



National Lieutenant Governors Association

NLGA Consensus Resolution Recognizing February as “Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Month”

WHEREAS, cholangiocarcinoma starts in the bile duct, a thin tube, about 4 to 5 inches long, that reaches from the liver to the small intestine. The major function of the bile duct is to move a fluid called bile from the liver and gallbladder to the small intestine, where it helps digest the fats in food,¹ and

WHEREAS, there are three types of cholangiocarcinoma: intrahepatic, extrahepatic, and perihilar. The mortality rate of this disease has increased dramatically in the last decade,² and

WHEREAS, an estimated 10,000 people in the United States develop cholangiocarcinoma each year and almost two out of three people with cholangiocarcinoma are sixty-five or older when it is found,³ and

WHEREAS, the chances of survival for patients with bile duct cancer depends to a large extent on its location and how advanced it is when it is found, and

WHEREAS, patients are typically diagnosed at a late stage due to no validated early method of detection. Symptoms of jaundice, abdominal pain, itchy skin, and weight loss are symptoms that do not usually present till advanced disease progression, and

WHEREAS, cholangiocarcinoma is a rare cancer. Of the top eight deadliest cancers, seven are rare. Rare cancers have a 5-year survival rate under fifty percent with the cholangiocarcinoma 5-year survival rate being approximately twenty percent,⁴ and

WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for cholangiocarcinoma/bile duct cancer, and

WHEREAS, increased cholangiocarcinoma advocacy, awareness, research, and education may bring improved outcomes for patients in earlier detection and treatment and potential curative methods, and

WHEREAS, nationally, February is recognized as “Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Month,” an opportunity for states and territories to raise awareness of this rare type of cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) supports increasing awareness of cholangiocarcinoma, and recognizes awareness may lead to important earlier detection in patients.

¹ <https://cholangiocarcinoma.org/defined/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5031355/>

³ <https://cholangiocarcinoma.org/key-statistics/>

⁴ [Bile Duct Cancer \(Cholangiocarcinoma\): Statistics | Cancer.Net](#)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLGA recognizes February each year as “Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Month,” and encourages states and territories to engage with awareness efforts.

ADOPTED, this day, the 24th of April, 2024.

Co-Sponsors: *TBD*

Proposed for the docket by: Jazz Pharmaceuticals, NLGA Partner