

PROVOCATIVE CONVERSATIONS ON ACCESS TO CANCER CARE INTENDED TO DISRUPT THE SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, D.C., UNITED STATES, May 31, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Lawmakers, policy and healthcare experts, disruptors, innovators and changemakers are coming together in Washington, D.C. for [Disrupting the System VI](#) - an annual summit hosted by [Lazarex Cancer Foundation](#) providing a platform for provocative and constructive dialogue to drive positive change in the fight against cancer and cancer health disparities.

"We started this event six years ago because there are important topics deeply impacting cancer patients across the U.S. and while everyone can see the challenges, inequities and barriers, there are few opportunities for people to come together across industries to talk honestly about solutions," explains Dana Dornsife, Founder and Chief Mission & Strategy Officer of Lazarex Cancer Foundation, which provides clinical trial navigation, financial assistance through travel reimbursements, advocacy, outreach and community engagement to help cancer patients in the U.S.

"This year's event is about identifying practical ways to better level the playing field when it comes to cancer health disparities, patient access and cancer health outcomes - specifically around the issue of genomic testing and health insurance," she adds.

Disrupting the System VI will take place on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 from 5-7PM EST in the Gold Room of the Rayburn Office Building on Capitol Hill. Registration is required. The event will work to drive positive change through disruptive conversations involving two-panel discussions.

Panel 1 - The Ugly Truth About Genomic Sequencing - You Need It But Can You Get It? Genomic sequencing is a critical component of cutting edge cancer care because instead of matching patients to treatment based on their TYPE of cancer, it finds the best option for their personal DNA. The problem is - this game-changing advance in cancer care which drastically improves outcomes isn't available to everyone. Medicare and Medicaid won't cover it. A lot of private insurance won't either. That's not because of its effectiveness. It comes down to the price. How can we drive change to make genomic testing more equitable?

Panel 2 - Is Your Insurance Putting Your Health at Higher Risk. Does your insurance help or hurt you when it comes to getting the best possible treatment? The truth is - the TYPE of insurance you have is often the decider and too often it comes down not to what will be most effective -

but what's cheapest. We call this the dirty little secret in healthcare because most insurance companies and medical institutions don't want to talk about it. But we have been for many years and we're still pushing to bring this issue out of the shadows.

The event will also feature:

- A fireside chat with Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA), Rep. Pete Sessions (D-TX) and Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL).
- Disruptor 2023 Awards presented to:
 - Andrew Kaczynski, CNN's Senior Editor & Founding Member of KFile. Andrew has been a Dad on a mission, fighting to increase awareness and research into pediatric brain cancer after his 9-month old daughter Francesca died of a brain tumor.
 - Douglas R. Lowy, MD, Principal Deputy Director at the National Cancer Institute for his tireless work and research reaching every corner of the world.
 - The first-ever Beacon of Light Award, given to Meagan McKee, a 33 year-old working to increase awareness about the challenges of a cancer diagnosis after she was given 3 years to live at the age of 30.

Panelists and speakers at this year's event include:

- Dana Dornsife, Chief Mission and Strategy Officer, Lazarex Cancer Foundation
- Natalie Davis, CEO, United States of Care
- Emanuel "Chip" Petricoin, PhD, Professor, George Mason University and Founder, Perthera.
- Stephanie Rivera, CEO, Lazarex Cancer Foundation
- Dr. Marya L. Shegog, PhD, MPH, CHES, Health Equity and Diversity Director, Lazarex Cancer Foundation.
- Amira Clemens, PhD, RN, Lazarex Cancer Wellness HUB, Cancer Care Companion
- Natalie Davis, CEO, United States of Care
- Jo Mary, Lazarex Patient
- Shenard Matthews, Lazarex Patient
- Laura Evans, President & CEO of Laura Evans Media.

The event is hosted by Lazarex Cancer Foundation, sponsored by Medidata and produced by Laura Evans Media. It will be livestreamed. Learn more about Disrupting the System summits [HERE](#).

About Lazarex Cancer Foundation

The unique mission of Lazarex is to improve the outcome of cancer care - giving hope, dignity and life to advanced stage cancer patients and the medically underserved by helping with travel costs associated with FDA clinical trial participation, identification of clinical trial options and community outreach and engagement. In 15 years, Lazarex has assisted more than 10,000 patients. Learn more at www.Lazarex.org.

About Medidata

Medidata is leading the digital transformation of life sciences, creating hope for millions of

patients. Medidata helps generate the evidence and insights to help pharmaceutical, biotech, medical device and diagnostics companies, and academic researchers accelerate value, minimize risk, and optimize outcomes. More than one million registered users across 2,000+ customers and partners access the world's most trusted platform for clinical development, commercial, and real-world data. Medidata, a Dassault Systèmes company, is headquartered in New York City and has offices around the world to meet the needs of its customers. Discover more at www.medidata.com.

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