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## **Patient-Centered Research Collaborative of Psychosocial Oncology (PCRC) Being Established**

**Oakbrook Terrace, IL** — The Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) announced that it is working with the University of Michigan and Dr. Brad Zebrack on a new research initiative funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

The project, known as the Patient-Centered Research Collaborative of Psychosocial Oncology (PCRC), will conduct psychosocial research, disseminate findings and elicit systems changes to improve cancer care. It continues the work of A Project to Assure Quality Cancer Care (APAQC) and the White Paper created at the 2016 Research Institute held at the AOSW 32nd Annual Conference.

Though previous research has documented positive effects of psychosocial care for cancer patients, disparities remain in delivery of support services. The PCRC will develop a sustainable community of cancer patients advocates, oncology social workers and researchers devoted to the delivery of high quality psychosocial care for cancer patients.

Plans involve bringing established researchers together with 15 teams of oncology social workers and cancer patient advocates to identify high priority research topics and conduct Patient-Centered Outcomes and Comparative Effectiveness Research.

“I look forward to engaging in a process to influence and improve the quality of cancer care to patients and their families,” stated Brad Zebrack, PhD, MSW, MPH, FAPOS, Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work. “Our community-building approach and the use of research to influence health care delivery systems is innovative in the cancer world.”

Work on the project will be conducted in collaboration with AOSW. The American Cancer Society and the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer have each also signaled commitment to facilitate collaboration and dissemination of research that emerges.

“We are indebted to Dr. Zebrack and his team for partnering with AOSW in receiving this prestigious PCORI grant,” stated AOSW President, Alison Mayer Sachs, MSW, OSW-C. “Evidenced based research is the cornerstone of excellence in cancer care. AOSW members are proud to be part of this groundbreaking research project and look forward to the research outcomes that will influence psychosocial care and service delivery within cancer programs in the United States.”

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### **About AOSW**

The Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW) is a non-profit, international, 501(c) 3 organization. Its more than 1,300 members embrace its mission to advance excellence in the psychosocial care of persons with cancer, their families and caregivers through education, advocacy, research and resource development.