

Opening Remarks by Jim Kormos

Vice President of the Carcinoid NeuroEndocrine Tumour Society
at the CNETS Canada Conference held in Toronto
on Friday 17 October 2008

I thank our conference Co-Chairs, Dr. Reid and Maureen Coleman, Dr. Urbain and all of you for making this Patient-Doctor Symposium possible.

It is said that cancer affects us all – whether we have the disease, have had it, care about someone with it, or worry about getting it.

To design a conference that leads to more ideas and results, we need to raise our expectations of what can be achieved when people, content and important challenges come together. So our conference Task Force planning strategy was to align participants and speakers in the direction of specific learning and engagement objectives.

You have already heard us speak of our Learning Objectives for CNETS Canada – Research, Education, Awareness and Support.

As you reflect and consider during our time together we encourage you to think of your conference, not as an event, but as a foundation for building and acting on what you already know and understand. One definition of an effective conference is people finding or creating new ideas and then acting on them after the event. We know that to generate long term beneficial change, individually and collectively, people must act on their insights and new ideas.

Specific issues, problems or challenges in need of remedy will be reflected throughout this conference – and others will emerge from yet further conversation and reflection. Implications will surface for behaviours that we need to influence, change, promote or advance, not only in ourselves but in our circles of work and life. Our shared goal is improved outcomes for our NET community.

So, we ask you to think about how you will participate. You can start with “Why am I here?” or “What do I want to accomplish during this conference?” Answers to these can help each of us set objectives for our personal involvement. Individually and collectively, we may then be able to answer, for example, questions like “On what basis can I rate my participation in this conference?” or “What did I learn that compels me to reflect, engage, build and act upon long after the conference is over?”

Most helpful for our NET community over our time together are your reflections and questions for our concluding expert panel session. So we ask that you discuss your ideas with others and then write out one or two challenges, using full sentences, to capture the importance of your question and suggested remedy.

Please give your note to one of the Conference Task Force members introduced to you so we can share it with our Expert Panel for the Sunday morning concluding session.

And now, enjoy your conference.