

# Cancer Patient Navigators of Georgia (CPNG) Advocate for Cancer Survivors

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## ABSTRACT



The Cancer Patient Navigators of Georgia (CPNG) was founded as a unique statewide organization of individuals serving people with all types of cancer, at all stages, in all types of settings, with a diversity of education and training and a shared mission.

**Mission:** Connect, educate and share best practices among patient navigators in Georgia, in order to reduce barriers and increase access to services and resources specifically related to cancer.

## FEASIBILITY STUDY

April 2009 - Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology (GASCO) received \$10,000 grant from ASCO to conduct a feasibility study

### 80 Survey Respondents (sample responses)

- Position Funding:
  - 97% paid; 2.7% volunteer
- Education:
  - 65% RNs; 4.9% OCNs; 2.4% Social Workers; 26.8% Other
- Specializing in Specific Cancers:
  - 44% Breast; 4% Lung; 4% Colorectal
- Cancer Patient Navigation Functions:
  - 96.3% Help patients identify resources
  - 93.8% Help decrease patients' anxiety
  - 87.5% Facilitate communication with health care staff
- Interest in a Statewide Organization - 100%

## ORGANIZATION HISTORY

July 2009 - 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

- 100+ cancer patient navigators attended
- Navigators span the continuum of care

Navigation Through the Continuum of Care				
Navigation Phases	Outreach navigation	Diagnostic navigation	Treatment navigation	Survivorship navigation
Goals of Services	Primary Prevention	Screening Early Detection	Antineoplastic Therapy	Supportive and Tertiary Care
Primary Tasks	Adoption of healthy lifestyle Disease prevention	Remove barriers to access to screening	Education Support Coordination of multi-disciplinary care Resource referrals	Wellness/nutrition Stress management Education Long-term care plans Support groups Retreats
Optimal Provider	Lay health advisors (trained community volunteers)	Social worker	Nurse navigator	Nurse practitioner

Hopkins J, Mumber M P JOP 2009;5:150-152

October 2009 - CPNG Steering Team Retreat

- Developed mission, vision, logo, by-laws, elected officers, established committees

May 2010 - CPNG Website Launched

- Members only section



November 2010 - Social networking survey

- 100 members participated

December 2012 - Best and Promising Practices Conference

- CPNG panel

June 2014 - Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan

- Navigation Services included as one of eight priorities for 2014-2019

November 2014 - Integrative Oncology Navigator Education (I-ONE)

- Pilot Study randomized experiential and online components

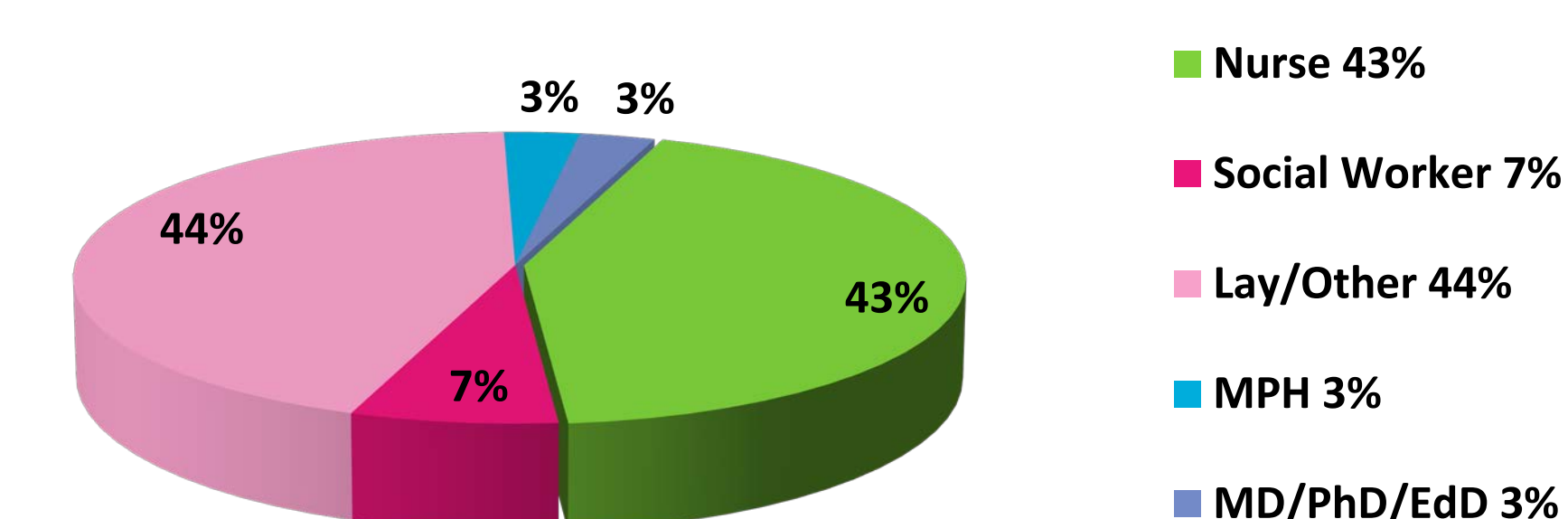
## DEVELOPMENT

Tom and Karen Chapman Gift (\$250,000) presented to expand cancer patient navigation efforts in Georgia

