



December 8, 2015

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Governor Hogan:

Pursuant to Executive Order 01.01.2002.25 (2002) and on behalf of the members of the Maryland State Council on Cancer Control (Council), I am pleased to submit the Council's 2015 Annual Report to you.

During 2015, the Council continued to carry out its mission by holding three full Council meetings and two subcommittee meetings. On November 17, 2015, the Council held the 22nd Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference. This successful event was attended by nearly 300 people and was the direct result of the hard work and dedication of Council members and staff.

Looking forward to 2016, the Council will continue to use evidence-based research as the foundation for Council activities and recommendations for cancer control programs and policies. Additionally, the Council will carry on with its work to address State Health Improvement Process objective 26, namely to reduce the overall cancer death rate.

The Council looks forward to building a strong relationship with your office, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and community organizations, so that we may all contribute in the fight against cancer in Maryland.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Ms. Courtney Lewis, Director of the Center for Cancer Prevention and Control for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, at 410-767-0824.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley P. Watkins, MD".

Stanley P. Watkins, MD  
Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control



**M A R Y L A N D**  
**State Council on Cancer Control**



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE**

**2015**  
**Annual Report**

**Stanley P. Watkins, MD, Chair**

## **Overview and 2015 Council Activities**

### **History**

The Maryland State Council on Cancer Control (Council) is a 25-member body appointed by the Governor with members selected from State agencies involved in cancer screening, prevention and treatment services, as well as members representing the general public, major academic medical institutions in Maryland's cancer community, national organizations, the business community, and health and scientific disciplines concerned with cancer control. In addition, at least one member of the Council is a cancer survivor, one is a member of the Maryland State Senate, and another is a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. The Council was established by Executive Order 01.01.1991.22 on June 26, 1991. The mission of the Council was reaffirmed with updated Executive Orders in 1997 (01.01.1997.07) and 2002 (01.01.2002.25).

### **Council Mission**

The Council advises the Governor, other government officials, public and private organizations, and the general public on comprehensive State policies and programs necessary to reduce the incidence and mortality of cancer in Maryland. The Council is also charged with promoting and coordinating, in cooperation with other federal, State, local, and private agencies, unified programs that identify and address the cancer needs of Marylanders, such as public and private partnerships to improve access to prevention, screening, and treatment services. Additionally, the scope of the Council includes promoting and guiding the use of the Maryland Cancer Registry (MCR) as a tool for research, planning, evaluation and targeting of cancer control programs as well as furthering the development of the MCR through the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee. Finally, the Council is charged with reviewing existing and planned cancer programs in the public and private sectors to ensure proper allocation of State resources.

### **Current Council Chair**

The Maryland State Council on Cancer Control is chaired by Dr. Stanley Watkins, practicing oncologist affiliated with the Anne Arundel Medical Center. Dr. Watkins is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine with further training at the University of Washington and National Institutes of Health. After developing his practice, Dr. Watkins began building what would become the DeCesaris Cancer Institute at the Anne Arundel Medical Center. In the mid-1990s, Dr. Watkins began teaching Outpatient Clinical Responsibilities to new physicians at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. While continuing to practice oncology in Anne Arundel County, Dr. Watkins began his involvement with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) on various public health programs. He currently chairs the medical advisory committees on breast, cervical, colon, and prostate cancer, and serves as a consultant to many of the State's cancer programs.

### **Membership**

For a complete listing of current Council members, please see Appendix A. During 2015, three Council members terminated membership and two new members were appointed to the Council. Membership changes are detailed below:

#### *Memberships Terminating in 2015:*

- Mary DeShields, MD – Shore Regional Cancer Center
- Wendy Friar, RN, MS – Holy Cross Hospital

- Lisa Gallicchio, PhD – Mercy Medical Center (*continuing as a National Cancer Institute Advisor*)

*Memberships Commencing in 2015:*

- Donna Gugel, MHS – Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Sheree Sample-Hughes – Maryland House of Delegates

**2015 Activities and Accomplishments**

***Council Meetings***

In 2015, the Council met as a full committee on January 23, May 15, and September 25. Additionally, two subcommittees of the Council, the Abeloff Award Subcommittee and the Conference Abstract Review Subcommittee, met on October 5, 2015 and October 6, 2015, respectively. Council meetings consisted of discussions on Council objectives, implementation and the update of the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, cancer-related legislation, updates from the Cancer Registry Advisory Committee, and planning for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference.

