

Novartis STEP Program™ awards nearly \$375,000 to patient advocacy organizations for their innovative solutions in biomarker testing; now accepting proposals for caregiving in cancer and certain blood disorders

Oct 05, 2020

- *The STEP (Solutions to Empower Patients) Program™ supports nonprofit organizations that deliver creative solutions to address barriers to care*
- *Five patient advocacy organizations were provided funding for their solutions to raise awareness of and access to biomarker testing among the cancer community*
- *The STEP Program is now open for submissions that demonstrate innovation in addressing the needs of caregivers in cancer and certain blood disorders*

East Hanover, October 5, 2020 — Novartis awarded a total of nearly \$375,000 to five US-based patient advocacy groups through the company's signature advocacy initiative, the STEP (Solutions to Empower Patients) Program™. The recipients were chosen for their impactful initiatives to improve awareness and education, self-advocacy, and policy development for biomarker testing, which has the potential to transform treatment strategies for people living with certain types of cancer.

These innovative STEP Program initiatives include:

- **GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer's** Project PROMOTE (Precision Oncology Molecular Testing Education) is an educational campaign that aims to increase biomarker testing in the lung cancer community.
- **Patient Advocate Foundation's** Patient Guide to Biomarker Testing will increase understanding and awareness of biomarker testing across cancer types.
- **Sisters Network Inc.'s** Pink Table Talk: Know Your HERstory is a multimedia campaign and online symposium to educate underserved African American breast cancer patients, caregivers, and the greater community on the importance of biomarker testing.
- **The Life Raft Group's** Biomarker Testing Campaign will launch a series of webinars and videos to promote awareness and education, as well as develop an abstract, to improve guidelines for patients with gastrointestinal stromal tumor.
- **Young Survival Coalition's** Let's Get Digital will develop a digital toolkit about biomarker testing for young adults with breast cancer.

"Though advances in precision medicine have transformed treatment strategies for people living with certain types of cancer, awareness and access to biomarker testing continues to present unique challenges across the cancer community," said Ameet Mallik, Executive Vice President and Head, US, Novartis Oncology.

"Through the STEP Program, we are proud to support innovative ideas that help provide better care for people with cancer."

Now Accepting Proposals that Support Caregiving in Cancer and Blood Disorders

Recognizing the important work patient advocacy organizations do to support patients and caregivers, the STEP Program is now inviting US patient advocacy organizations to submit proposals that address an unmet need in caregiving for cancer and certain blood disorders.

Caregivers for patients with cancer and certain blood disorders manage a wide range of responsibilities, and often face many emotional and physical challenges. The STEP Program will provide up to six patient advocacy organizations with up to \$50,000 each for their innovative programs.

“While many people realize the critical role that caregivers play, we recognize the opportunity to do more. We are excited to open the STEP Program to initiatives that help reduce caregiver burden for loved ones of cancer and blood disorder patients,” said Mallik.

Application Details for Interested Patient Advocacy Organizations

US-based, 501(c)(3) patient advocacy organizations are welcome to submit a STEP Program proposal for consideration. Proposals focusing on cancer and the following blood disorders will be considered for funding: sickle cell disease (SCD), immune thrombocytopenia (ITP), aplastic anemia (AA), and thalassemia. Proposals should focus on at least one of the following criteria:

- Navigating care and treatment
- Self-care
- Addressing needs of specific populations including caring for patients with different disease stages, patient/caregiver relationships, and demographics

Proposals will be evaluated by an independent external review committee consisting of experts in a variety of fields.

Organizations that wish to apply for funding from the program should complete the required submission form available [here](#). All submissions must be received by 11:59 PM ET on October 28, 2020.

For more information about the STEP Program, including submission details, please visit the Novartis US website, [STEP Program page](#).

Novartis created the STEP Program in 2017 to inspire and enable US-based nonprofit organizations to help to address some of the most significant gaps in health care. The STEP Program has previously supported high-impact, patient-focused initiatives by ten organizations across the country.

About Novartis

Located in East Hanover, NJ Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation – an affiliate of Novartis – is reimagining medicine to improve and extend people’s lives. As a leading global medicines company, we use innovative science and digital technologies to create transformative treatments in areas of great medical need. In our quest to find new medicines, we consistently rank among the world’s top companies investing in research and development. Novartis employs about 15,000 people in the United States. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.us>.

Novartis and Novartis US is on Twitter. Sign up to follow @Novartis at <http://twitter.com/novartisnews> and @NovartisUS at <https://twitter.com/NovartisUS>

For Novartis multimedia content, please visit www.novartis.com/news/media-library

For questions about the site or required registration, please contact media.relations@novartis.com.

#

Novartis Media Relations

E-mail: media.relations@novartis.com

Eric Althoff

Head, US Corp & Country External Comms, Director, US Media Relations

Global Media & Corp Communications

+1 646 438 4335

eric.althoff@novartis.com

Jamie Bennett

+1 862 217 3976

jamie.bennett@novartis.com

Novartis Investor Relations

E-mail: investor.relations@novartis.com

Sloan Simpson +1 862 778 5052

Disclaimer

This media update contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can generally be identified by words such as “potential,” “can,” “will,” “plan,” “may,” “could,” “would,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “seek,” “look forward,” “believe,” “committed,” “investigational,” “pipeline,” “launch,” or similar terms, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential marketing approvals, new indications or labeling for the investigational or approved products described in this media update, or regarding potential future revenues from such products. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements are based on our current beliefs and expectations regarding future events, and are subject to significant known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. There can be no guarantee that the investigational or approved products described in this media update will be submitted or approved for sale or for any additional indications or labeling in any market, or at any particular time. Nor can there be any guarantee that such products will be commercially successful in the future. In particular, our expectations regarding such products could be affected by, among other things, the uncertainties inherent in research and development, including clinical trial results and additional analysis of existing clinical data; regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; global trends toward health care cost containment, including government, payor and general public pricing and reimbursement pressures and requirements for increased pricing transparency; our ability to obtain or maintain proprietary intellectual property protection; the particular prescribing preferences of physicians and patients; general political, economic and business conditions, including the effects of and efforts to mitigate pandemic diseases such as COVID-19; safety, quality, data integrity or manufacturing issues; potential or actual data security and data privacy breaches, or disruptions of our information technology systems, and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG’s current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Novartis is providing the information in this media update as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this media update as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Source URL: <https://www.novartis.com/us-en/news/media-releases/novartis-step-programtm-awards-nearly->

List of links present in page

- <https://www.novartis.com/us-en/us-en/news/media-releases/novartis-step-programtm-awards-nearly-375000-patient-advocacy-organizations-their-innovative-solutions-biomarker-testing-now-accepting-proposals-caregiving-cancer-and-certain-blood-disorders>
- <https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90237961/STEP-Program-Cancer-and-Blood-Disorder-Caregivers>
- <https://www.novartis.us/news/step-program>
- <https://www.novartis.com/us-en/us-en/home>
- <https://twitter.com/novartisnews>
- <https://twitter.com/NovartisUS>
- <https://www.novartis.com/news/media-library>
- <mailto:media.relations@novartis.com>
- <mailto:jamie.bennett@novartis.com>
- <mailto:eric.althoff@novartis.com>
- <mailto:investor.relations@novartis.com>