

MYELOMA LINK:

Connecting African American Communities to Information, Expert Care and Support



African Americans have twice the incidence of the blood cancer multiple myeloma as white Americans. Recent studies show that African Americans are significantly less likely to receive the newest treatments and combination therapies, and more likely to experience treatment delays, including transplant delays.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is partnering with a wide range of trusted partners within African American communities, including churches, senior centers and community health centers, in order to:

- 1) Raise awareness among African Americans about the disparities in multiple myeloma incidence and treatment, signs and symptoms of the disease, and the resources that LLS offers to patients and families dealing with blood cancer;
- 2) Provide information and resources that will equip African American myeloma patients with the knowledge and tools needed to seek novel, state of the art treatments, including clinical trials, in a timely manner.

Myeloma Link is an LLS initiative now in thirteen cities across the United States: Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Birmingham, AL; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; Cleveland, OH; Houston, TX; New York, NY; Oakland, CA; Philadelphia, PA; Raleigh-Durham, NC; St. Louis, MO; and Washington DC.

Myeloma Link achieves its goals through the following activities:

- Conducting virtual or in-person health care provider-led patient and community education programs in collaboration with local healthcare institutions and trusted community-based organizations, such as churches, senior centers, and libraries.
- Church outreach through various activities both in-person and virtually, including health sermons during services in Black churches.
- Presenting virtual or in-person “lunch and learn” myeloma education programs for primary care providers, including physician and nurses, at community health centers and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).
- Training local community outreach volunteers to build relationships with trusted community-based organizations and plan myeloma education programs and other outreach activities.
- Connecting patients and caregivers from these communities with master’s level oncology professionals at LLS’ Information Resource Center to answer disease and treatment questions, connect patients to optimal care, and provide additional support.

If you are interested in becoming involved with or finding out more about Myeloma Link, please contact:

MyelomaLink@LLS.org, 1-844-955-LINK or www.LLS.org/MyelomaLink.