



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
for CANCER EDUCATION

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Rising Star Award in Cancer Patient Education

The **Rising Star Award in Cancer Patient Education** recognizes an emerging professional who is making meaningful early-career contributions to cancer patient education. This award honors an AACE member with fewer than 10 years of experience who demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting the needs of patients with cancer, survivors, caregivers, families, and communities.

The award acknowledges individuals who are creating, improving, implementing, sustaining, or disseminating cancer patient education programs, materials, tools, or services. The Rising Star Award celebrates emerging leaders who are advancing the visibility, quality, accessibility, and value of patient education within healthcare institutions, community settings, academic programs, and professional organizations.

The recipient will receive **one complimentary registration for the International Cancer Education Conference (ICEC)** and a **crystal award** in recognition of their achievements. The award recipient is expected to attend ICEC in the year in which the award is given.

Award Purpose

The award is intended to recognize early-career professionals who demonstrate commitment to advancing cancer patient education through efforts that are:

- Patient-centered and responsive to the needs of patients, survivors, caregivers, and families
- Clear, accessible, and informed by health literacy best practices
- Culturally responsive and inclusive
- Designed to improve the quality, reach, or effectiveness of cancer patient education
- Focused on creating, strengthening, sustaining, or disseminating patient education programs, services, tools, or resources
- Contributing to the visibility and value of patient education within healthcare, community, academic, or professional settings

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible nominees may work in healthcare, academic, community-based, nonprofit, advocacy, public health, or professional organization settings. Nominees must:

- Be a current **AACE member** at the time of nomination.
- Have fewer than 10 cumulative years of experience specifically related to cancer patient education, cancer caregiver education, oncology education, survivorship education,

patient navigation education, or a closely related cancer-focused patient education role. Eligibility is based on relevant professional experience in the field, not the number of years since the nominee's most recent degree.

- Currently serve in a role that supports **cancer patient and/or caregiver education**.
- Demonstrate contributions to creating, improving, implementing, sustaining, or disseminating cancer patient education programs, resources, services, or initiatives.
- Show commitment to meeting the educational and supportive care needs of patients with cancer, survivors, caregivers, and/or families.
- Demonstrate emerging leadership in advancing the visibility, value, quality, or reach of cancer patient education.

Evaluation Criteria

Nominations will be reviewed based on the extent to which the nominee demonstrates:

- **Contribution to Cancer Patient Education**
 - Evidence that the nominee has made meaningful early-career contributions to creating, improving, implementing, sustaining, or disseminating patient education programs, services, materials, tools, or initiatives
- **Commitment to Patients and Caregivers**
 - Evidence that the nominee's work supports the needs of patients with cancer, survivors, caregivers, families, or communities across the cancer continuum.
- **Health Literacy, Accessibility, and Responsiveness**
 - Evidence that the nominee's work reflects clear communication, accessibility, cultural responsiveness, inclusivity, and patient-centered education practices.
- **Evidence of Impact or Effectiveness**
 - Evidence that the nominee's work has positively influenced patients, caregivers, communities, institutions, programs, or professional practice. Examples may include evaluation findings, participation data, patient or caregiver feedback, testimonials, program outcomes, dissemination reach, or evidence of sustained use.
- **Emerging Leadership and Professional Promise**
 - Evidence that the nominee shows leadership potential and is helping to advance the visibility, quality, or value of cancer patient education within healthcare institutions, communities, academic settings, or professional organizations.

- **Innovation, Sustainability, or Transferability**
 - Evidence that the nominee's work is creative, responsive to an identified need, sustainable, or adaptable to other settings, populations, or organizations.

Nomination Materials

Nominations should include:

- A nomination letter describing the nominee's role, contributions, leadership potential, and impact on cancer patient education.
- The nominee's CV or résumé.
- Examples or descriptions of the nominee's patient education work.
- Evidence of effectiveness or impact, such as evaluation data, patient or caregiver feedback, testimonials, program outcomes, or dissemination metrics.
- A letter of support from a supervisor, colleague, community partner, patient education leader, or collaborator.