



Lymph Science Advocacy Program (LSAP) A Training Program for Advocates for Research and Education about Lymphedema

The National Lymphedema Network (NLN) created the LSAP program in 2000 to educate advocates in the basic science of lymphedema and related disorders during the bi-annual NLN Conference, in response to the needs identified by lymphedema patients, caregivers, and family members. The program is limited to 5 new participants each cycle and presently we have 20 LSAP graduates. Participants will be selected from submitted applications and will represent a diversity of backgrounds and interests, including primary and secondary lymphedema patients from related causes.

PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the Lymph Science Advocacy Program (LSAP) is to engage and motivate patients and caregivers to action by providing a comprehensive understanding of the basic science, treatment, and clinical research of the lymphatic system, primary and secondary lymphedema, and related disorders.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Individualized guidance on topic areas;
- Introduction to the research process;
- Mentors and scientific guidance;
- Opportunities to participate in discussion groups with expert lymphologists;
- Individualized action plan for dissemination and use of knowledge gained through three webinars prior to the conference.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM

The National Lymphedema Network expects program participants to:

- Gain a unique perspective and understanding about the basic research process;
- Foster ideas and partnerships for new approaches and research;
- A stronger commitment from participants in addressing the issues through advocacy in research, legislative and educational means;
- Cast a broader "net" for inclusion of the NLN mission in all areas of LE research, treatment, risk reduction and education.

GUIDELINES

Participants approved for the LSAP program will be expected to:

- Register and attend the (3) pre-conference webinars prior to the conference and all designated sessions throughout the conference. LSAP participants should stay for the entirety of the conference and not plan for an early departure;
 - Display proper conduct in a respectful manner throughout the conference;
 - Approach all subject topics with interest and an inquisitive mind;
 - Keep the scientific/research aspects top of mind throughout the program. While many of us are more comfortable discussing outreach activities and events, the LSAP participants will be dedicated to learning more about clinical and diagnostic research, and the impact on patient care;
 - Prepare written reports and return all evaluation surveys and participate in follow-up discussions designed by program organizers;
 - Serve as an educational liaison to other lymphedema patients, healthcare professionals and interested parties in your community, following the conference;
 - Participate in developing a group action plan for work following the conference.
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APPLICATION PROCESS

NOMINATIONS

Applicant may self nominate or be sponsored by a therapist/doctor or an organization. Forms for application are enclosed.

ELIGIBILITY

Patients affected with LE, caregivers or those whose lives have been affected by lymphedema may apply. Applicants must show a curiosity and interest in learning scientific principles and research methods and be able to function as an observer in a scientific session. Participants will be selected from submitted nominations and will represent a diversity of backgrounds and interests (primary, secondary from breast, gynecological, melanoma, unrelated to cancer).

REQUIREMENTS

- Complete application;
- Narrative description of your interest in participating in the program (1 or 2 pages typed or in Microsoft Word document);
- Resume or curriculum vitae (CV) of applicant (please include volunteer responsibilities);
- No less than two (2) and no more than three (3) letters of support.

REGISTRATION FEES, HOUSING, AND TRAVEL

Selected applicants will be responsible for all conference costs, registration fees, and travel. These costs may be underwritten by the supporting organization or the applicant (NLN scholarships are pending).

SCHEDULE

In order to prepare participants for the conference, three (3) webinars will take place between the first three weeks of August.

The onsite program will be offered at the National Lymphedema Network's 10th International Conference in Dallas, TX from Sept. 5 - 9, 2012 at the Omni Dallas Hotel.

LSAP 10th NLN Conference Application Form Cover Sheet

The National Lymphedema Network (NLN) is accepting applications for participation in the Lymph Science Advocacy Program. (LSAP) The objective of this program is to educate and motivate lymphedema patients and caregivers to action by gaining a comprehensive understanding of the science and issues surrounding lymphedema.

Each application should include this cover sheet and requested attachments.

Application Due by May 15, 2012

Applicant's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

How you plan to share the information/knowledge:

Do you have a constituency group that would serve as a conduit for sharing the information/knowledge that you gain through this program?

Yes If yes, please describe the group.

No If no, please explain how you intend to share the information and apply the knowledge gained through this program.

(You may use additional sheets, if necessary)