CPEN Overview and Chapter Information

The Cancer Patient Education Network (CPEN) is a group of healthcare professionals who share experiences and best practices in all aspects of cancer patient education.

**Vision:**
Reduce the burden of cancer through education.

**Mission:**
Promote and provide models of excellence in patient, family and community education across the continuum of cancer care.

**Goals:**
To fulfill its mission and vision, the goals of CPEN include:

1. Provide opportunities for the professional development of cancer patient educators.
2. Provide a forum for collaborative research on issues related to cancer patient education, evidence-based practice and health education program development.
3. Provide relevant resources, reference tools and best practice standards on cancer patient education programs and services.
4. Encourage collaboration and networking among professionals and organizations involved in cancer patient education.
5. Work in close collaboration with CPEN Chapters and the National Cancer Institute’s Office of Communications & Public Liaison.

**Background**
The Cancer Patient Education Network was founded in 1989 by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) as a structure for strengthening cancer education through collaboration with patient educators at NCI-designated Cancer Centers in the U.S. Recognizing the value of CPEN for those working in cancer patient education, and wishing to broaden our reach to a larger audience of patient educators, CPEN established itself as an independent professional organization in July 2005.

Canada became the first international chapter for CPEN in 2007. As the organization grows, CPEN is collaborating across the globe and welcomes the idea of establishing additional international chapters.
CPEN provides a vital role in assessing and addressing cancer education needs and practices by:

- Using a variety of cancer education programs and publications provided by the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Oncology Nursing Society and many other major cancer organizations
- Linking cancer educators nationally and internationally
- Providing opportunities for networking, mentorship and support
- Providing opportunities for benchmarking and program development, assessment and evaluation
- Staying up-to-date on the latest research, including partnering with the American Association of Cancer Education for the annual International Cancer Education Conference

Through our work and collaboration, we reach our goals of delivering effective education to patients and their families. Effective education is essential for achieving optimum outcomes for cancer patients, and the use of evidence-based best practices in patient and family education has contributed to the ongoing national and international efforts to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality.

CPEN is structured with a Board of Directors, which includes the Chair, Past Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, CPEN Canada Chair, NCI Liaison, and Members-at-Large (4). Custom Management Group provides management services. CPEN is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Membership Activity**
The CPEN membership is comprised of health educators, nurses, physicians, social workers, dietitians, child life specialists, medical librarians, researchers and others working in a variety of settings, including hospitals/clinics, the community and academia.

Membership averages around 200 health professionals, representing renowned cancer centers across the United States and throughout Canada, as well as local and regional cancer hospitals, non-profit organizations and academic institutions.

Members stay connected and share best practices through a listserv, newsletter, all-member calls, committees and an annual conference.

**Member Benefits**

- Access to a multidisciplinary network of professionals who are actively involved with cancer patient education initiatives: locally, regionally, nationally, globally
- Opportunities to network, consult, and partner with similar and complementary organizations and professions
- Access to the CPEN member listserv (electronic distribution list to all members)
- Access to professionals serving as content specialists and expert reviewers
- Quarterly Newsletter
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- Mentoring/mentorship and leadership opportunities
- Presentation and publishing opportunities at a national/international level
- Opportunities to participate in and benefit from projects and research initiatives coordinated through CPEN Committees and Special Interest Groups.
- Reduced rates for conferences sponsored by CPEN
- Reduced subscription rate of $65 to the *Journal of Cancer Education* (optional)
- Members-only access to resources and documents on the CPEN website, such as:
  - Guidelines for establishing comprehensive cancer patient education services
  - Guidelines for establishing and maintaining learning resource centers
  - FAQs and resources on complementary and alternative medicine in cancer
  - Survey data and self-assessment tools
  - Evidence-based practice resources and more!

CPEN Chapter Information

- There is no fee to become a CPEN Chapter.
- Chapter members must be paid CPEN members.
- Membership dues apply to all members; there are no additional CPEN dues required of Chapter members.
- CPEN dues are set for the membership each year by the Board of Directors in US Dollars.
- Current Chapter Members will be entitled to all CPEN membership privileges, including the right to vote (Active only), be elected to office (Active only) and serve on a committee or special interest group.
- Chapter members have access to all CPEN resources, benefits and services.
- Chapters maintain a separate Board of Directors which liaises with the CPEN Board of Directors.
- Chapter Board Officers are elected only by Chapter members.
- Chapter website (if individual Chapter chooses to host a website) will be developed and managed by the Chapter, and a link will be provided on the CPEN website.
- Custom Management Group (CMG) can provide services for managing each chapter’s election process at no charge to the individual chapters.
- Access to additional Custom Management Group (CMG) services is available on fee-for-service basis.