

Are You a Research Advocate Who Would Like To:

- Make a difference to their patient community by creating an awareness of the research that is impacting clinical care?
- Have a greater understanding of the concepts that contribute to the development of personalized medicine—cancer pathways, genomics, proteomics, biomarkers?
- Be able to relate these concepts to specific research results?
- Be more effective in understanding and communicating research results that will change how cancer is treated?

The Focus on Research Scholar program includes exciting discussions about concepts in oncology research and how research results progress to better patient care. Designed to prepare new and seasoned advocates to better understand the research process and have a greater understanding of common concepts in oncology (cancer pathways, genomics, biomarkers, statistics, patient protections). Scholars accepted into the program will develop and implement an action plan to disseminate research results and knowledge gained in the class to a patient community. Through a system of preparatory conference calls, virtual classroom (webinars), and learning materials the Scholars will gain critical appraisal skills to better understand research presentations and publications. The Scholars will attend the ASCO Annual Meeting in Chicago, May 30 to June 3, 2014 to gather knowledge about biomedical advances. After attending ASCO, the Scholars report and implement their action plans to share this information with the advocate's organization and constituencies.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Complete the form online at:

https://www.formstack.com/forms/ResearchAdvNetwork-focus_research_scholar_2014application

Deadline March 25, 2014 • 5 pm Central

Who Should Apply:

Advocates interested in influencing the research system and serving their patient constituency by disseminating research results that will influence patient care.

Eligibility:

The program is open to advocates that serve a cancer patient community and have the desire to be more effective in understanding and disseminating research results. Former Focus on Research Scholars may reapply 2 years after their last participation, however, new applicants will be given priority. This program is not intended for health care professionals seeking continuing medical education credits.

Selected Candidates Agree To:

- Dedicate the time to complete all assignments including developing a background document on disease site, participating fully in webinars (either during the live session or via recorded playback) and reporting on the ASCO sessions
- Have a computer with internet connection and separate phone line for participating in online meetings and webinars
- Be willing and physically able to attend at least the minimum number of required hours during the ASCO Annual Meeting in Chicago, May 30- June 4, 2014
- Disseminate information learned during the program to organization and other patients
- Report activities and learnings to "Research Dissemination Partner" and other Focus on Research class participants and graduates

Methods:

- eLearning classes for self study
- Web Lecture Series with facilitated discussion groups
- Networking events at the ASCO meeting
- Attendance and reporting on the scientific sessions at the ASCO meeting in Chicago, IL May 30-June3, 2014
- Development of individualized action plans to accomplish dissemination goals
- Opportunities to be a more effective advocate and communicate with researchers and patient constituency better

Timeline:

Application Deadline	March 25, 2014 by 5pm Central
Applicant Notification.....	by April 1, 2014
Scholar Orientation Webinar.....	April 8, 2014 2 pm Central
Independent Study Assignments and Web Lecture Series.....	Begins April 8, 2014 through May, 2014
ASCO Annual Meeting, Chicago IL.....	May 30 (noon) to June 3, 2014
Report due.....	June 25, 2014
Dissemination Activities	June 5 to Dec 31, 2014

Focus on Research Scholar Program Inquiries:

Please contact Elda Railey via email: erailey@researchadvocacy.org

Travel Scholarships:

A limited number of travel scholarships are available for Scholars needing assistance to travel to Chicago for the ASCO Annual meeting. Application for travel scholarships can be indicated on the application form.

Sponsorship:

At the time of printing, the 2014 Focus on Research Scholar Program is funded in part by an unrestricted educational grant from Genentech, a member of the Roche Group. Other sponsors are pending.

Background:

Introduced in 2005, Focus on Research is a system of preparatory conference calls, virtual classroom (webinars), learning materials and mentoring for research advocates to improve skills and understanding of biomedical research. During April and May, the participants complete assignments and participate in scientific webinars. In June, class participants attend the scientific sessions at the American Society of Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting to gather knowledge about advances in oncology research and network with other research advocates. Class participants are required to submit written reports and then share the information with the advocate's organization and patient constituency. Progress and activities in disseminating the information is reported back to the Focus on Research class for the rest of the year. Focus on Research is a program developed by fellow research advocates at Research Advocacy Network. New elements and topics are added each year. The program has developed into a robust program model that combines new technology and adult learning principles to train research advocates.



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