

Speaker Biographies



Nellie Wild
Executive Director
Aimed Alliance

Nellie Wild is the Executive Director of the Alliance for the Adoption of Innovations in Medicine (Aimed Alliance), a not-for-profit organization that advances access to quality health care. Her priorities are to arm patients with the tools and knowledge they need to receive individualized care, provide key decision makers with sound patient-centered policy recommendations, and advance consumer-focused systemic health care reform. Before assuming leadership of Aimed Alliance, Nellie served as Senior Policy Advisor to the organization. Previously, she directed national programs for several federal agencies, managed a membership-based organization designed to incubate small U.S. companies, and served as the Interim Executive Director of a nonprofit organization dedicated to mobilizing the disability community around one political voice. A graduate of Carleton College with a degree in political science, Nellie was awarded a Master of Public Affairs degree from Indiana University's School of Public & Environmental Affairs.



Stacey Worthy, J.D
Counsel
Aimed Alliance

As Counsel to Aimed Alliance, Stacey Worthy provides legal insights that drive the organization's education, advocacy and policy initiatives. Based on her extensive research and analysis of federal and state laws, regulations and legislative affecting access to quality health care, Stacey authors scholarly articles for publication, drafts model legislation, develops policy positions and assists with coalition-building efforts of allied organizations focused on advancing common goals. She is also a featured speaker at national conferences and contributes commentary that addresses important issues impacting patients with serious chronic diseases and rare conditions. Along with her work for Aimed Alliance, Stacey is a partner at DCBA Law & Policy where she counsels members of the health care industry, small businesses, and not-for-profits. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the George Mason School of Law, and graduated magna cum laude from Boston's Suffolk University.



Kate Houghton
President & CEO
Critical Mass: The Young Adult Cancer Alliance

After 10 years of advising elected political officials and working on Presidential campaigns, Kate Houghton was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in 2009 and joined the ranks of the estimated 70,000 adolescents and young adults in the U.S. who receive a cancer diagnosis each year. She made the decision to leave politics and became the President and CEO of Critical Mass: The Young Adult Cancer Alliance, the only full-time national advocacy organization dedicated to transforming the care of adolescents and young adults diagnosed with cancer. In this role, she leads the organization's efforts to raise awareness of the unique needs of young adults with cancer, drives changes in public policy, and develops programs to connect 15 to 39 year olds with age-appropriate resources from support groups to financial assistance programs. A Florida native, Kate graduated with degree in political science from Florida International University and received a graduate degree from George Mason University in public policy. She is currently cancer-free thanks to her care team at Johns Hopkins University.



Rose Gerber
Director of Patient Advocacy & Education
Community Oncology Alliance

A young mother with small children when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, Rose Gerber is a nationally recognized cancer advocate who serves as the Director of Patient Advocacy and Education for the Community Oncology Alliance (COA), the only non-profit organization dedicated solely to preserving and protecting access to cancer care at the nation's community cancer clinics. Coming to the world of cancer advocacy from NBC-TV in Los Angeles, Rose was a grant reviewer, speaker and educator for Susan G. Komen for five years and co-founded a breast cancer-mentoring program for a community oncology practice in Connecticut. Now, she develops COA's advocacy programs across the country, has appeared on national television (MSNBC) speaking about cancer care, meets with legislators in Washington, DC, and serves as an invited member on national patient advocate panels, steering committees, and cancer coalitions. She has served as a consumer reviewer on the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs – Department of Defense Breast Cancer research panels and is a graduate of the National Breast Cancer Coalition's esteemed Project Lead programs: Science Institute, Clinical Trials, and Quality Care. She has been the featured cancer survivor for various cancer organizations' media campaigns and the advocacy keynote speaker at conferences including the National Women's Survivors Convention. Rose was recently awarded National Breast Cancer Leader of the Year by Breast Cancer Wellness magazine. Rose is also a strong advocate for clinical trials.



Terry Wilcox
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Patients Rising

A passionate advocate for patients with cancer and other serious diseases, Terry Wilcox is Executive Director of Patients Rising, a non-profit patient education and advocacy organization that helps patients get access to essential diagnostics and the treatments they need. Inspired by Selma Schimmel, considered by many as the "original" young adult survivor advocate, Terry left a career in Los Angeles in the entertainment industry to join Vital Options International (VOI), a cancer communication, education and advocacy organization Selma launched in 1983 to facilitate a global dialogue on cancer. From 2008 to Selma's death in May 2014, Terry worked alongside her mentor as creative director of VOI and the supervising producer of a video program called The Group Room that featured discussions with the world's leading oncologists and cancer researchers. After Selma's death, Terry continued to advance Selma's legacy as VOI's Executive Director until August 2015, when she moved to Washington, DC and co-founded Patients Rising with her husband. Now Terry and her team engage the patient community, along with physicians, health policy experts and allied healthcare professions, to develop realistic, solution-oriented discussions so those with life-threatening and chronic diseases will have a voice in shaping policies that will improve access to quality care.