***Martin D. Abeloff Award for Excellence in Public Health and Cancer Control***

In 2015 the Council sent out a call for nominations for the 2015 Martin D. Abeloff Award to be presented at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference. The Abeloff Award, which recognizes individuals who have made substantial contributions to cancer control in Maryland, has been presented to notable Marylanders since 2007. The award is named for Dr. Martin Abeloff, a longtime member of the Council who succumbed to leukemia in 2007. Dr. Abeloff was a renowned medical oncologist and researcher, and was compassionate as well as devoted to his patients, colleagues, and public service. Nominations are submitted from across the State by individuals and organizations recommending Marylanders who have made outstanding contributions to cancer control. Each nomination is reviewed by the Abeloff Award Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee selects the award recipient. In 2015, the Subcommittee reviewed seven nomination letters and after much discussion selected Dr. Gary Cohen, Director of the Sandra and Malcolm Berman Cancer Institute at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, as the Abeloff Award recipient for 2015 (see Appendix B).

***22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference***

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cancer Control Conference was held on November 17, 2015. The conference was sponsored by the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, the Anne Arundel Medical Center DeCesaris Cancer Institute, the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, The Johns Hopkins Greenberg Bladder Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, and the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults. Nearly 300 people attended this day-long conference. Presentation topics included information on increasing HPV vaccination in Maryland, the role of diet with high burden cancers, cancer in the workplace, the financial impacts of cancer care, cancer center research highlights, and a best practices panel on emerging cancer control topics.

For the conference panel on “Emerging Best Practices in Cancer Control in Maryland,” a call for abstracts was held prior to the conference. The intent was to allow public health practitioners in

Maryland to showcase their emerging best practices and provide inspiration and example for others in the State. The call for abstracts resulted in seven submissions of which three were selected for oral presentation.

An agenda detailing the speakers and topics at the conference is included as Appendix C.

Conference materials can be accessed at

[http://phpa.dhmf.maryland.gov/cancer/SitePages/sccc\\_home.aspx](http://phpa.dhmf.maryland.gov/cancer/SitePages/sccc_home.aspx).

### ***Cancer Registry Advisory Committee***

The Cancer Registry Advisory Committee (CRAC) was chaired by Council member Dr. •Lisa Gallicchio until her resignation from the Council in July 2015. The new CRAC Chair, Council member Dr. Kala Visvanathan, was appointed in September 2015. The CRAC met two times during 2015. Additional discussions between the Department and the CRAC chair were held throughout the year. Discussion topics included MCR quality assurance and data management activities, data use and dissemination, data submission, data use policy and procedures, MCR regulations, and cancer research and surveillance activities. The CRAC chair reported CRAC activities at each of the scheduled Council meetings.

### ***Implementation and Update of the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan***

Since October 2001, DHMH has participated in a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to maintain, promote, and implement the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (Cancer Plan). The Council has served as a key partner in these efforts including participating in the writing of the current Cancer Plan, which was released on July 26, 2011. Recommendations for cancer control policies and programs to be implemented in Maryland are reflected throughout this Cancer Plan. The recommendations are included in the Cancer Plan Executive Summary, which is available at

<http://phpa.dhmf.maryland.gov/cancer/cancerplan/plan2011/MCCCPExecutiveSummary.pdf>.

Following the release of the Cancer Plan in 2011, the Council actively participated in the formation of the Maryland Cancer Collaborative (Collaborative). The goal of the Collaborative is to guide the implementation of the recommended strategies in the Cancer Plan. Several Council members actively participate in Collaborative committees, which met frequently during 2015. One Council member acts in a formal position on the Collaborative Steering Committee as the Council Liaison.

