



## Welcome

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**Robin Kornhaber:** Good evening. And welcome to the teleconference and future webcast, "What Cancer Survivors Need to Know about Health Insurance." I'm Robin Kornhaber, senior vice president, patient services at *The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*. It is a pleasure to greet our in-person audience in Orlando, Florida, and our teleconference audience of 600 participants.

The "Cancer Keys to Survivorship" series is a collaboration of *The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society* and our partner, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship. Since the inception of "Cancer Keys" in 1997, this program has been presented to over 20,000 individuals in person and via the World Wide Web. I wish to thank the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship for their commitment to "Cancer Keys" and their collaboration on this effort.

I would also like to acknowledge Ortho Biotech, the program sponsor, for their six-year commitment to this program. They have been unwavering advocates of the importance of providing timely information to patients that will make a difference in their treatment and survival. Without their support, we would not be able to offer "Cancer Keys," and we are deeply grateful to them.

With us tonight is Maureen Crowley from the Ortho Biotech patient advocacy division. Thank you, Maureen, for attending. *The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society* wants to provide critical information and support to all patients, families, and caregivers. We believe this can make a difference in your lives. At a time of great stress and vulnerability, you need rapid access to current, authoritative, understandable information.

Today we have information and choices that did not exist just a few years ago. Information and choices that can prolong and even save lives. *The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society* is here to help. [By supplying] ... over \$320 million in research since our founding in 1949, we have offered scientists the opportunity to make breakthroughs in new treatments, and unlock the mysteries of these diseases. To our 60 chapters nationwide, the Society offers the most comprehensive array of services to patients and families touched by leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma.

Some of these free services are support groups, a peer counseling program called First Connection, back-to-school programs, education programs like the one we're offering this evening, patient financial assistance to those in significant financial need, and our information resource center [IRC], which anyone can access by dialing our toll-free number. Our IRC is staffed by professional oncology social workers and nurses. And they are here to answer your questions.



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**Robin Kornhaber:** Additional information on our Society programs and services is available in the packet you received. If any of you would like to talk to us, or obtain more information, you may call the IRC at 800 955-4572, or log onto our Web site, [Leukemia-Lymphoma.org](http://Leukemia-Lymphoma.org). I'll now turn the podium over to Carson Pattillo, national director of patient services programs at the Society, who will be our moderator for this evening. Carson.

**Carson Pattillo:** Thank-you, Robin. Welcome to everyone. We're thrilled you're joining us this evening. I have the pleasure of not only introducing our stellar presenters this evening, but also to moderate our question-and-answer session that's later in the program. Our first keynote speaker is Karen Pollitz. I'd like to tell you a little bit about Karen. Karen is the project director of Georgetown University's Institute for Health Care Research and Policy, and an adjunct professor at the university's Graduate Public Policy Institute. Miss Pollitz received her bachelor's with honors from Oberlin College, and her master's in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley Graduate School of Public Policy. She has worked as deputy assistant secretary for health legislation at the US Department of Health and Human Services and the assistant director of the American Academy of Family Physicians, as an instructor at the Marymount University School of Business, and as legislative assistant to, first, Congressman Sander Levin, and then to Senator John D. Rockefeller IV.

Miss Pollitz is author of a number of publications that discuss health insurance issues and has been principal investigator, co-principal investigator, or investigator for 11 studies devoted to health insurance in the United States. Just from that little introduction, we are so privileged to have her this evening. Please help me welcome Miss Pollitz. (Applause)