

## CONSISTENT TESTING TERMINOLOGY PLEDGE

### ***Commitment to Educate Lung Cancer Patients with Using the Term “Comprehensive Biomarker Testing”***

#### ***Background***

Comprehensive biomarker testing that includes targeted driver mutations and immunotherapy biomarkers (such as PD-L1) empowers patients and their care team with personalized and specific information about their cancer. This type of multiplex panel testing, where multiple genes are tested at one time, represents the first step to accessing the promise of precision medicine, which offers patients the highest potential for long, high-quality lives. Medical societies have reinforced this direction; the International Association of Lung Cancer (IASLC), the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines recommend the use of comprehensive biomarker testing with next generation sequencing -rather than multiple single-gene tests - following an advanced stage lung cancer diagnosis.

Some patients, particularly at community cancer centers where the majority of cancer patients are treated, don't receive comprehensive biomarker testing.<sup>i</sup> Patients/family members must be educated on testing and prepared to ask to have comprehensive biomarker testing performed. However, they may be confused about what kind of testing to ask for as there are **many testing terms** (e.g. molecular testing, comprehensive genomic profiling, genetic testing, mutation testing, and many more) that are used without adequate explanation regarding the testing component of their care.

In 2015, LUNgevity conducted an audit of the terms used by advocacy groups and industry and found that more than 20 terms are used in lung cancer patient education materials to describe testing. Patient advocacy groups and industry that participated in the audit agreed on the term “biomarker testing” as the top standardized term as it includes testing for driver mutations as well as immunohistochemistry-based tests such as PD-L1.<sup>ii</sup>

This audit was followed by a more recent white paper presented at World Lung 2018 and authored by numerous advocacy organizations reinforcing the need for consistent use of the term *biomarker testing or comprehensive biomarker testing* to “avoid confusing patients.” Additionally, a March 2019 paper in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology authored by several KOLs and patient groups states that the “standardization of the language used to describe biomarker testing is urgently needed.”

The advocacy community can play an important role in helping to alleviate patient confusion on the type of testing needed at diagnosis and progression. As members of the lung cancer community, we ask that you consider taking an informal pledge to commit your organization's **new external educational materials and communications** on testing to include the term “comprehensive biomarker testing.” For more questions about this, please contact.

Win Boerckel, CancerCare: [wboerckel@cancercare.org](mailto:wboerckel@cancercare.org)

Dusty Joy, LiveLung: [dusty@dustyjoy.org](mailto:dusty@dustyjoy.org)

Cindy Langhorne, Caring Ambassadors: [cindy@caringambassadors.org](mailto:cindy@caringambassadors.org)

Nikki Martin, LUNgevity: [nmartin@lungevity.org](mailto:nmartin@lungevity.org)

Rhonda Meckstroth, ALK Positive Outreach, [mam@alkpositive.org](mailto:mam@alkpositive.org)

**DRAFT PLEDGE FOR LUNG CANCER ADVOCACY COMMUNITY MEMBER CONSIDERATION**

As **(Insert Name of Patient Advocacy Organization)** is committed to supporting lung cancer patients and caregivers, we play a role in delivering timely and accurate information to lung cancer patients and their loved ones. One topic that requires consistent proactive education to the lung cancer patient and caregiver community is comprehensive biomarker testing. Access to high-quality, timely comprehensive biomarker testing is instrumental for matching patients to the appropriate targeted therapy or immunotherapy, leading to improved outcomes and better quality of life.

**(Insert Name of Patient Advocacy Organization)**, commits to using the term “comprehensive biomarker testing” in all new patient education materials and communications efforts, including social media. Further, our organization will focus on common messaging and speaking with one voice (while keeping our separate identity) with other patient advocacy organizations in educating lung cancer patients on the importance of comprehensive biomarker testing as a vital initial step in their lung cancer experience.

We will strive to ensure that, as appropriate, our organization’s future lung cancer patient facing print and online materials address the below key themes:

**WHO** - should get tested? (e.g. histology and stage)

**WHAT** – is comprehensive biomarker testing?

**WHEN** - should a patient have a conversation with a physician about getting tested?

**WHERE** - is testing done? (where on the body is tissue or blood taken)

**WHY** - is lung cancer comprehensive biomarker testing so important?

**HOW** - is comprehensive biomarker testing done?

On behalf of **(Insert Name of Patient Advocacy Organization)**, we **(Insert name of individual)**, **(Insert title)**, commit to using the term “comprehensive biomarker testing” in all new patient facing education, and to stay consistent, as appropriate, in addressing the above key themes in future print and online patient education materials.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

<sup>i</sup> Gutierrez ME, Choi K, Lanman RB, et al. Genomic profiling of advanced non-small cell lung cancer in community settings: gaps and opportunities. Clin Lung Cancer 2017; 18:651-9.

<sup>ii</sup> Need for Consistent Language around Biomarker Testing in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer, Andrea Ferris, MBA; Susan Mantel, MBA; Margery Jacobson, MBA, Upal Basu Roy, PhD, MPH