



FUTURE OF CANCER CARE

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Care Service



What are the greatest challenges currently facing cancer care in the US?

I think the greatest challenge we currently face today in cancer care is the fact that we have the knowledge we need to prevent almost half of the cancers that exist today, but we have been largely unsuccessful in implementing screening and prevention services at a population level. I'm a vocal

advocate for leveraging implementation science to find the best ways to integrate proven interventions into cancer care. By identifying new ways to increase the uptake of evidence-based screening and prevention approaches, particularly in medically underserved populations, we can significantly reduce cancer incidence and death from cancer. We've done the work around efficacy for cancer prevention. Now it's time to translate that vast knowledge into delivering those interventions to our communities at scale.

What upcoming advancements in cancer care are you most excited about?

What's most exciting is the fact that we now have multiple modalities to treat cancer with precision and fewer side effects. As an oncology nurse, I've witnessed the physical and emotional impact that treatments



like bone marrow transplants, systemic multi-regimen chemotherapies, radiation and invasive surgeries have on cancer patients and their families. We are moving into an era where these therapies are largely being replaced by precision medicine, minimally invasive surgery, nanotechnology, and CAR T therapy. I remember taking care of a new mom who underwent a bone marrow transplant in 2013. She missed 100 days of her baby's first year while she was in the hospital. Today that might be an outpatient procedure.

What are Kaiser Permanente doing to improve cancer care?

At Kaiser Permanente (KP), we believe the best cancer care is prevention. We are leveraging our integrated system of over 12.7 million members to create new care delivery models to accelerate genetic testing for hereditary cancer syndromes. A

recent publication in *JAMA* by Kurian et al found that only 6.8% of cancer patients in California and Georgia between 2013 and 2019 underwent germline genetic testing. Rates of testing were lower among Asian, Black, and Hispanic patients. That's very concerning, and we can do better as a nation. KP is accelerating improvements in health outcomes and further equity for individuals and populations through refined risk identification, earlier detection and tailored treatment and prevention. Some of the specific workstreams we have in flight include tools to predict and target screening and intervention strategies to reduce disease incidence and improve health outcomes at the population level; leveraging large-scale digital genomic information to accelerate the integration of precision medicine in care delivery; and automating Clinical Decision Support to facilitate diagnostic and treatment decisions.