



Member Spotlight

What motivates you to volunteer to reduce the burden of cancer?

I've spent most of my career addressing cancer health disparities and have found that though there have been amazing advances in the treatment of most cancers, there is still a significant segment of the population who will not benefit from those discoveries. People who lack access to care because of finances, co-morbidities, limited health literacy and a multitude of other reasons, will die, in some cases, years earlier than someone with a similar diagnosis but who has access to standard of care.

What benefits do you see to joining the NYS Cancer Consortium?

I've been a member of the Consortium for several years because I wholly believe in comprehensive cancer control – a collaborative process through which a community and its partners pool resources to reduce the burden of cancer. It's imperative that stakeholders across the state provide input to the creation of a comprehensive cancer control plan. As a community health educator, I've long recognized the need to bring people from all walks of life to the table to address a community's needs. That same philosophy should be used in cancer control.

What might you say to an individual who is considering joining the NYS Cancer Consortium?

Joining the Consortium is a way to connect with people across the health care spectrum. We all work in our silos and don't often collaborate with people outside our limited worlds. I work in NYC in an urban setting and while I once thought I'd have nothing in common with someone who works in a rural setting, my participation in the Consortium has opened my eyes to a new way of thinking.



Anita McFarlane
NYU Langone Health

What do you do for work and who do you serve?

I am the senior program manager for the Beatrice W. Walters Breast Health Outreach and Navigation Program. The mission of the Walters Program is to focus on reducing barriers to, and disparities in, excellent screening, diagnosis, treatment post-treatment care for medically underserved women. My team of navigators educate women about the risks of breast cancer, build community partnerships to connect women with screening services and guide those with a cancer diagnosis through the latest treatment options with personalized support. The focus of our efforts are the medically underserved populations of New York City with special emphasis on communities of color.

