JUNE 2021
The American Cancer Society (ACS) and advocacy affiliate American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) welcome Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD, as their first-ever female CEO and their first scientific and oncology researcher leader in the modern era.

Patient protections in the Affordable Care Act are upheld by the Supreme Court. On behalf of patients with serious illnesses, ACS and ACS CAN joined an amicus brief in support of upholding the law.

SEPTEMBER
ACS CAN celebrates its 20th anniversary.
ACS awards the first of a series of more than $10 million in grants over the next six months to health systems nationwide to help alleviate the financial burden of transportation and lodging costs for cancer patients.

ACS and four historically black colleges/universities announce groundbreaking Diversity in Cancer Research program.
The new $30 million Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Hope Lodge® opens in Houston – ACS’ largest facility to date.

OCTOBER
ACS awarded groundbreaking cryptocurrency gift to cancer crypto fund.

NOVEMBER
Dr. Knudsen honored with Women in Science Award from the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

DECEMBER
Relaunched Partnering For Life initiative in partnership with 14 national Black organizations to spread awareness about cancer risk, prevention, and early detection in the Black community.

BrightEdge, ACS' impact investment fund, celebrates founding gifts.
ACS CAN helped to secure $1.4 billion in state and local appropriations in 2021, including more than $735 million to fund lifesaving tobacco prevention and cessation.

Celebrating one year with CEO
Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD
We have accomplished so much toward our goal of improving the lives of cancer patients and their families during the first year of our CEO’s appointment. Thanks to Dr. Knudsen’s leadership, the American Cancer Society is the only organization integrating advocacy, discovery, and patient support to accelerate progress against cancer.

AUGUST
Dr. Knudsen realigns ACS' organizational work into four integrated organizational pillars (Advocacy, Discovery, Patient Support, and Development) to align as #OneACS - a new way of organizing enterprisewide efforts and talking about ACS’ mission.

Dr. Knudsen convenes ACS’ first Patient Support Advisory Council, a leading group of external experts who help guide patient support work.

ACS awarded groundbreaking cryptocurrency gift to cancer crypto fund.
JANUARY 2022
Our National Cancer Information Center celebrates its 25th year of providing callers with help and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
ACS releases annual report on progress against cancer, showing a 32% decline in cancer mortality since 1991.

FEBRUARY
Dr. Knudsen is the keynote presenter at ASCO-GU’s annual conference.
Dr. Knudsen and ACS CAN President Lisa Lacasse attend reignition of Cancer Moonshot event at the White House.
ACS launches national breast and cervical cancer roundtables.

MARCH
ACS launches support for war-torn Ukraine, along with key partners.
Dr. Knudsen becomes the first national ambassador for the ResearchERS: Women in Science initiative.

APRIL
Dr. Knudsen names a new chief scientific officer. This appointment rounds out the ACS Executive Team, which also includes a new chief marketing officer, chief human resources officer, chief revenue officer, and ACS’ first-ever chief diversity officer and chief patient officer.

MAY
ACS announces a new health equity initiative in partnership with Bank of America, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, and the University of Michigan to improve health outcomes in communities of color.
Dr. Knudsen ends her first year on board with ACS, integrating new ways to improve patients’ lives into every area of work, filling essential gaps in the cancer care continuum, and working closely with the cancer community to maximize impact.