

## Research

*Like you, we're never satisfied with the status quo. We are unstoppable innovators, funding the most promising blood cancer research across the globe and forging collaborations to accelerate new discoveries, treatments, and cures. With a more than 70-year track record, Blood Cancer United has supported virtually every advancement in blood cancer treatment – including approaches once thought impossible.*

## Talking Points & Facts

- Blood Cancer United has invested more than \$1.8 billion in research for all types of blood cancer since our founding.
- Blood Cancer United recognized early on that chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy would hold great promise for patients with blood cancer. Our ongoing investment in CAR T-cell therapy, beginning in the 1990s, has led to game-changing treatments, giving new hope to patients with limited options.
- Blood Cancer United has helped fund over 70% of the blood cancer treatments approved by the FDA over the last 2 decades.
- Imatinib (Gleevec®), a revolutionary drug supported by Blood Cancer United, initiated a new era in cancer care 20 years ago, where characteristics of the tumor – rather than its original location – determined what treatment a patient would get. Imatinib started the birth of precision medicine, which focuses on giving the right drug to the right patient at the right time.
- Blood Cancer United currently supports 289 research projects led by innovative scientists worldwide to find new treatments for all types of blood cancer.
- Blood Cancer United's longstanding investment in research supported the discovery of FLT3-ITD, a genetic mutation present in 25% of people who have AML. This research was foundational for the 2023 FDA approval of the first drug designed to target this mutation: quizartinib (Vanflyta®).
- Blood Cancer United's Therapy Acceleration Program® (TAP) is a Mission-driven, strategic venture philanthropy initiative that seeks to accelerate the development of innovative blood cancer therapeutics and change the standard of care. Since its establishment, TAP has invested more than \$100 million in over 50 biotech projects.
- Blood Cancer United is transforming the landscape of treatment and care for patients through our Beat AML® Master Clinical Trial, the first collaborative precision medicine clinical trial in a blood cancer. The protocol – developed with

guidance from the FDA – not only has the power to bring new therapies to AML patients faster, but also has the potential to stand as a model for future clinical trials for other cancers.

- Blood Cancer United believes a diverse scientific workforce is critical to achieving our mission of curing all blood cancers. Our Underrepresented Minority Medical Student Research Program provides minority medical students with opportunities to experience cutting-edge research alongside experienced blood cancer scientists.
- Blood Cancer United recognizes children are different than adults and their blood cancers need to be treated differently: A one-size treatment doesn't fit all. So, we created The Dare to Dream Project, a bold and urgent \$175 million capital campaign to transform their treatment and care. We're daring to prioritize cutting-edge pediatric research, including LLS PedAL, the first-ever pediatric acute leukemia Master Clinical Trial.
- At Blood Cancer United, we want every blood cancer patient to benefit from the latest advances in treatment. IMPACT Research Grants are setting out to bring clinical trials to more distant communities. The program awards funding to three major cancer centers to partner with community-based hospitals and clinics on creating networks of clinical trial sites in their regions – bringing world-class care to communities in urgent need.

## **Patient Education & Support**

*At Blood Cancer United, we share your compassion and drive to make a difference in the lives of patients and families. Each day, we work tirelessly to provide hope, guidance, education, and support when it's needed most, so no one has to face cancer alone. We help patients and families throughout their entire cancer experience, and you make this vital work possible.*

## **Talking Points & Facts**

- Blood Cancer United is the leading source of free information, education, and support for blood cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, families, and healthcare professionals.
- Blood Cancer United Information Specialists – highly trained oncology social workers and nurses – have been on the front lines of an ever-changing

healthcare landscape, guiding patients and caregivers to our trusted education and support services.

