



SEPSIS
ALLIANCE

Solving Sepsis Together

An Introduction to Sepsis Alliance



Tom Heymann
President & CEO
Sepsis Alliance

About Sepsis Alliance

Founded in 2007

- Founded out of **personal tragedy** and **national need**.
- **Nation's first** and leading sepsis patient advocacy organization.
- **Trusted partner** to patients, healthcare providers, healthcare systems, professional associations, researchers, government, and industry.
- **Vision:** A world in which **nobody is harmed by sepsis**.



Sepsis Alliance Founder Carl Flatley, DDS, MSD, with daughter, Erin



Sepsis Alliance earns top rankings from Great Nonprofits, Guidestar, and Charity Navigator for transparency and accountability.

Platinum Transparency 2024

Candid.

Charity Navigator



+ FOUR-STAR +

Committed to Partnership*



*Partial list - full list of partners at [Sepsis.org](https://sepsis.org)

The Burden of Sepsis in the U.S.

- The **#1** cause of hospital deaths.
- The **#1** cost of hospital and skilled nursing care - \$62B/year!
 - Not including non-SNF post-acute care, prostheses, workplace productivity, litigation.
- The **#1** cause of hospital readmissions.
- The **#2 cause** (23%) of maternal death.
- Kills more children than **cancer**.
- **87%** of cases are **present on admission**.



Sepsis and Disparities

- **Black patients** are nearly **twice** as likely to die
- **Black or Hispanic children** with severe sepsis or septic shock are approximately **25%** more likely to die
- **American Indians and Alaskan Natives** are at least **1.5** times more likely to die from sepsis
- **Black women** have more than **twice** the risk of severe maternal sepsis
- **Limited English proficiency (LEP), less education, lower income** are all associated with a higher mortality risk



