OUR MISSION
The mission of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation is to promote health equity and improve the health outcomes of populations disproportionately affected by serious diseases and conditions, by strengthening community-based health care worker capacity, integrating medical care and community-based supportive services, and mobilizing communities in the fight against disease.

The Foundation engages partners to develop, execute, evaluate and promote innovative programs to help patients with lung cancer in the United States; HIV and comorbid diseases such as cervical and breast cancers, tuberculosis and mental health disorders in sub-Saharan Africa; hepatitis B and C in China and India; veterans’ mental health and well-being in the U.S.; and type 2 diabetes in the U.S., China and India. The Foundation also is working to build cancer nursing capacity in Central and Eastern Europe; and to expand access to specialty care for vulnerable populations with lung cancer, skin cancer or HIV in the U.S.

LUNG CANCER IN THE UNITED STATES
Lung cancer is the second-most-commonly-diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths, with African Americans suffering significantly higher incidence and mortality rates and with marked regional variations. New data from the National Minority Quality Forum indicate that 77% of all lung cancer cases reside in 20% of all zip codes.

Since 2014, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation’s Bridging Cancer Care™ initiative has committed $16.5 million to expand the current limited scope of community-based supportive care resources and survivorship programs to the underserved populations in many of the Southeast U.S.

OUR APPROACH
We have fostered partnerships with prestigious academic institutions and community organizations seeking to advance strategies for engaging those at highest risk for or diagnosed with lung cancer in care and support programs – including interventions throughout the care continuum (from prevention to survivorship to palliative care), with the goal of improving the quality of life, health outcomes and health equity for those most disproportionately affected. Our target geography is the southeast US states that have the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality rates in the country.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANTS
PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, SCREENING AND NAVIGATION PROGRAMS:

University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and the Lung Cancer Alliance will collaborate on Kentucky Lung Cancer Education, Awareness, Detection, Survivorship (KY LEADS). The project is a comprehensive, statewide initiative aimed at improving patient outcomes through provider education, prevention and early detection, and survivorship care.

The Levine Cancer Institute launched the Lung B.A.S.E.S. (Bringing Awareness, Screening & Education to Improve Survivorship) 4 Life project that will pioneer deploying a mobile CT scanning unit into communities in North and South Carolina to avail vulnerable populations of the benefits of screening, early detection and to streamline patients with abnormal scans into a comprehensive health network designed to deliver care regardless of where a patient resides.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) project called The Lung Cancer Screening Navigation Pilot Program will be working in partnership with three federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to develop, implement and evaluate a lung cancer screening navigation program to advance evidence-based strategies to increase lung cancer screening rates within primary care systems and increase timely access to specialists after a positive screening result.

The McGuire Research Institute, Carl T. Hayden Medical Research Foundation, Houston VA Research and Education Foundation, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Vista Expertise Network will collaborate on the Partnership to increase Access to Lung cancer Screening (VA-PALS) Implementation Network. The project will improve Veterans’ access to lung cancer screening through implementation of the evidence-based I-ELCAP screening program and protocol at 10 VA medical centers through a process that includes training, oversight, and centralized quality assurance from the I-ELCAP team, with the aim of increasing the likelihood of early detection, and ultimately reducing the mortality rate of lung cancer among veterans.

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DISEASE AWARENESS AND PATIENT EDUCATION:

Augusta University’s project cancer-Community Awareness Access Research & Education (c-CARE) is a collaboration with faith-based organizations and clinics, who will train healthcare workers to lead lung cancer awareness classes and make screening referrals for African American populations in the Central Savannah River Area.

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation (ABOHLF) is developing An Animated Patient’s Guide to Lung Cancer which will build and implement an interactive, highly visual, evidence-based e-learning web resource for patients with lung cancer as well as their families and care givers to promote better understanding and management of lung cancer among the most vulnerable who often have lower health literacy levels.

LINKING LUNG CANCER PATIENTS TO CASE MANAGEMENT:

Patient Advocate Foundation will implement a program in West Virginia that will increase awareness about lung cancer screening and improve access to care for Medicaid eligible lung cancer patients by linking them to case management support, helping them to overcome non-clinical barriers to care and ultimately, achieve better health outcomes.

ENHANCING PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT:

Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA), will establish The National Lung Cancer Support Group Network, a national network of lung cancer specific support groups, and provide technical assistance to individuals and organizations that want to start or are having trouble sustaining a lung cancer support group in their community.

SURVIVORSHIP CARE MODELS:

The University of South Carolina College of Nursing’s project Advancing Quality Lung Cancer Survivorship in South Carolina will establish a statewide collaboration between cancer advocates and academic institutions called Partners in Quality lung Cancer Survivorship (PiQ) to test the feasibility and preliminary effects of a Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction (MBSR) intervention called Breathe Easier.

The West Virginia University Cancer Institute’s program Bridge to Good Living: Thriving Beyond Lung Cancer will implement an innovative program model that includes: Establishment of a monthly, interdisciplinary survivorship care clinics; Enhances the current surveillance system for recurrence of the primary and/or secondary cancer(s); Monitors and manages physical, psychosocial effects of diagnosis, treatment, and after effects; Provides health education about screening recommendations and follow-up, survivorship issues, and community resources; Assesses patient’s attitude toward smoking cessation and offer intervention options.

The Mississippi Public Health Institute in partnership with Greenwood Leflore Hospital will implement Survive 2 Thrive (S2T) - Community Based Survivorship Care for Lung Cancer Patients an innovative patient centered community care model that will leverage nurse navigators, social workers, and community health workers for improving development of and adherence to survivorship care plans for lung cancer survivors in the Mississippi Delta region.

The American Cancer Society’s Comprehensive Lung Cancer Patient Support Program (CLCPSP) will develop, implement and evaluate an innovative approach to survivorship care that includes both telephone based and in-hospital lung cancer survivorship navigation; a self-management smart phone app developed in partnership with NCI; and a provider focused webinar designed to improve care for lung cancer survivors. The program will target 8 southeast states, focusing primarily on medically underserved and low SES areas.

For more information, please contact us via email at bridgingcancercare@bms.com or visit our website www.bms.com/foundation.