



# PATIENT ADVOCACY LEADERS SUMMIT



## FACT SHEET

The concept of a *Patient Advocacy Leaders Summit (PALS)* was developed in 2002\* as a way of bringing together diverse patient advocacy leaders to improve their advocacy capacity and identify ways to collaborate and unify the voices of many. PALS involves advocates coming together to learn from thought leaders and one another, refine advocacy skills, and explore ways to collaborate to expand influence and improve health and healthcare. The PALS Advisory Board, comprised of influential advocacy leaders representing diverse organizations and geographic regions, provides direction to ensure that all PALS programs meet the needs of the health advocacy community. PALS has always subscribed to the motto “*By Advocates, For Advocates*”.

PALS has gained great momentum in sixteen years, improving the knowledge and effectiveness of the advocacy community at the local, state, regional, national and global levels. **Since 2002, well over 7,500 leaders representing approximately 2,000 organizations in 50+ countries have participated in more than 100 PALS events around the world.**

- Fourteen **National PALS** events have been conducted in the US since 2002. Over 70 **Regional PALS and Regional PALS Roundtable** events have been held in the US since 2005. In 2006, a series of 10 **Regional Medicare PALS** events focused on Medicare Part D were held throughout the country in a unique collaboration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
- In 2004, an **International PALS** event involving 400 advocates from 26 countries and 38 States was held in the US. Since then, PALS events have been held in Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Qatar, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and the UK.
- **ePALS webinars** were introduced in 2014. They are designed to connect, educate and empower advocates across the country on timely policy issues as well as to provide skill building opportunities.
- In 2017, PALS will introduce **Patient Advocacy Leaders United (PALs United)** events, which will convene advocates in a specific interest/therapeutic area or state to allow for networking, collaboration and information/best practice exchange with advocates and other key stakeholders in that area.
- Plans are underway to launch a **Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders (CPAL)**, in order to better harness and broadly utilize the resources, learnings and collective impact of PALS and the National PALS Network.

**Mission of PALS:** To improve the lives of those affected by disease and chronic health conditions, by educating and mobilizing health advocacy leaders to work collaboratively in developing impactful policy and advocacy solutions focused on the prevention and elimination of disease and chronic health conditions.

**Vision of PALS:** United and empowered health advocates improving health and healthcare in our communities.

In an environment where silos often exist, PALS has demonstrated that peer-to-peer, patient-centered, multidisciplinary initiatives, centered on a common policy agenda, collective advocacy strategies and shared resources, work more effectively to benefit individual leaders, their organizations, other stakeholders, and patients. By collaborating in such a way, we can create a broad-based network that promotes patient-centered, quality, affordable and effective healthcare for all people. For more information, contact Anne Easter at [healthadvocacy@nc.rr.com](mailto:healthadvocacy@nc.rr.com).

*\*PALS was developed by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in 2002. GSK has granted The AIDS Institute exclusive rights to implement PALS in the US.*