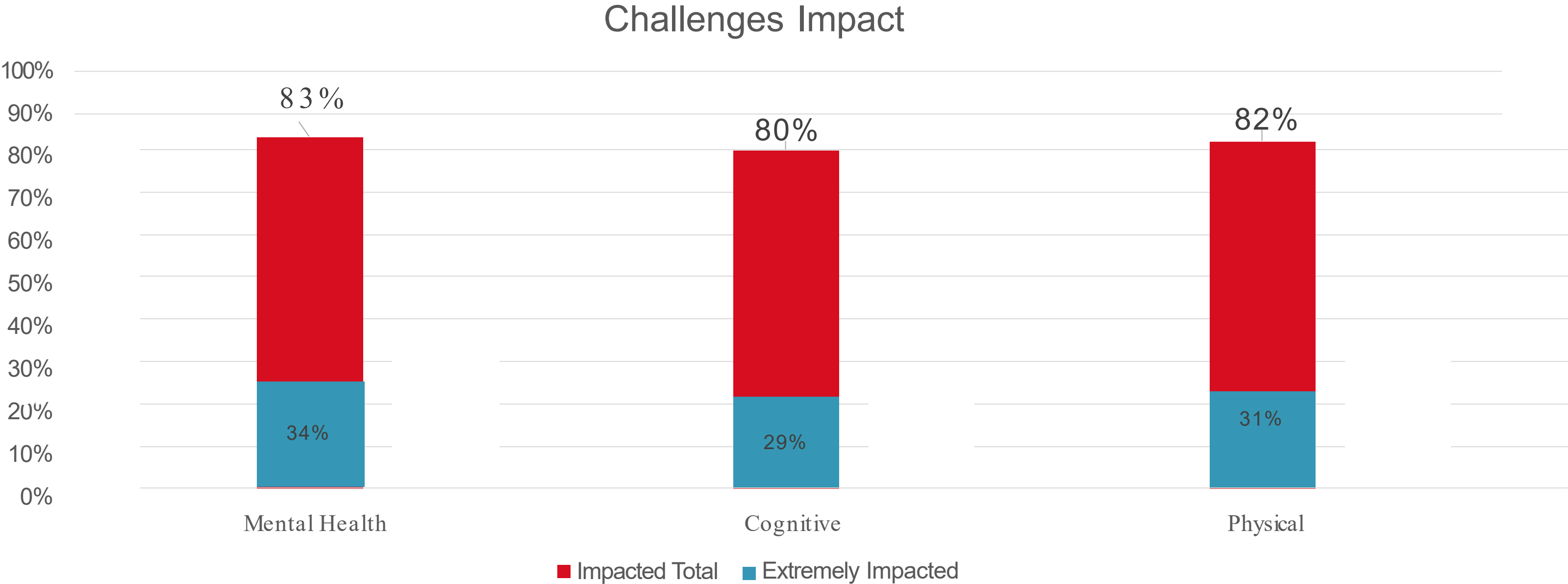
Sepsis Survivor Survey Results

Based on a 2023 Sepsis Alliance Poll

Key Findings

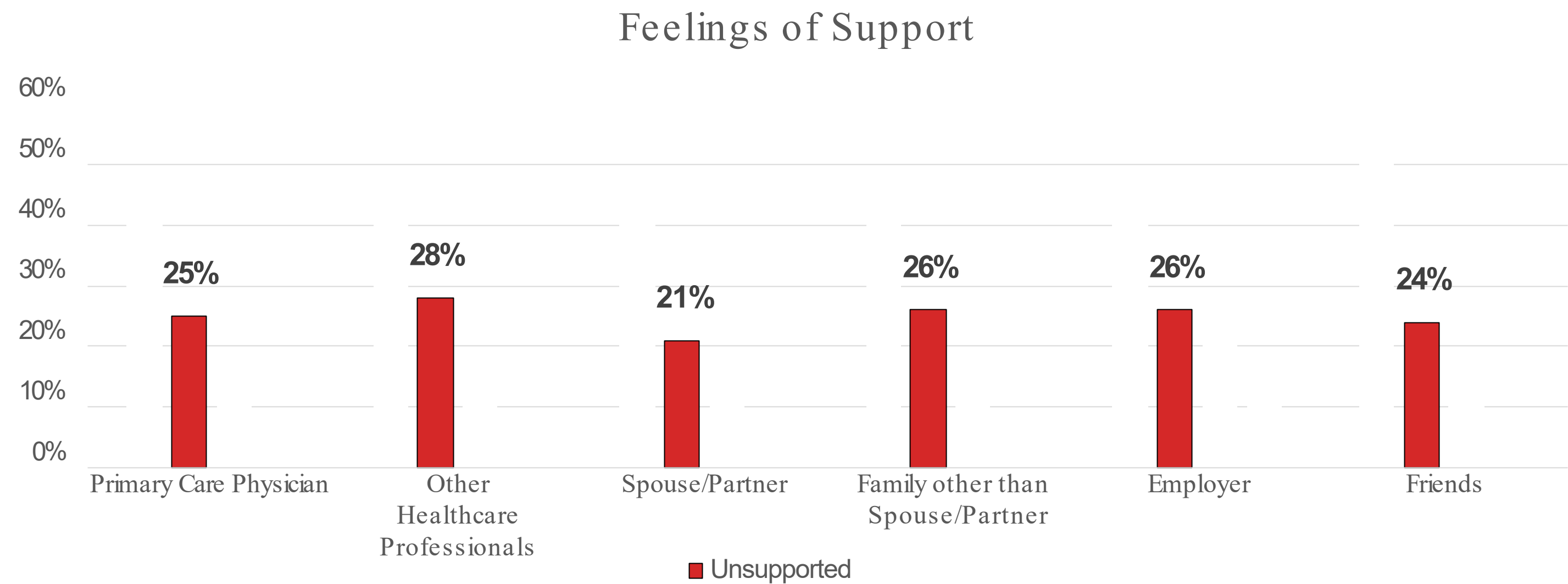
- 3,131 respondents completed the survey.
- More than half (56%) of respondents have experienced sepsis more than once.
- Fewer than half (45%) of respondents received discharge education materials that were clearly explained to them after their first sepsis experience.
- Of those that were employed at the time of their first sepsis experience
 - More than three-quarters (77%) missed at least 1 month of work
 - Nearly half (43%) missed 6 months or more
 - More than 1 in 10 (12%) have still not returned to work
- Three quarters (75%) had medical support after being discharged from acute care.
 - 35% went to a subacute/rehabilitation facility
 - 40% went directly to home/loved one's home, with support from home care/visiting nurse/etc.
- More than 8 in 10 (83%) had some impact on their mental health, 80% had some impact on cognitive function, and 82% had some impact on physical abilities.

Survivors experience mental, cognitive, and physical challenges after sepsis.



Q21: Please indicate to what extent you have been impacted by the following symptoms after your sepsis diagnosis? N=3131

There are mixed feelings of support in their recovery.



Q: How supported did you feel in your recovery by the following people? N=3 131

Sepsis Alliance's Impact

Four Pillars:

1. Patient Education and Support
2. Healthcare Professional (HCP) Education and Training
3. Policy and Advocacy
4. Research and Innovation

Sepsis

A life-threatening **emergency** that happens when your body's response to an infection damages vital organs and, often, causes death.

