

2020 VIRTUAL LUNG CANCER VOICES SUMMIT

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. About the Virtual Voices Summit

A. Considering the coronavirus and the subsequent COVID-19 disease outbreak and its impact, GO2 Foundation is holding a Virtual Lung Cancer Voices Summit as an interactive online event that brings the lung cancer community together. This will be an engaging two-day event that continues the tradition of research panel discussions, advocacy training, and community networking. But, this year, the Voices Summit will be held entirely online rather than in Washington, DC.

Q. What will a virtual conference look like?

A. Interactive education and training sessions on the first day—Day of Education and Training—including exciting, high level speakers, and networking breakouts. The second day will be a supported and coordinated Day of Action to virtually meet your Members of Congress and their staff.

Q. What can I expect during the Day of Education and Training (Monday, June 15)?

A. The schedule for the day is busy and we plan to offer as much preparation as possible.

To kick start the sessions, you will receive education on key issues from lung cancer research experts and special advocacy training to help you speak with elected officials.

Q. What can I expect during the Day of Action (Tuesday, June 16)?

A. Based on your registration information, we (GO2 Foundation) will schedule virtual visits with legislators and/or their staffers for your state team in the afternoon. Each registered attendee will receive appointment information one week before the event. We will provide issue background, talking points, and a leave behind, all of which will be available prior to your meetings. You are expected to attend all your scheduled appointments with the office regardless if the meeting is with the elected official or staffer. Please dial in at least 5 minutes early to be on time and respectful of the Congressional calendar. Any cancellations on your part should be communicated immediately and directly (Prime Advocacy HelpLine TBD).

Q. Do I make my appointments with my representatives?

A. No. GO2 Foundations' scheduling company, Prime Advocacy, will schedule appointments for you and provide you with their (mobile app) platform to access your schedule on Advocacy Day. If you have a personal connection to your Member of Congress or a member of their staff, please let us know through the registration process or send an email to Eproctor@go2foundation.org to inform us.

Q. Should I participate in the Virtual Congressional Meetings if I do not like nor voted for my Members of Congress?

A. Yes, but do not tell them you did not vote for them. This event is non-partisan and will educate and raise awareness to elected officials in your state. Even if you did not personally vote for them, as a constituent impacted by lung cancer, they must hear from you!

Q. What policy issues will we be advocating for?

A. We will be requesting a \$20M fund increase for the Lung Cancer Research Program. One of our most significant achievements, the [Lung Cancer Research Program](#) is within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs administered by the Department of Defense (DOD). The Lung Cancer Research Program now has received a total of \$155.5 million in funding over the past eleven years (FY09-FY20), making it the largest lung cancer research program – public or private – outside of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Annual appropriations by Congress are required in order to fund and maintain the program, so our collective voices in requesting \$20M must be raised to increase funding for this program.

Q. I would love to participate but can't commit 100%. Should I still register?

A. Yes, register now as we will be making appointments for all participants and adding each person to a state team. However, you must give one-week advance notice to cancel your scheduled meetings. It does not look good when we have to cancel the day of or worse, don't show for the appointment. If you register last minute, it will be difficult to schedule a new appointment with your representative and to add you to existing appointments.

Q. I am not comfortable with public speaking. What will be required of me?

A. If you are the only person representing your district or state, your virtual appointments will be with just one legislative staff person for a one-on-one conversation. If you are not comfortable by yourself, we can assign you to be part of a larger group from another state team, if available. Each group will be led by an appointed state team leader to help first-timers feel more comfortable.

Event Overview

How to Participate in the Day of Education and Training

To participate in the Virtual Summit, you need to have a computer with audio and internet capabilities; most computers have a built-in audio and video hardware. We recommend having a backup microphone to increase volume functions. A strong internet connection is most important above all else.

How to Participate in the Day of Action

In order to participate successfully in your virtual congressional meetings, you need a good telephone connection and a computer with an internet connection to access information from GO2 Foundation's meeting schedulers, Prime Advocacy. You will be able to access your meeting phone number and code using a provided link and then logging in with your email address (be sure to register with the email address you will use to access your call details). Please dial in 5 minutes prior to each call).

More on What You Need to Know:

- The Acelevents platform will open on Wednesday, June 10 to allow participants extra time to familiarize themselves with the Virtual Event Hub, create a profile, and reserve sessions.
- All meeting times in Prime Advocacy are shown in Eastern Standard Time.
- The meeting schedule will likely be accessed through an app but most importantly, your meeting schedule may be altered based on the legislator's availability. Please login daily to check for any updates.
- Most meetings start times are scheduled at off times (example: 12:10pm or 10:55am), this is intentional to counter bandwidth issues. In cooperation with the congressional offices, please do not change meeting times.
- Calls are scheduled for 15-minute blocks. They may end early or go longer, but the time frame, etiquette, and process remain the same as an in-person meeting.
- Talking points will be provided along with an attached leave behind to reference during the call.
- A help number will be listed for you to call regarding any last-minute cancellations, scheduling, or technical concerns.
- Please provide feedback on how the meeting went in the Meeting Notes section of each meeting, so GO2 Foundation can follow up to secure the support on the request.

Preparation

You do not need to have special skills or experience to participate – just bring your story and your voice.

We have online learning resources to help you prepare, including basic information and background on the issue we will be advocating for. The advocacy training is dedicated to help

prepare you, however, here's a list of things you can do before our Day of Action on June 16. For additional resources, visit our ["How to Become an Advocate"](#) webpage.

- **Educate Yourself**

If this is your first time participating in our Advocacy Summit, learn lung cancer facts and figures through our [website](#) and educate yourself on our [policy priorities](#), to learn why increased funding for lung cancer research at the [Department of Defense](#) is our legislative "ask."

- **Get Trained**

A pre-Summit training will be held for appointed "State Group Leaders" on June 1st. ***Everyone will participate in the June 15th Advocacy Training webinar preparing you for congressional calls with your legislators.*** In training, you will receive tips on how to tell your story and advocate to your representatives in support of increased funding for lung cancer research.

- **Practice Telling Your Story**

Prepare to share your personal story by practicing at home. Work on telling your story in short phrases as you answer this question: How does lung cancer impact you? We will also supply you with talking points to personalize your message but remember your story will have the strongest impact with your legislators.

- **Spread Awareness**

Send a letter to your local newspaper sharing your story. A published article will get the attention of your legislators and lung cancer advocates in your community. You can also recruit fellow lung cancer survivors, family and friends to support your advocacy efforts. GO2 Foundation will make their participation as easy as a phone call, email, Facebook post or a tweet through our Advocacy Action Toolkit (coming soon).

Get Involved & Engaged

Lawmakers are no longer holding in-person town halls, but they are holding virtual and telephone events at a very high rate. We recommend you get involved and engaged locally with your officials. You can track events in your district through www.townhallproject.com.

Now through the end of June, GO2 Foundation is asking all members of the lung cancer community to participate in the following online advocacy web messages in three easy ways through [Voter Voice](#):

- Send a unified social media message to your Members of Congress
- Send an email message to your Members
- Send a letter to your local newspaper editor