

Our Impact

JANUARY – JUNE 2019

On January 1, 2019, FORCE celebrated our 20th anniversary as the voice and champion of the hereditary cancer community. As we look back at the past 20 years, we are grateful for all of the growth and change that has taken place in our community, but we know there is still more work to be done and more change to create.

Welcome to FORCE's inaugural *Our Impact* document, sharing some of our many accomplishments from the first half of 2019. To keep you informed of our milestones, we plan to do this twice a year. If you would like to see our contributions to the hereditary cancer community from last year, please visit our [2018 Annual Report](#).

RESEARCH

- Passionate FORCE Research Advocates represented the hereditary cancer community in more than 70 cancer research leadership roles, bridging the gap between the hereditary cancer and research communities.
- FORCE was part of the recruitment strategy for AstraZeneca's POLO Study, a PARP inhibitor study for pancreatic cancer, the results of which are likely to lead to the first PARP inhibitor approval for treating pancreatic cancer in BRCA mutation carriers.

PUBLIC POLICY

- Protected genetic health privacy and employee rights by collaborating in a successful legal challenge to regulations allowing employers to impose financial penalties for non-participation in wellness programs.
- Effectively advocated for the ability to deduct medical expenses exceeding 7.5% (vs. 10%) of one's adjusted gross income for the 2017 and 2018 tax years.
- Engaged in efforts to pass state and federal legislation ensuring equal access to anticancer treatments, regardless of whether they are given via IV, oral or injection. To-date, 43 states have enacted laws and a federal law has been introduced.
- Championed access to genetic testing for Medicare beneficiaries by fighting a new policy on Next-Generation Sequencing, which significantly restricts hereditary cancer genetic testing.



“Many thanks for all the work that you do. Amid the endless tests, physician appointments, hospital stays, and seemingly intractable worry, your organization is a haven for the tired and a beacon for the strong.”

- Lesley Keays, FORCE Constituent



EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Distributed 36,111 brochures at conferences, trade shows, hospitals, support group meetings, and to healthcare provider offices to raise awareness of hereditary cancer.
- Almost 1 million pages were visited on the FORCE website, providing critical hereditary cancer information to those who need it.
- The effects of XRAYs on lay audience understanding of media reports on breast cancer research was published in *Health Education Journal*.
- FORCE staff and volunteers have represented the hereditary cancer community at 38 events and conferences, reaching over 32,000 people.

SUPPORT

- FORCE launched a new and improved secure online message board (which is also available as a mobile app) to provide 24/7 support amongst peers. Trained volunteers moderate the boards, offer FORCE expert-reviewed resources and share compassion with others.
- The Peer Navigation Program provided personalized support to almost 600 men, women and caregivers in the last 6 months.



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