

Future of Cancer Health Economics Research: Conference Synthesis

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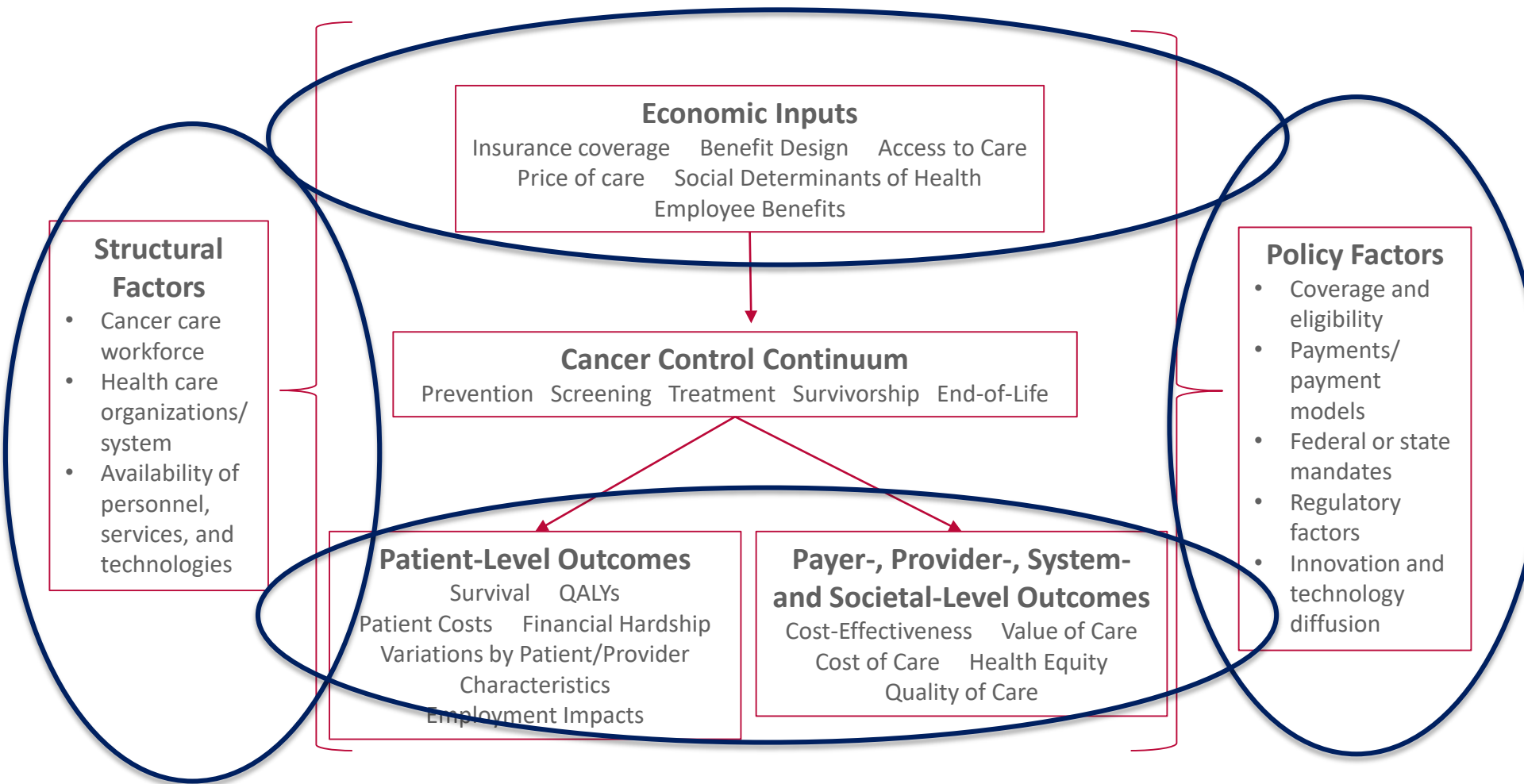
Goals of the Conference

- Identify challenges, gaps, and unmet needs for conducting cancer health economics research
- Develop suggestions/ideas to address the identified challenges and to support the development of the field of cancer health economics research

Portfolio Analysis and Literature Review

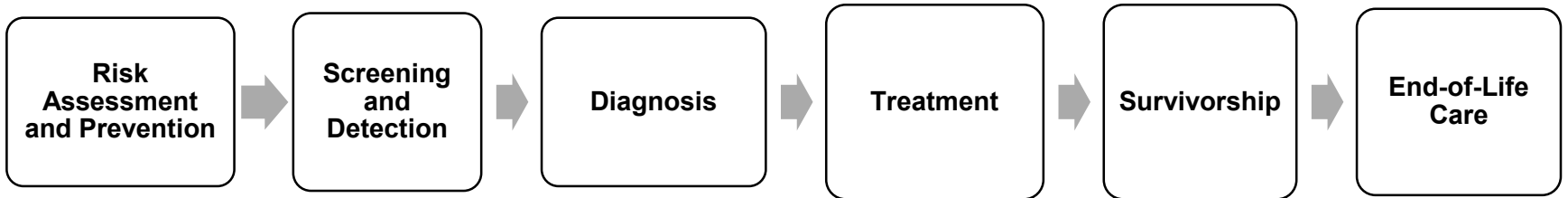
- Small proportion (<1%) of NCI-funded grants discussed economic outcomes/analyses in their specific aims or abstract
 - May not have been primary focus of grant
- Grants and published reviews focus primarily on CEA and cost of care studies
- Breast cancer is commonly studied
- Opportunities across the cancer control continuum

