



Program Summary

Lazarex CARE - Daily direct patient advocacy, clinical trial navigation and out-of-pocket clinical trial expense reimbursement program.

IMPACT - **IM**proving **P**atient **A**ccess to **C**ancer **C**linical **T**rials – Institutional Comprehensive Cancer Center program to increase clinical trial enrollment, retention, and minority participation in cancer clinical trials and create a sustainable platform for equitable access.

Community IMPACT - (pilot) Community outreach and engagement public health initiative in the poorest neighborhoods of Philadelphia aimed at building a replicable program to improve cancer and overall health outcomes.

About Lazarex Cancer Foundation and Lazarex CARE

Sometimes, in a patient's battle with cancer, they are exposed to a gap in cancer care when they progress to advanced stage and all available treatment options fail them. Most often, despite their desire to continue fighting their disease, hospice is the recommended course of action. For these patients, medical breakthroughs offered through clinical trial participation are an alternative to hospice; however, there are many barriers to participation that seem insurmountable for patients who are emotionally, physically and financially spent. In 2006 Lazarex Cancer Foundation was created to bridge this gap and remove the barriers. It is a publicly funded 501(c)(3) charity and has served over 4,000 patients during the past 12 years. Lazarex is focused on improving the outcome of cancer care for advanced stage cancer patients and the medically underserved, by identifying FDA approved clinical trial options, providing assistance with ancillary costs for clinical trial participation and a travel companion, and facilitating community outreach and engagement.

Clinical trials are the capstone of the drug development process. Patient participation is crucial to the successful completion of a trial. Patient recruitment to clinical trials has historically plagued the research industry; 11% of trials never enroll a single patient, 37% are grossly under enrolled; delaying the approval of drugs, increasing development costs and most egregiously preventing patients from taking advantage of medical breakthroughs in technology. Only 6% of eligible patients participate in trials and only 5% are racial or ethnic minorities. This negatively affects statistically valid assessment of the safety, efficacy and value of new therapeutic agents for multiple segments of our population.

IMPACT – The Solution - (IMproving Patient Access to Cancer Clinical Trials)

Lazarex is the only non-profit offering a complete solution to address and remove these barriers. While our Lazarex CARE program is noble – it is not sustainable. In 2013, Lazarex devised a plan to sustainably fix this intractable problem and actually fill this gap in cancer care. Lazarex partnered with Massachusetts General Hospital and formed the Lazarex MGH Cancer Care Equity Program. We achieved a 29% increase in overall participation and doubled minority participation in cancer clinical trials. Parlaying this success, Lazarex has expanded the initiative into **IMPACT**, a 3 year pilot study that will ultimately be rolled out in 8 Comprehensive Cancer Centers, launched in California in Q1 2018, to be closely followed by Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The goal of **IMPACT** is to permanently fix this problem and generate a sustainable proof of concept action plan that will be universally adopted to transform the status quo of clinical trial recruitment, retention, minority participation, completion, and translational science - providing equitable and timely access to cancer discovery for all patients.



Community IMPACT

Working with Drexel University School of Public Health in Philadelphia, Lazarex Cancer Foundation is committed to building healthy communities, giving voice to the voiceless and hope to the hopeless through the **Community IMPACT** program. Therefore, the overall goal of Community IMPACT is to improve understanding and awareness of; (1) the burden of cancer on patients and their families, and (2) opportunities for the prevention and treatment of cancer residents in minority and disadvantaged communities in Philadelphia, as well as health practitioners and policy makers, in order to inform the development and implementation of strategies to prevent cancer and treat it more effectively. The project will combine exemplary public health qualitative and quantitative assessment and research methods with a grassroots community engagement effort in communities that are often not invited to lead their own health futures. The impact of the initiative will be to transform both the way we think about cancer prevention and the actions we implement to reduce cancer burden.

In collaboration with our institutional **IMPACT** program (**IM**proving **P**atient **A**ccess to **C**ancer **C**linical **T**rials), Community IMPACT will be led by Drexel University, which brings its extraordinary resources in research and community engagement to this initiative. We propose to build the project around a place based, community-led model of engagement, developing an approach and team of community advocates at the Drexel Center for Neighborhood Partnerships in West Philadelphia, and then extending this model out to other neighborhoods in Philadelphia by peer-to-peer community leadership and direction.