

# NRCI Insights Newsletter

Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

Get a deeper look at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute- its board, staff, volunteers, and activities.

## Spirit of Hope Celebration Tribute to Courage Honoree Dr. Christopher A. Peters



The Board of Ambassadors have set the date for their 11th Spirit of Hope Celebration for Friday, November 10, 2023, at Mohegan Pennsylvania. This cocktail party celebration includes an open bar, food stations, live music by The Exact Change Band, a silent auction, lottery ladder and gift card guarantee. The celebration raises money

for the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute's Community Based Cancer Screening Navigation Program, which helps individuals in northeast Pennsylvania to facilitate breast, cervical, colon and lung cancer screenings.

In addition to all the exciting offerings at the event, each year, the Ambassadors select a Tribute to Courage Honoree. They will recognize Dr. Christopher A. Peters. Dr. Christopher A. Peters is a partner in Radiation Medicine Associates of Scranton (RAMAS). He is medical director of Northeast Radiation Oncology Centers (NROC) as well as its director of clinical research.

In 2012, Dr. Peters joined the Board of Directors of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute (NRCI) and served as Board Chairman in 2017 and 2108. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine and Director of its 4th year elective in Radiation Oncology. Dr. Peters has served as the physician Co-Chair, Health Care Division, for the Annual United Way Lackawanna and Wayne County Annual Campaign from 2012-2022. He was elected President of the Lackawanna County Medical Society in 2016. Dr. Peters is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha national medical honor society. After completing an

internship in Internal Medicine at Case Western Reserve Metrohealth, he performed his Radiation Oncology residency at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City, serving as Chief Resident in his final year.

Dr. Peters was an intern at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute years before he joined our board. He has a steadfast relationship with NRCI.

For more information about the event, visit [www.spiritofhopecelebration.org](http://www.spiritofhopecelebration.org).

## 2023 Spirit of Hope Board of Ambassadors



**Seated, from left to right:** JoAnn Romano Hallesky, Marta Gomes, Leo Vergnetti, Chairman of the Board of Ambassadors, Meghan Gagorik, Kristie Hynoski, Traci Fosnot, and Robin Long.

**Standing, from left to right:** Joe Ferguson, Matt Beynon, John Heil, Vince Scarpetta, Dino Campitelli, Sonya Eddings, William Davis, Ed Cosgrove, Vito Pizzo, Nevin Gerber, and Steven J. Szydlowski, Ph.D.

**Absent from the photo:** Clarence Baltrusaitis, Thomas Blaskiewicz, Jim & Susan Brady, Trish & Nicholas Colangelo, Ph.D., Richard P. Conaboy, Jr., Thomas P. Cummings, Jr., Esq., Thomas P. Cummings, III, Esq., Tom DePietro, Julie Eisenman, Mary Erwine, Greg Gagorik, James T. Gorman, Jennifer Heil, Charles C. Jefferson, Angela Rempe Jones, John Mack, Linda Marino-Brooks, Joe Mattioli, Paul McGloin, Brian McQuestion, Evie Rafalko McNulty, Philip Medico, Dan Meuser, Chuck Morgan, Dana Morris, David J. Nape, Christopher A. Peters, M.D., John P. Rodgers, Esq., Tammy Saunders, Frank Sepko, P. Richard Scheller, Patrick Sicilio, Eugene D. Sperazza, Esq., Melissa Stites, Joseph S. Tomko, Joe Van Wie, Vanessa Vergnetti and Chuck Volpe.

## Staff Promotion Announcement



Ms. Karen Ryczak, RN, was promoted from Director-Surveillance & Navigation Programs to Vice President-Programs & Surveillance.

Karen has over 30 years of experience in oncology and will provide organizational supervision and management of Community and Patient Services programs in her new role. In addition, she will continue to manage the Cancer Surveillance Program, including providing an annual report on cancer to the community. Ryczak, who attended the University of Scranton and is a graduate of Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and has been an employee of the Cancer Institute since 2000.

## Save the Date for the 30th Cancer Survivors Day

Cancer Survivors Day - Honoring, Remembering, & Sharing is an annual dual-location event held in honor of anyone from Northeastern Pennsylvania affected by a cancer diagnosis. Each year members of the Family of Survivors (which include cancer survivors, their families & friends, as well as caregivers and healthcare professionals) attend this meaningful event.

This event features the "Circle of Survivors." This is an activity during which every person in attendance can share words of inspiration or support about their cancer experience. Join us on Saturday, September 23 at Kirby Park and Saturday, September 30 at McDade Park.



2022 Cancer Survivors Day  
Circle of Survivors at McDade Park

Registration for both events begins at 10:00 a.m. and the Circle of Survivors starts at 10:30 a.m. There is no cost to attend, and walk-ins are welcome. Conversation and light refreshments provide an additional opportunity for connection and support. For more information visit [www.cancernepa.org](http://www.cancernepa.org) or call us at (570) 904-8808.

### About the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute

The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is a nonprofit community-based agency serving seven counties in northeast Pennsylvania with offices located in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Focusing on surveillance, community and patient services, and hospital and practice support services, the Cancer Institute invests 100% of its resources locally.

SERVING NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES  
Lackawanna | Luzerne | Monroe | Pike | Susquehanna | Wayne | Wyoming



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