CANCERCON 2024
CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

CancerCon® is Stupid Cancer's annual conference for adolescents and young adults affected by cancer. Every year for over a decade, hundreds of patients, survivors, caregivers, advocates, and healthcare professionals gather at CancerCon for a life-changing weekend.

In 2024, CancerCon will continue to take place over two events: Digital CancerCon and CancerCon Live. Digital CancerCon will be held virtually from April 18-20, 2024 and CancerCon Live will take place August 15 - 18, 2024 in Austin, TX. The following page provides more information about what we're looking for at each event.

We are seeking professional speakers and experts to conduct open, interactive, and age-appropriate sessions tailored to the unique and unmet needs of the young adult cancer community. This Call for Sessions will serve **both events.** You may submit a proposal to be considered for both conferences or just one event.

<u>KEY DATES</u>

Submission Deadline: *February 25, 2024*
Notification of Submission Status: *March 2024*
Digital CancerCon 2024 event dates: *April 18 - 20, 2024*
CancerCon Live 2024 event dates: *August 15 - 18, 2024*

Questions after reviewing these guidelines?
Check out our FAQ or email programs@stupidcancer.org with specific questions.

DIGITAL CANCERCON vs. CANCERCON LIVE

Digital CancerCon
- Hosted on the Stupid Cancer website **April 18 - 20, 2024.**
- Mix of pre-recorded presentations and live discussions via Zoom.
  - Pre-recorded sessions must be recorded & submitted no later than April 12.
  - Live sessions will take place during the afternoon/evening April 18 & 19, and the morning/afternoon of April 20, based on overall schedule and speaker availability.
- Possible formats: powerpoint presentations, panel discussions, workshops, or guided group discussions.
- All sessions capped at 60 minutes.

CancerCon Live
- All breakout sessions to be held **August 16 - 18, 2024** at the Hyatt Regency Austin.
  - Speakers must be available for all dates; we cannot guarantee an exact session date/time upon accepting a proposal.
- Possible formats: powerpoint presentations, panel discussions, workshops, or guided group discussions.
- Presentation-style sessions capped at 60 mins; interactive/discussion sessions capped at 90 minutes.

SPEAKER REQUIREMENTS

The ideal CancerCon speaker/facilitator is:
- Experienced, engaging, and comfortable speaking in front of large groups.
- Qualified to moderate and/or lead interactive discussions and Q&As.
- Knowledgeable about AYA cancer specific subject matter and the AYA community.
- Willing to partner with Stupid Cancer staff to deliver the most relevant and meaningful content geared towards specific audience groups.
- Able to promote CancerCon to their patients/survivors/local AYA community.

While we value the lived experience and knowledge of our patient and caregiver community members, we prioritize speakers and presenters with professional credentials and expertise in their topic area for Breakout Sessions. If you are a patient or survivor community member with an idea for a breakout session, you are welcome to submit a proposal and request to be paired with a professional to develop the session.

You are welcome to submit a proposal on behalf of another speaker, but please clearly indicate that in your proposal. If you are submitting a proposal on behalf of a co-presenter or panel, please only include information about panelists that have confirmed their participation and availability with you.

SESSION FORMAT

- *Presentation Sessions* are 60-minutes long and feature one or more speakers giving a lecture or panel-style presentation on a specific topic. The goal of these sessions is to educate the audience and provide key information/skills/takeaways to attendees.

- *Discussion Sessions* are 90-minutes (for CancerCon Live) or 60-minutes (for Digital CancerCon) and feature one or more facilitators leading an interactive small and/or large group discussion on a specific topic. The goal of these sessions is to foster connection between participants while equipping them with strategies and resources appropriate to the topic. Workshop-style sessions (journaling, etc) are categorized as a Discussion Session.

SESSION TOPICS

Breakout Sessions should address a specific topic and audience within the adolescent and young adult cancer experience. We seek to offer a comprehensive and wide range of session topics to address all the needs of our diverse population. Important recurring topics include: Mental Health, Fertility, Survivorship, Sex, Advocacy, Health Equity, and sessions for specific communities such as metastatic patients, childhood cancer survivors, caregivers, LGBTQ+ patients, etc.

