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### **AZMN Founders to Receive the 2024 AZBio Service Award**

*Jack and Barbara Kavanagh, founders of the Arizona Myeloma Network and Cancer Caregivers of America, will be honored with the AZBio Service Award at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual [AZBio Awards](#) on September 18, 2024 at the Phoenix Convention Center.*

**September 1, 2024. PHOENIX, AZ.** It has been announced by the Arizona Bioindustry Association (AZBio) that Jack and Barbara Kavanagh will be honored with the AZBio Service Award for 2024. The awards will be held on September 18, 2024 at the Phoenix Convention Center as a part of AZ Bioscience Week. Celebrating their work through the non-profit organization Arizona Myeloma Network which created the Cancer Caregivers of America Program, the two are being recognized for their vast contributions to those with cancer and their loved ones both in our community and in the country.

In June of 2024, Jack Kavanagh's a 33-year Multiple Myeloma cancer survivor, passed from an aneurysm. His experience living with cancer, and his wife Barbara Kavanagh's journey by his side as a cancer caregiver formed the basis of their mission to provide education and support to others who are on their own cancer journeys.

Jack and Barbara Kavanagh had each other and the support of some of the leading cancer researchers and care teams in the country, but they also saw so many others around them who were struggling.

A person is considered a cancer survivor from the time of diagnosis through the balance of life, according to the National Cancer Institute. NIH data reports that in 2022 there were over 18.1 million cancer survivors in the United States. This represents approximately 5.4% of the population. The number of cancer survivors is projected to grow to 26.0 million by 2040. (1)

With 53 million adults serving as unpaid caregivers in the United States, the importance of examining the challenges caregivers face is essential. Caregivers of people diagnosed with cancer, estimated to be more than 6 million, have additional economic and well-being risks relative to caregivers of other adult patients. (2)

Based on their experience and with the encouragement of leading cancer experts, Jack and Barbara embarked on a mission beginning 25 years ago. They co-founded the [Arizona Myeloma Network](#) to provide patients and caregivers with education and

support that can help to navigate a cancer diagnosis and its effects on the patient, caregiver, family, and community.

In 2023, the [Online Cancer Caregivers Education Program](#) launched. CCEP© has received praise from City of Hope, Pfizer, Users, and others who recognize the impact the education, access to resources, and support provided in the program can have on patients and caregivers.

Developed with leading professionals in the oncology space along with patients and cancer caregivers, the CCEP has three primary functions all housed on a platform designed for the caregivers AND patients including:

1. Interactive and engaging Education modules that focus on skill development.
2. Access to a repository of resources housed in the Cancer Care Resource Library.
3. Access to a national Cancer Care Community where patients and caregivers find support.

Jack and Barbara developed the program to help millions of patients and families, including and especially those in the underserved populations such as Native Americans and others in rural areas of the country. They worked together on it every day up until the day that an aneurism brought Jack's cancer journey to a close.

Shortly before his death, Jack Kavanagh wrote: "Our goal is to provide knowledge and skills for the caregiver and patient so that the gaps between research and development, the administration of treatment therapies by healthcare professionals, and the impact to patients once they are home is closed. Only then we will have a complete understanding of how best to treat, heal, and cure cancer."

Today, Barbara Kavanagh, through [Cancer Caregivers of America](#), is continuing the mission and Jack's legacy.

"The education and support provided by the healthcare professionals delivering treatment therapies to cancer patients are exceptional. Unfortunately, education and support for the cancer caregivers who are providing critical care at home are virtually nonexistent. While we as a nation have come a long way over the past few years regarding providing information and access to resources for our caregivers, we still have a long way to go. And we know we can help." – Barbara Kavanagh

- <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/statistics>
- <https://ascopubs.org/doi/full/10.1200/JCO.22.02537>

## **About AZBio**

Founded in 2003, the [Arizona Bioindustry Association, Inc. \(AZBio\)](#) supports life science innovation and life science innovators in Arizona. A key component in Arizona's life

science ecosystem, AZBio is the only statewide organization exclusively focused on Arizona's bioscience industry. AZBio membership includes patient advocacy organizations, life science innovators, educators, healthcare partners, philanthropists, and leading business organizations. AZBio members employ over 345,000 Arizonans.

### **About the AZBio Awards**

Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the AZBio Awards honors leaders from across the state of Arizona that illustrate the depth and breadth of our life science industry. The [20<sup>th</sup> annual AZBio Awards](#) will take place at the Phoenix Convention Center on September 18, 2024.

**About Arizona Myeloma Network (AzMN®)** is a nonprofit organization Founded in 2004, by Barbara and Jack Kavanagh that conducts cancer outreach events and education programs. Our mission is to promote collaboration, awareness, education and advocacy for improved treatment outcomes and quality of life for multiple myeloma patients, their families and All cancer caregivers with special consideration for the underserved. Learn more at [azmyelomanetwork.org](http://azmyelomanetwork.org)

### **About Cancer Caregivers of America**

Cancer Caregivers of America is an AzMN® program which was especially developed to provide the educational 'tools' and resources that build critical cancer caregiving skills, in the cancer patient, the cancer caregiver and family, as well as the cancer care professional. The Cancer Caregivers Education Program also promotes collaboration and understanding with the Scientific and Medical Community. Visit [cancercaregiversofAmerica.com](http://cancercaregiversofAmerica.com) for additional information on how to register for the program.