

Media Contact

Stacy Palmer

1-866-488-2379

stacy.palmer@theberylinstitute.org

**Patient Advocacy Community of The Beryl Institute Honors Melissa Thompson
as 2018 Ruth Ravich Patient Advocacy Award Recipient**

Annual Award Recognizes Contributions, Dedication and Leadership in Patient Advocacy

Dallas, Texas (April 27, 2018) – The Patient Advocacy Community of The Beryl Institute presented Melissa Thompson MBA, Cancer Patient Advocate at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, with the [2018 Ruth Ravich Patient Advocacy Award](#) in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to the field of patient advocacy and to fellow patient advocates. Thompson was honored with the award at The Beryl Institute’s annual [Patient Experience Conference](#) on April 16 in Chicago, Illinois.

Through a combination of creativity, dedication, empathy and authenticity, Melissa advocates for patient-driven innovation and exponential progress in healthcare systems and policy, HIT, cancer, and chronic disease management - through speaking engagements, policy initiatives, and consulting. Melissa works with organizations to strengthen their digital strategy, marketing, leadership, business development, technology initiatives, and operations, with an underlying theme of patient-driven innovation.

“Melissa’s passion, insight and dedication drive her to advocate beyond the walls of her hospital. She has created awareness across the nation for the need to ensure insurance coverage for medically necessary fertility preservation,” said Kate Clarke, Manager, Patient Relations/Interpreter Services at Northwestern Medicine and Patient Advocacy Community Executive Team Member. “Successfully passing her bill in Connecticut, she was invited to share this issue at the Women in Government Conference where legislators from every state learn about current issues in other states. Melissa is now being asked by legislators to present her bill in other states.”

Awarded annually since 1991, the Ruth Ravich Patient Advocacy Award recognizes individuals whose work supports the vision of bringing the patients’ needs to the center of healthcare. Ruth Ravich was the founder and first president of the Society for Healthcare Consumer Advocacy, now the Patient Advocacy Community of The Beryl Institute. As the profession of Patient Advocacy and patient centered care has evolved, the award has come to also recognize individuals within the Patient Advocacy Community who engage in focused efforts to be of support to fellow Advocates in promoting patient rights and patient centered care.

To learn more about the Patient Advocacy Community of The Beryl Institute, visit

<http://www.theberylinstitute.org/?page=PAC>.

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About The Beryl Institute:

[The Beryl Institute](#) is the global community of practice dedicated to improving the patient experience through collaboration and shared knowledge. We [define](#) patient experience as *the sum of all interactions, shaped by an organization’s culture, that influence patient perceptions across the continuum of care.*