In May and June of 2015, several Council members participated in meetings in conjunction with Collaborative members and other state experts to provide content expertise in order to update the Cancer Plan for the time period 2016-2020. The chair of the Council reviewed and provided input on a draft of the updated Cancer Plan and joint letter to be signed by DHMH, the Collaborative, and the Council. The Cancer Plan is expected to be released in early 2016.

### **Anticipated Activities for 2016**

Moving forward, the Council plans to continue its activities as outlined below:

- Hold three full Council meetings, as well as additional subcommittee meetings on an as-needed basis to discuss progress on Council activities as well as other issues, including Council objectives and cancer-related legislation;

- Select a recipient for the *2016 Martin D. Abeloff Award for Excellence in Public Health and Cancer Control*;
- Plan and hold the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference; and
- Continue participation in the Maryland Cancer Collaborative to implement goals, objectives, and strategies from the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan intended to reduce the burden of cancer in Maryland.

**Appendix A**  
**Cancer Council Members - 2015**

**Stanley P. Watkins, MD - CHAIR**

Director, Oncology Center  
Anne Arundel Medical Center

**Diane Couchman, RN**

Calvert Memorial Hospital

**Kevin Cullen, MD**

Director, University of Maryland Greenebaum  
Cancer Center

**Mary DeShields, MD\***

Shore Regional Cancer Center

**Kathleen Connors-Juras**

American Cancer Society

**Catherine Fenwick, RN, BSN**

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

**Wendy Friar, RN, MS\***

Holy Cross Hospital

**Lisa Gallicchio, PhD\***

Mercy Medical Center

**Mary Garza, PhD, MPH**

University of Maryland School of Public  
Health

**Stephanie Cooper Greenberg**

Erwin & Stephanie Greenberg Foundation

**Donna Gugel, MHS\*\***

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

**Roger Harrell, MHA**

Health Officer, Dorchester County Health  
Department

**Kim Herman, MD, MSN**

Family Physician, Shore Health System

**Christine Marino, MD**

Johns Hopkins Community Physicians

**Jed Miller**

Environmental Health Advisor,  
Maryland Department of the Environment

**Joan Mischtschuk, RN, MS**

Peninsula Regional Medical Center

**Senator Anthony Muse**

Maryland Senate

**Paul B. Rothman, MD**

CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine

**William Nelson, MD**

Director, Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns  
Hopkins

**Jay A. Perman, MD**

**(Alternate: Kevin Kelly)**

President, University of Maryland at Baltimore

**Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes\*\***

Maryland House of Delegates

**Artie L. Shelton, MD**

Us TOO International, Prostate Health and  
Education Network

**Yale Stenzler, EdD**

Oral Cancer Survivor

**Kala Visvanathan, MB, BS, FRACP, MHS**

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Brock Yetso**

Ulman Cancer Fund

***Lisa Gallicchio, PhD\*\*\****

*National Cancer Institute Advisor*

***Steven Friedman, MHSA\*\*\****

*National Cancer Institute Advisor*

\*Membership terminated in 2015

\*\* Membership commencing in 2015

\*\*\*Non-voting members acting as Advisors to the Council



## **Appendix B**

### ***Martin D. Abeloff Award for Excellence in Public Health and Cancer Control***

#### **2015 Recipient – GARY I. COHEN, M.D.**



#### ***Nomination Letter Excerpts:***

“Under (Dr. Cohen’s) leadership the program at GBMC has become an exemplar of what a community cancer center should be.”

“Dr. Cohen has been a tireless advocate for the advancement of cancer science by building clinical trial opportunities within the community. Dr. Cohen is a passionate believer in the linked ideas that the optimal cancer care is within the context of a clinical trial and that cancer research cannot advance optimally unless clinical research participation is widespread and available throughout communities across the state and nation.”

