The second half of 2022 was exceptionally busy as we aggressively continued to broaden our programs on behalf of the entire hereditary cancer community. All of us at FORCE are working earnestly to improve the lives of individuals and families facing hereditary breast, colorectal, endometrial, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancers. Read on to learn how our actions and accomplishments over the last six months benefit everyone who faces hereditary cancer.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

FORCE continued to uphold our commitment to building diversity, equity and inclusion into all that we do. Our efforts are focused on minimizing the impact of racial disparities on access to healthcare, cancer genetic services, screening, prevention and treatment. We continue to work toward closing those gaps while building a strong sense of community and support.

OUR DEI PROGRESS:

• With our partners Eisai, SHARE and Black Health Matters we elevated awareness of the warning signs of endometrial cancer. Our national and local media efforts, many in publications with a diverse audience, produced 66 original articles and broadcast segments, reaching a total audience of more than 578 million people.

• We broadened the scope of our personalized services for our constituents in the Black, Latine, Asian, Indigenous, D/Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Men and LGBTQIA+ communities by recruiting 38% more volunteers representing these populations.

• We expanded our XRAY library, sharing reliable information about cancer research with more than 280 reviews that covered breast, colorectal, endometrial, ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancers. Over 70 of these reviews are available in Spanish, and more than 20% focus on topics addressing healthcare disparities for underserved people in our community.
EDUCATION

• For the 13th consecutive year, we leveraged the opportunities of National Hereditary Cancer Week and National Previvor Day to shine a national light on hereditary cancer and honor all those who are affected by it.

• More than 2,200 attendees of our Joining FORC3s Against Hereditary Cancer Conference had an unmatched educational experience, viewing 41 sessions on all aspects of hereditary cancer by leading healthcare and research experts. All conference sessions are available on our website.

• Our new book Living with Hereditary Cancer Risk: What You and Your Family Need to Know was published by Johns Hopkins University Press with exemplary reviews. It is available from the publisher and on Amazon.

SUPPORT

• Our private FORCE Facebook Group, with more than 2,000 members and 23,114 posts and comments, provided a way to quickly connect with peers, obtain support and share experiences 24/7.

• We continued to make it easier for others to connect with peers just like them through our virtual community groups: D/Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Caregivers/Parents, Personas Que Hablan Espanol, LGBTQIA+, People with Lynch Syndrome, Men, People of Color, Previvors, Young Previvors, Survivors/Thrivers/People in Treatment and Young Survivors/Thrivers/People in Treatment.

RESEARCH

• We provided better options for our constituents and future generations by matching people with inherited mutations to treatment, prevention, detection, quality of life and other research for which they are eligible, through the promotion of more than 100 studies.

• FORCE is proud to be at the forefront of new research on behalf of our community. We collaborated with researchers from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute on a clinical trial testing the effectiveness of denosumab, a drug to reduce the risk of developing breast cancer in women with an inherited BRCA1 mutation.

PUBLIC POLICY

• We made significant contributions to the Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Act, bipartisan legislation addressing the unique needs of cancer survivors, including cancer care planning, financial assistance, Medicaid coverage of fertility preservation and a national cancer survivorship resource center.

• We presented at the International Society of Oncology Nurses in Genetics (ISONG) World Congress, educating healthcare professionals about the challenges faced by individuals in the hereditary cancer community, and the public policy changes needed to improve access to affordable screening and preventive care.