



Facing Hereditary Cancer EMPOWERED

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORCE Elects Five Board of Directors: M. Margaret Snow, MD; Laurie Spiegel, Liza Talusan, Ph.D.; Matt Yurgelun, MD; and Marina Zinger

Tampa, FL (November 1, 2021) – Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE), the nation’s only nonprofit organization dedicated to families facing hereditary breast, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, colorectal, and endometrial cancers welcomes Margaret Snow, MD; Laurie Spiegel, Liza Talusan, Ph.D.; Matt Yurgelun, MD; and Marina Zinger to its Board of Directors. Each of these distinguished individuals brings unique skills and hereditary cancer experiences along with diverse healthcare and advocacy backgrounds to FORCE. As BRCA gene mutation carriers and Lynch syndrome advocates, they use their voices to raise awareness about hereditary cancers and to address disparities among minority patients.

“We are excited to have Margaret, Laurie, Liza, Matt and Marina join our board. Their professional backgrounds, as well as their personal experiences with our community, will make them valuable directors to help us improve the lives of individuals and families facing hereditary cancers,” stated Barbara Pfeiffer, FORCE CEO.

M. Margaret Snow, MD

Margaret is a Physiatrist and a longtime FORCE volunteer. As an open LGBT board member, she will continue to help FORCE disseminate essential information about hereditary cancer. Margaret graduated from the University of Michigan with a BS in biology and studied medicine at George Washington University in the District of Columbia. She is a Previvor with a BRCA1 gene mutation.

Laurie Spiegel

Laurie spent over 40 years in telecommunications software systems and operations. She is a FORCE volunteer and fundraiser, vice president at Temple B’nai Or in Morristown, NJ, and treasurer of Theta Phi Sorority Alumnae Association. Laurie earned her BA in Mathematics from SUNY New Paltz and her MS in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from SUNY’s University at Buffalo. Laurie is a 10-year breast cancer survivor with a BRCA1 mutation.



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Liza Talusan, Ph.D.

Liza is a nationally recognized educator, speaker, writer and leadership coach. Liza is an engaging facilitator who creates environments that allow people to openly discuss diversity, anti-racism, bias, privilege and power. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Child Development from Connecticut College, a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from New York University, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from University of Massachusetts Boston. She is a Previvor with a BRCA1 gene mutation.

Matt Yurgelun, MD

Matt is Director of the Dana-Farber Lynch Syndrome Center and Director of Clinical Research for the Dana-Farber’s Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention. He has been active in developing various clinical practice guidelines for the workup and management of individuals with inherited cancer risk, including the National Comprehensive Cancer Network’s Clinical Practice Guidelines Panels for both Colorectal Cancer Genetics/High-Risk Assessment and Breast/Ovarian/Pancreatic Cancer Genetics/High-Risk Assessment.

Marina Zinger

Marina is Chief Financial Officer for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services, overseeing the financial affairs of two hospitals and a multisite outpatient program. Marina earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from Western Connecticut State University and an MBA from Sacred Heart University, the Jack Welch School of Business and Technology. Marina is an eight-year fallopian tube cancer survivor with a BRCA1 gene mutation and a longtime FORCE volunteer in Connecticut.

About FORCE

FORCE is dedicated to empowering the millions of individuals and families facing hereditary breast, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, colorectal, and endometrial cancers. Our community includes people with a BRCA, ATM, PALB2, CHEK2, PTEN, or other inherited gene mutation and those diagnosed with Lynch syndrome. We are dedicated to providing up-to-date, expert-reviewed information and resources that help people make informed medical decisions. FORCE serves as a champion, unifying our community and advocating for awareness, access to care, and better treatment and prevention options. Our strong, supportive community of peers and professionals ensures that no one must face hereditary cancer alone.

For more information, visit FORCE’s website at www.facingourrisk.org.