This example agenda for CancerCon provides an idea of what kind of sessions we plan to offer in 2024. Any session at CancerCon Live can also be presented at Digital CancerCon (and vice versa).

Friday August 18	Breakout Session 1	Becoming Your Best Self-Advocate (presentation)
		Caregiver Burnout (discussion)
Saturday August 19	Breakout Session 2	Childhood Cancer Survivors (discussion)
		Living with Metastatic or Chronic Cancer (discussion)

		Cancer as Work: Nonprofit & Healthcare Professionals (discussion)
Saturday August 19	Breakout Session 3	Parenting as a Cancer Patient (discussion)
		Wellness that Works: Nutrition & Exercise (presentation)
		Grieving Infertility (discussion)
Saturday August 19	Breakout Session 4	Mental Health after Treatment (discussion)
		Sex after Cancer (presentation)
		Navigating College & School (presentation)
Saturday August 20	Breakout Session 5	Just the Guys (discussion)
		Therapeutic Journaling (discussion & workshop)
		Self Care for Survivors (presentation & workshop)
Saturday August 20	Breakout Session 6	Health Disparities in Cancer Care (presentation)
		Dealing with Cancer as a Couple (discussion)
		Living Single with Cancer (discussion)

Please note that this is not an official agenda - while we welcome proposals on the topics above, additional or new topics are also welcomed.

TARGET AUDIENCE

At CancerCon, it's important to create space for the specific needs of our various community stakeholders. Therefore we appreciate proposals that are targeted to a specific audience category. We define these categories as:

- Survivor: Newly Diagnosed & In Treatment
- Survivor: Post Treatment
- Survivor: Chronic/Metastatic/Advanced
- Caregiver
- Non-Profit Professional
- Health Professional

We distinguish between sessions that are geared towards a specific audience category and those that are **exclusive** to a specific audience category. For example, a presentation

session might be intended for Survivors, but allow Caregivers or Professionals to attend. A Discussion Session might be for Survivors *only*, with no other audience categories permitted.

Sessions that are not specific to an audience category should be labeled as "Everyone."

OUR COMMUNITY WANTS…

Engaging and interactive sessions
Our audience responds to sessions that allow for participation. Specifically, we hear that attendees prefer discussion-based sessions, the ability to ask questions, and limited or no use of PowerPoint presentations.

Practical Learning Objectives and Takeaways
The content of the session should be appropriate to the audience indicated. Learning objectives should be consistent with the subject matter and include tangible resources, tools, and tips/tricks.

No Sales Pitches
The goal of our breakout sessions is to provide attendees with tools they can use once they leave CancerCon - but our breakout sessions are **not** sales opportunities. This includes authors promoting books, companies advertising or demonstrating products, or organizations recruiting for events/programs, etc. These types of submissions will not be considered.

If you are interested in connecting with our audience about your product or service, we invite you to join us at CancerCon as an exhibitor or sponsor. For more information about purchasing a nonprofit or corporate exhibit booth, contact programs@stupidcancer.org.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to contact information, biographical information, and session logistical information, submissions must include a detailed description of your proposed session.

Session Description
- 1-2 sentence description of your proposed session, for inclusion in the conference program.

Session Objectives
- What do you hope to achieve through your session?
- What will attendees of your session gain from participating?

Summary of Session
- A detailed summary of your proposed session, including an overview of the content and how the information will be presented.
- Explain any interactive elements of your presentation or how you would conduct a discussion session.

Optional Materials
- Link to videos of prior speaking engagement.
    - Recording does not need to be the same topic as the proposed session.
- Supplemental materials or documents.
    - Any additional documents or visual aids that will help the review committee better understand your proposal.

SUBMISSION REVIEW & SESSION SELECTION PROCESS

Submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of Stupid Cancer board and staff members, patient and professional community members, and industry professionals. Proposals will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- qualifications and expertise of speakers
- priority and relevance of session topic
- quality of proposal and session design
- fitting into the overall needs of the conference agenda

Proposals under consideration for CancerCon 2024 will receive email notifications, regardless of status, in March 2024.