO

Allen S. Lichter, MD  
Chief Executive Officer, ASCO

# SGIM

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TO PROMOTE IMPROVED PATIENT CARE, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION IN PRIMARY CARE AND GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

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January 2009

Dear Colleague:

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health, with support from the American Cancer Society, is conducting a national survey of 2,200 primary care and medical oncologists in order to investigate physicians' perspectives and practices regarding the post-treatment follow-up care of cancer survivors diagnosed with breast or colorectal cancer. Little is known about how care is provided to this population after the acute stage of cancer treatment, even though cancer survivors represent a fast growing population with potentially unique and complex health care needs.

It is important that NCI and ACS obtain your perspective on this important topic, and I encourage you to participate. Your contribution to a high response rate is vital to ensuring the validity of findings. Upon completion of the study, data will be analyzed and disseminated through public health conferences and peer-reviewed journal articles. By completing the survey, you will be assisting NCI in improving cancer-related treatment in the United States.

In conclusion, I encourage you to contribute your invaluable support by completing and returning the enclosed survey. Your participation is critical to the continuation of the fight against cancer.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,



Lisa V. Rubenstein, MD, MSPH  
President, Society of General Internal Medicine



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  

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STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

January 2009

Dear Colleague:

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health, with support from the American Cancer Society, is conducting a national survey of 2,200 primary care and medical oncologists to examine post-treatment follow-up care of cancer survivors diagnosed with breast or colorectal cancer. Little is known about the post-treatment follow up care and surveillance provided to this population after the acute stage of cancer treatment is over. This important gap in knowledge needs to be addressed since cancer survivors represent a fast growing population with potentially unique and complex health care needs.

It is important that your perspective on this important topic be obtained, and I encourage you to participate. Your contribution to a high response rate is vital to ensuring the validity of the findings. Upon completion of the study, data will be analyzed and disseminated through public health conferences and peer-reviewed journal articles. By completing the survey, you will be assisting the NCI in its quality of care efforts, especially those relating to cancer survivors in the United States.

In conclusion, I encourage you to contribute your invaluable support by completing and returning the enclosed survey. Your participation is critical to the continuation of the fight against cancer.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely

Jim King, M.D., FAAFP  
President

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## Survey of Physicians Attitudes Regarding the Care of Cancer Survivors (SPARCCS) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

### **Who is sponsoring this study?**

This survey is being sponsored by The National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Cancer Society.

### **What is the purpose of this study?**

The purpose of this study is to identify the beliefs, knowledge, attitudes, and practices of primary care physicians and cancer specialists (i.e., medical oncologists) care of cancer survivors. The data obtained from this study will inform the process of standardization of survivorship care practices; augment the data collected in other cancer survivorship studies and monitor the progress being made toward achieving NCI strategic goals of improving the quality of cancer care across the cancer control continuum.

### **Why is this study being conducted?**

One in three persons will experience cancer over their lifetime; ten million Americans are living with a personal history of cancer; and one in five adult cancer survivors who worked before their diagnosis have cancer-related limitations in their ability to work 1 to 5 years later.<sup>1</sup> Psychological distress, sexual dysfunction, infertility, weakened organ function, cosmetic changes, and limitations in mobility, communication, and cognition are among the problems faced by some cancer survivors. The transition from active cancer treatment to post-treatment care is crucial to our country's long-term health. In 2005 the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published a report that described the essential components of cancer survivorship care within a health care delivery system. They include the following: (a) prevent cancers and other late effects; (b) monitor for new and recurring cancers and assess medical and psychosocial late effects; (c) intervene for consequences of cancer and its treatment; and (d) coordinate between specialists and primary care providers to ensure that all survivors' health needs are met.

### **Are physicians required to participate in this study?**

A nationally representative sample of 2,200 physicians in the specialties of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Practice, Obstetrics/Gynecology and Medical Oncology were randomly selected from a nation-wide database of physicians to receive a survey.

Participation is voluntary, and there are no penalties for not responding. However, high nonresponse could affect the accuracy of results.

### **Are responses confidential?**

All survey responses will be kept confidential, with each survey assigned an identification number. The data file with names and numbers will be stored separately from all completed surveys and the data file containing survey responses. Names will never be directly associated with responses. Data from individual responses will be aggregated and reported in statistical form. Comments from individual surveys may be thematically coded and reported in the aggregate. Some comments may be quoted verbatim but without attribution to the individual making the comment.

**How will the data be used?**

Results of the survey will be used in:

- Publications in peer-reviewed journals;
- Presentations at national meetings; and
- Government reports on health care policy.

Data will also be used to provide survey analysis experience for post-doctoral fellows, and instruments will be made available for use by other investigators researching similar issues.

**Who do I contact for further information?**

If you have questions about the study, please call 1-800-937-8281 x2786 toll-free to speak with Dr. Caroline McLeod, the Project Director. Or, contact the Project Officers at the National Cancer Institute:

Noreen M. Aziz, M.D, Ph.D., MPH  
Senior Program Director  
Office of Cancer Survivorship  
National Cancer Institute  
301-496-0598  
[azizn@mail.nih.gov](mailto:azizn@mail.nih.gov)

Paul K. Han MD, MA, MPH  
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