“Dr. Cohen’s leadership has been effective and has had a national impact.”

#### ***Biography:***

Dr. Gary Cohen is currently the Director of the Sandra and Malcolm Berman Cancer Institute at Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC). He completed his undergraduate training at Duke University and attended medical school at the University of Maryland. He subsequently completed his fellowship training in medical oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard University. He remained on the staff at Harvard to pursue his research interest in bone marrow cell growth. During that time he also completed a fellowship in hematology. He currently holds an appointment as Associate Professor in the Department of Oncology at The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, and is board certified in internal medicine, medical oncology, and hematology. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Cohen established The Cancer Center at GBMC after being appointed Director in 1990. The Center has been listed by US News and World Report as one of the top 50 cancer programs in the U.S. He has co-authored numerous articles in the medical literature on various aspects of clinical cancer research. Dr. Cohen has been an active participant in the ECOG-ACRIN national cooperative clinical trials group, chairs the Community Scientific Committee, serves as community co-chair of the Melanoma Committee, and sits on the ECOG-ACRIN Executive Council. He is a Founder and Board Member of Gilchrist Hospice Care in Baltimore. He has served on many committees and boards for health related organizations including the Board of Directors of American Society of Clinical Oncology. He currently serves as Administrative Director of the Sidney Kimmel Foundation for Cancer Research, which awards over \$3 million dollars per year to outstanding young cancer scientists. He has won housestaff teaching awards on several occasions and has regularly been listed in the physician survey by Baltimore Magazine as "Top Doc" in Oncology.

## Appendix C

### **The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maryland State Council on Cancer Control Cancer Conference Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

Anne Arundel Medical Center Doordan Conference Center, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Belcher Pavilion 2001 Medical Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

- 7:45 – 8:30**            **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 – 8:40**            **Welcome**  
Courtney Lewis, MPH, Director, Maryland DHMH Center for Cancer Prevention and Control  
Stanley Watkins, MD, Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control
- 8:40 – 9:10**            **Opening Remarks**  
Van Mitchell, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- 9:10 – 9:20**            **Update of Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan**  
Meredith Truss, MPP, Program Manager, Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
- 9:20 – 10:20**        **Primary Prevention of Cancer: Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**  
Douglas Lowy, MD, Acting Director, National Cancer Institute
- 10:20 – 10:30**        **Break**
- 10:30 – 11:30**        **High Burden Cancers in Maryland: Role of Diet in High Burden Cancers**  
Joanne Dorgan PhD, MPH, Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine and School of Public Health
- 11:30 – 11:45**        **Cancer Council Service Awards and Martin D. Abeloff Award Presentation**  
Stanley Watkins, MD, Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control
- 11:45 – 12:45**        **Networking Lunch**
- 12:45 – 1:45**            **Cancer Survivorship, Palliative Care, and Hospice Care:**  
**Cancer in the Workplace:** Terry Langbaum, MHS, Chief Administrative Officer, Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center  
**Financial Side Effects of Cancer Care:** Barry Meisenberg, MD, Chair for Quality Improvement and Healthcare Systems Research, Anne Arundel Medical Center
- 1:45 – 2:45**            **Emerging Best Practices in Cancer Control in Maryland**
- Closing the Gap: Hispanic/Latino Women and Breast Cancer, Cara Rozaieski and Elizabeth Martinez, Wicomico County Health Department
  - The Future is Here: Low Dose Computed Tomography for Adults at High Risk of Lung Cancer, Maryam Doroudi, PhD, MPH, National Cancer Institute
  - Building a Palliative Care Program from the Inside Out, Patsy Astarita, LCSW-C, OSW-C and Michelle Abramowski, MSN, CRNP, Upper Chesapeake Health System
- 2:45 – 3:25**            **Cancer Center Research Highlights**  
Kevin Cullen, MD, University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center  
William Nelson, MD, PhD, Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins
- 3:25 – 3:30**            **Closing Remarks**  
Stanley Watkins, MD, Chair, Maryland State Council on Cancer Control