

Patient Engagement & Voices: Critical to Care (at all times, especial these)

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To Focus our Efforts...

A Tribute to Patients and Survivors

In remission, in recurrence, in active treatment, and in every conceivable state of personal discomfort and challenge, Cancer Survivors

- **Advocate** for themselves, their families, their friends, their neighbors, and strangers unable to advocate for themselves
- **Educate** health professionals and the general public about cancer prevention, access to care, and treatment and about the everyday personal side of life with and after cancer
- **Participate** in scientific review panels and clinical trials
- **Walk, run, and wheel in chairs** in support of research funding and legislative action
- **Put human faces** and real lives on the disease
- **Advocate and fight** for Equal Access, Quality Care, and the Best Possible Quality of Life for Everyone
- **Choose Hope** even when despair seems so tempting and requires so little
- **Understand that Every Second, Every New Dawn is a Gift, a Blessing *undisguised***

I stand with you, yet in awe of you, and I stand in your debt.



INTERNATIONAL
GYNECOLOGIC CANCER SOCIETY

Global Outreach & Engagement: IGCS Style

- Reach deeply and broadly and engage globally
 - Understanding the intersection of zip code (or postal code), health outcomes, and receipt/quality of care and service
 - Striving to secure/ensure high-quality care and services for all women and girls, wherever and under whatever circumstances they live
- Understand that the health of communities flows through the health of women (to include cancer/other health care and family planning/size), worldwide
- Create avenues for interaction and amplify voices (*and we act on what we hear*)
- Empower girls and women with tools and awareness/resources to increase their health care autonomy and enable them to act on their specific needs
- Celebrate women and men persistently engaged in the fight against gynecologic and other cancers

Patient/Community Voices

Share lived experience,

Provide needed, unique perspective(s),

Clarify needs/levels of need & help to refine priorities,

Differentiate perceptions/findings from reality,
(or perhaps Affirm perceptions/findings)

Amplify understanding of conditions & needs, and

Solidify relationships necessary for progress.

They are Reality Checks, and including them is Tacit Acknowledgment of value and connotes respect (*especially important in these uncertain times*).

COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Beyond...

- We must include girls and women—as *authentic, uniquely qualified, most invested stakeholders*—in these types of conversations during which we
 - discuss them
 - decide on their needs and deficits
 - plan a healthy future for them
- We must assume and affirm the value of their words/input and the validity of their experiences, through our action and implementation.

In Closing

In their own words, girls, women, and communities will guide us to areas of greatest importance and need, at times down pathways we might never have imagined but must follow/heed to best serve.



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Thank You!

Find more information about IGCS Global Outreach & Engagement at www.igcs.org/advocacy.

Contact me at dicey.scroggins@igcs.org.