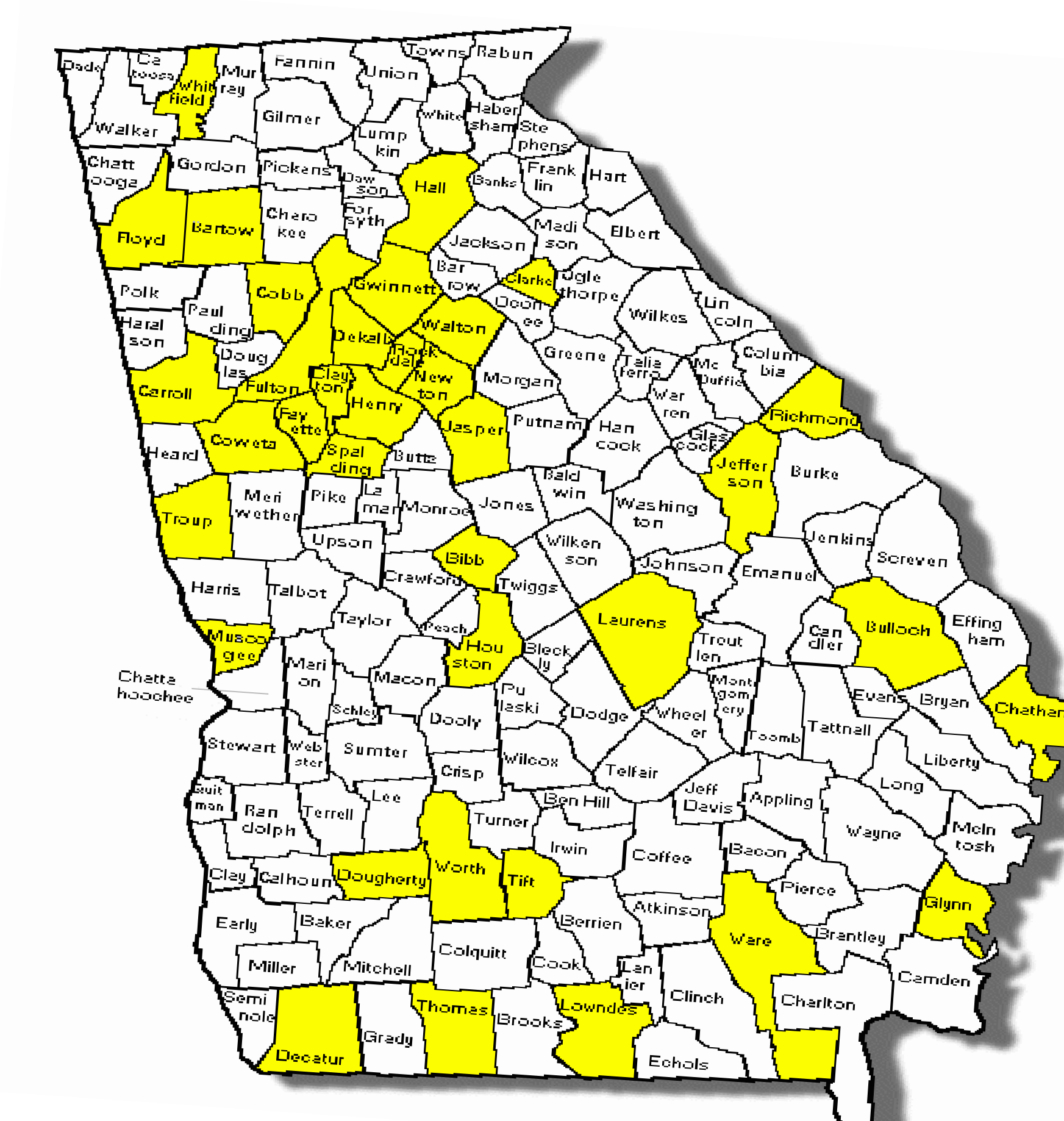
- Convened 1<sup>st</sup> Statewide Integrative Oncology Conference (January 2012) - 100+ attendees including survivors
- Lay Navigation Train-the-Trainer program developed; held in 2012.
- Lay Navigation Training Program developed; held in 2012 and 2014.
- \$50,000 Patient Navigation Research Grant awarded in April 2012

## MEMBERSHIP

### Multidisciplinary Participation\*



### Statewide Membership\* 330+



Cancer Patient Navigators by County

\* Updated September 2015

## CONCLUSIONS

- The initial survey indicating a need to create a statewide multidisciplinary organization for those who help individuals navigate the cancer journey was the beginning of the Cancer Patient Navigators of Georgia.
- Ongoing surveys of members have guided the development of educational and networking opportunities since 2009.
- The 2012 American College of Surgeons, Commission on Cancer (COC) guidelines focused on improving survival and quality of life and expanded the emphasis on navigation services.
- Integrative Oncology Navigator Education (I-ONE) study results will guide education about and incorporation of integrative therapies into practice.
- Cancer Patient Navigators of Georgia will continue to be a source for discussion and implementation of standards and multidisciplinary collaboration, advocacy, and best cancer navigation practices in Georgia and the surrounding region.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.GaCancerPatientNavigators.org](http://www.GaCancerPatientNavigators.org)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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