2023 Advocacy Day Orientation

www.DebbiesDream.org
Advocacy Day

Presenter: Camille S. Bonta, MHS
Debbie’s Dream Foundation Consultant
Summit Health Care Consulting
2023 — Back Together Again!
Agenda

I. Welcome

II. 2023 Advocacy Goals

III. Advocacy Day Orientation

IV. Itinerary and Meeting Logistics

V. Question & Answer Session
Why is Debbie’s Dream Foundation going to Capitol Hill?

- **Increase awareness** about stomach cancer.
- **Educate lawmakers** using personal experience.
- **Advocate** for more research funding to create the possibility for better diagnostic tools and more effective treatments.
Why Now?

- Start of the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Process.
- Congressional offices will receive hundreds of appropriations requests in the next several weeks.
- Lawmakers need to hear from their constituents as they consider what requests to support.
What Do We Want?

- Improve congressional understanding about and awareness of stomach cancer
- Inclusion of stomach cancer in the Department of Defense’s Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) — As many lawmaker signatures as possible on PRCRP letters
- Increased funding for the National Cancer Institute
What to Expect & How to Prepare

Megan Gordon Don
MGD Strategies
What to Expect
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS… THEY’RE JUST LIKE US
YOUR 3 CRUCIAL TOOLS

1. You will be trained in what to ask your members of Congress.

2. You are the expert on your story, your experience, and the urgency of this disease.

3. You are a constituent.
THE POWER OF ADVOCACY
Stomach cancer included in the PRCRP EVERY YEAR 2015 - 2022
50 awards = $30.7m

New NCI GE Working Group & Report
$ TBD

New NCI Program on the Origins of GE Cancers
6 RO1 awards = over $4m

Stomach cancer included in the PRCRP EVERY YEAR 2015 - 2022
50 awards = $30.7m

ADVOCACY = MORE RESEARCH
WHO

3 BRANCHES of U.S. GOVERNMENT

Legislative (makes laws)
- Congress
- Senate
- House of Representatives

Executive (carries out laws)
- President
- Vice President
- Cabinet

Judicial (evaluates laws)
- Supreme Court
- Other Federal Courts

Constitution (provides a separation of powers)
CIVICS 101 REFRESHER

Everyone has

2 Senators 1 Representative
CIVICS 101 REFRESHER

- U.S. Senators
- Re-elected every 6 years
- Represent the entire state
CIVICS 101 REFRESHER

• U.S. Representatives
• Re-elected every other year
• Have an average of 700,000 constituents
STAFF are CRITICAL
Resources to Prepare for Your Virtual Hill Meetings

Meeting Cheat Sheet

Legislative Ask

https://debbiesdream.org/ddf-cancercare-helpline/
MOST IMPORTANT TOOL: YOUR STORY
You are the EXPERT on your story
KEY TIPS

Remember that members of Congress are just like us – but they work for you!

You are the expert in your story and why stomach cancer research matters

Staying on message is the way to win.

If you haven’t heard “No”, the answer can still be “Yes”
PACKING LIST

- Comfortable shoes
- Umbrella
- Layers/Coat - CHECK THE WEATHER!
- Small bag or purse (wallet & license)
- Photo
NEXT STEPS

• Find your photo
• Practice your story
• Check out the resource page
debbiesdream.org/2023-advocacy-day/
GET EXCITED
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
QUESTIONS?
Logistics
Advocacy Day Itinerary
Monday, March 6

All activities take place at:
Washington Plaza Hotel
10 Thomas Circle NW
Washington, DC 20005

Attire: Business Casual in Blue or Neutral Colors

9:00am – 3:00pm: Advocate Fly-In & Arrival

12:00pm – 3:00pm: Boxed Lunch Available

3:30pm – 3:45pm: Welcome by Michael Ehren, DDF Board President

3:45pm – 5:00pm: Advocacy Training (led by Summit Consulting)

5:00pm – 6:30pm: Break

6:30pm – 8:30pm: Advocate Dinner (including Group Photo)
Advocacy Day Itinerary
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Attire: Business Professional in Blue or Neutral Colors.
We suggest wearing comfortable walking shoes.

7:00am - 8:00am: Breakfast and Last Minute Training Tips for the Advocates
Location: Washington Plaza Hotel
          10 Thomas Circle NW
          Washington, DC 20005

8:00am: Depart for Capitol Hill

8:15am: Group, State, and Individual Photos on the steps of Capitol Hill

9:00am - 5:00pm: Advocacy Meetings on Capitol Hill
                   Lunch on your own

5:00pm – 6:30pm: Break

6:30pm – 8:00pm: Advocacy Celebration Reception
Location: Washington Plaza Hotel
Advocacy Day Itinerary
Wednesday, March 8

8:00am – 9:00am:  Breakfast & Bonding

9:00am – 9:15am:  Break

9:15am – 9:30am:  Welcome by Andrea Eidelman, DDF Executive Director

9:30am – 10:30am:  Surgery & CDHI Presentation by Dr. Davis, NIH

10:30am – 12:00pm:  Nutrition Presentation by Rachael Lopez, NIH

12:00pm – 1:30pm:  Lunch & Bonding

1:30pm – 2:30pm:  Psychosocial Presentation by Amanda Rhodes, NIH

2:30pm – 4:00pm:  Art Therapy with Dr. Emily Lipson

4:00pm – 4:15pm:  Closing Remarks

4:00pm – 10:00pm:  Advocate Departure

5:00pm:  Optional - Advocate Dinner

7:00pm:  Optional – Nighttime National Monument Tour

Attire:  Comfy Casual in Blue or Neutral Colors

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Washington, DC 20005
Questions??

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