Framework of Cancer Health Economics Research



Halpern MT, Shih YT, Yabroff KR, Ekwueme DU, Bradley CJ, Davidoff AJ, Sabik LM, Lipscomb J. A framework for cancer health economics research. *Cancer*. 2020 Nov 25. doi: 10.1002/cncr.33343. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33237590.

Cancer Control Continuum



Common Themes: Data Limitations

- Fragmentation of data systems
 - Limited generalizability
 - Lack of longitudinal data
- Absence of key measures
 - Exposures/risk factors
 - Patient and provider characteristics
 - Treatment eligibility and preferences
 - Outcomes (e.g., HRQoL, recurrence, survival)
 - Caregivers, including multiple caregivers
- Timeliness
- Necessary trade-offs

Opportunities: Data Resources

- Novel linkages
- Enhancements to existing data
- New uses of data (e.g., social media, consumer spending patterns) and technologies
- Sources of direct non-medical and indirect costs
- APCD and multiple payer linkages within states
- Addition of standardized economic measures to prospective observational studies and trials

Opportunities: Methods

- Microsimulation models and modelling networks (i.e., CISNET)
- Randomization of volunteer practices in policy studies, esp. value-based payment models
- Econometric methods for observational and quasi-experimental studies
- Application of evolving data science methodologies (e.g. machine learning)
- Perspectives and timelines of decision makers (e.g., state health departments, policy makers)
- Value of information to inform priorities

Opportunities: Structural and Policy Factors

- Organization of care
 - Value-based payment models
 - Policy and market factors
- Care delivery
 - Quality of care: overuse, underuse, and misuse of services
 - Diffusion of innovation and discontinuation of ineffective care and de-implementation
- Local context
- Focus on underserved populations (e.g., uninsured, low-income, minority, rural) and **interventions, not just descriptive studies**, to improve health outcomes

Opportunities: Collaboration and Training

- Health economists/health services researchers, clinicians, data scientists, policy makers, advocacy and patient stakeholders
- Existing and new networks and consortia
- Cooperative groups
- Dissemination and Implementation
- Meetings and Seminars/Webinars to increase interactions
- Cross-disciplinary training – more people AND more training
- Science Communication <https://www.aldacenter.org/>

What do we need to be successful?

- Communication and Dissemination
- New data infrastructures, resources, and linkages
- Reducing disparities and enhancing health equity

Communication and Dissemination

- Highlighted by survey
- Thinking beyond peer-reviewed publications, editorials, and citation-based metrics/H-index
 - Altmetric score (news outlets, twitter, citation)
 - Social media, YouTube, podcasts
 - Lay press coverage and Op-Eds
 - Other practice- and policy-relevant measures
- Considerations for scientific, policy, health system/delivery, and lay audiences
- “Life-cycle” of research and timeliness

New data infrastructures, resources, and linkages

- Strongly endorsed in survey
- SEER-CMS linkage enhancements: new measures, new files (e.g., OASIS), timeliness
- SEER-LexisNexis: financial toxicity
- NCI Observational Research in Oncology Toolbox
- Social media: emergent themes, lay discourse
- PCORnet EHR and Medicare claims for prescribed drugs
- Protection of PHI/patient privacy
- Opportunities for sharing lessons learned
- Reuse of data/data sharing for novel projects

Reducing disparities and enhancing health equity

- Longstanding disparities have adverse economic consequences
- Health insurance necessary, but not sufficient
- Central role of federal, state, employer, health care system policies
 - Medicaid expansion, coverage gaps
 - Paid sick leave and workplace protections
- Clinical trial participation -
 - Ethical issue, potential for rationing by ability to pay
 - Financial interventions increase enrollment
- Natural experiment and policy simulations

Opportunities: Funding

- Strongly endorsed in survey
- Trans-NIH RFAs for health economic methods
- Career development awards and training grants
- Centers of Excellence for Health Economics Research
- New and enhanced networks (e.g., PROSPR) with key measures for addressing health economics research questions
- Targeted supplements for health economics questions
- Enhancement of CISNET for policy-relevant questions
- Economic analyses alongside clinical trials

Next Steps to Support the Development of Cancer Health Economics Research

- Development, organization, and structure of training programs for cancer health economics research
- Fostering interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary collaborations in cancer health economics research
- Improving data accessibility for health economics research without compromising data security
- Methods and study design for cancer health economics research



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