- Last year alone, Blood Cancer United Information Specialists responded to 25,021 inquiries from patients and caregivers.
- Our robust financial assistance programs are a crucial lifeline for blood cancer patients and their families. In 2023 alone, Blood Cancer United provided \$246 million in financial assistance over 69,568 awards.
- Finding a clinical trial can be overwhelming. Our Clinical Trial Support Center (CTSC) helps take this burden off patients and families. In 2023, CTSC nurses assisted more than 1,000 patients seeking clinical trial support. Because of our high touch, individualized approach, the overall enrollment rate for eligible adult patients through the CTSC is approximately 15 percent, a dramatic difference from the 5 percent enrollment nationwide.
- We offer a wide array of free education and support, including professional, one-on-one support, our award-winning LLS Health Manager™ App, blood cancer conferences, local education programs, podcasts, booklets, webinars, online chats, and more, so patients and caregivers can find the help they need.
- Patients and caregivers of all cancer types can receive free nutrition education and one-on-one consultations with registered dietitians through Blood Cancer United's Nutrition Education Services Center.
- Blood Cancer United Community, our online social network for patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals to share experiences and provide support is over 20,000 members strong.
- The Patti Robinson Kaufmann First Connection Program matched 1,887 patients and their loved ones to a trained peer volunteer who has gone through a similar experience. The program gives patients and family members the opportunity to share experiences with someone who has "been through it," and obtain valuable information about Blood Cancer United and the other resources available to support them.
- Blood Cancer United is committed to addressing gaps in cancer outcomes and healthcare that disproportionately impact people of color, rural communities, and other underserved populations. For example, Myeloma Link, our education and outreach program designed to empower Black myeloma patients, caregivers, survivors, and families by increasing their access to education on and treatments

for this disease. Black Americans have at least double the incidence of myeloma as any other race or ethnicity, and recent studies show they face additional barriers and lower access to care. To date, Myeloma Link has reached more than 100,000 individuals, through approximately 350 educational programs and community outreach activities.

- Blood Cancer United knows how challenging it can be to plan for the future during or after cancer treatment. Hospital stays and interruptions in school may mean pausing education goals. The high cost of cancer care can make affording higher education difficult—but Blood Cancer United gives these families hope. We created the LLS Scholarship for Blood Cancer Survivors so pediatric blood cancer survivors can chase their dreams.

## **Policy & Advocacy**

*As a changemaker, you know first-hand the power of bold action to create impact. At Blood Cancer United, advocacy is in our blood, and we raise our voices to put patients and families at the center of everything we do. Like you, we are relentless, agile, and determined to effect meaningful change in the fight against blood cancers.*

## **Talking Points & Facts**

- Blood Cancer United advocates on behalf of—and with—blood cancer patients and their families, to make change that will address the serious burdens of these diseases.
- Blood Cancer United empowers a nationwide grassroots network of more than 100,000 volunteers to advocate for policies at the state and federal level in a commitment to remove barriers to care for cancer patients.
- Our efforts have helped increase federal research funds, speed the review and approval process of new therapies, and ensure patients are able to access lifesaving treatments. Many of the policies that we advocate for, at the state and federal levels, are universally beneficial for all cancer patients.
- Congress passed the landmark Childhood Cancer STAR Reauthorization Act, which Blood Cancer United helped write. The law expands opportunities for childhood cancer research, including research on survivorship. Congress also approved \$80 million for pediatric cancer research.
- New laws passed in Rhode Island, Michigan, and California will ensure patients have more affordable drug co-pays. As a result, patients in those states will have

options that prevent them from having to leave their prescriptions at the pharmacy counter due to costs.

- A new law in California is ensuring that millions of patients have in-network access to the state's top cancer centers. And the federal government will soon require certain insurers to offer better provider networks to millions of patients nationwide.
- Patient perspectives were well represented in courtrooms across the country, as Blood Cancer United weighed in on major court cases concerning surprise medical bills, access to FDA-approved drugs, coverage for preventive care, and the civil rights of patients covered by Medicaid.
- Blood Cancer United hosted 350 advocates across two major events in Washington, D.C. They urged members of Congress to provide funding for research, improve the diversity of clinical trials, and ensure faster access to cancer treatment for kids.
- Groundbreaking new laws in New York and Colorado are protecting patients from medical debt, while Minnesota and Maine passed new policies extending paid leave to patients and caregivers.
- Medicaid—a critical source of affordable health insurance coverage for patients and families with low incomes—has been expanded to or preserved for hundreds of thousands more residents of South Dakota, New Hampshire, and North Carolina.
- Several states adopted laws requiring insurers to cover no-cost preventive care and, for cancer survivors, fertility preservation. New federal policies will provide dental coverage for Medicare beneficiaries receiving cancer care, since dental care is often critical to successful treatment.
- New state and federal policies will reform clinical trials by making it easier for patients to participate in them. These reforms will also improve the diversity of trials, ensuring more patients can benefit from potentially lifesaving treatments.
- Through the LLS Equity in Access Research Program, Blood Cancer United has invested \$5 million in research to improve our understanding of how health insurance coverage impacts equitable access to care. The findings will enable Blood Cancer United to identify solutions to pursue.