Some of the most common symptoms include:



TEMPERATURE

higher or lower
than normal



INFECTION

may have signs
and symptoms
of an infection



MENTAL DECLINE

confused,
sleepy, difficult
to rouse

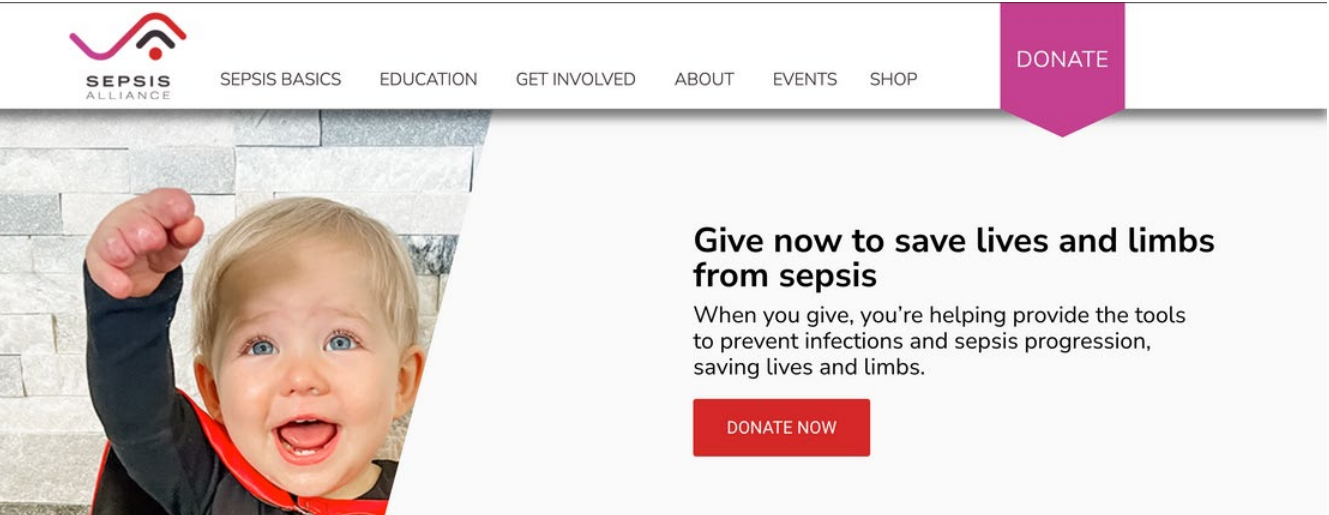


EXTREMELY ILL™

severe pain,
discomfort,
shortness of
breath

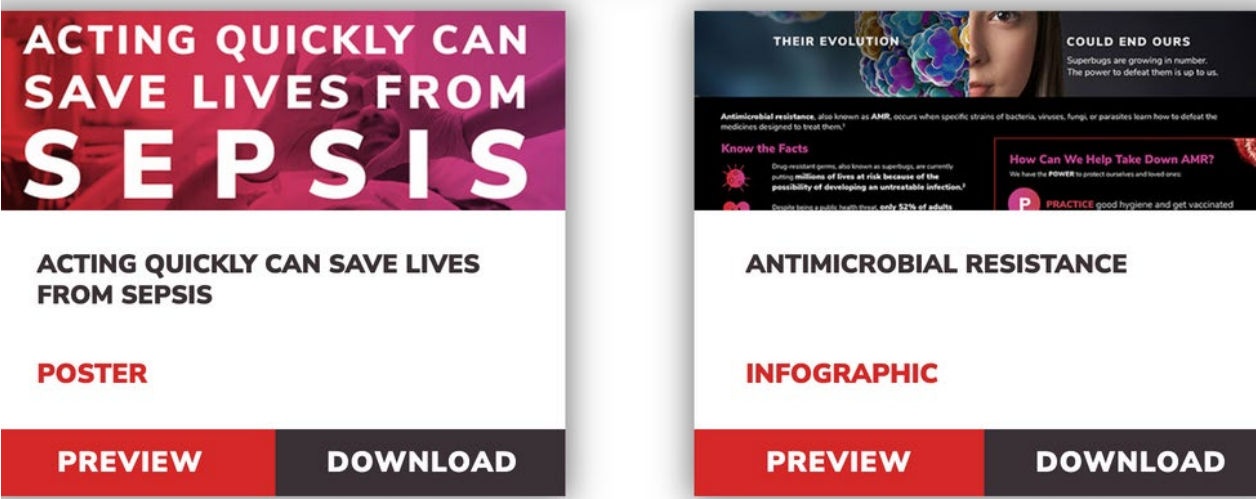
Patient Education and Support

Sepsis.org



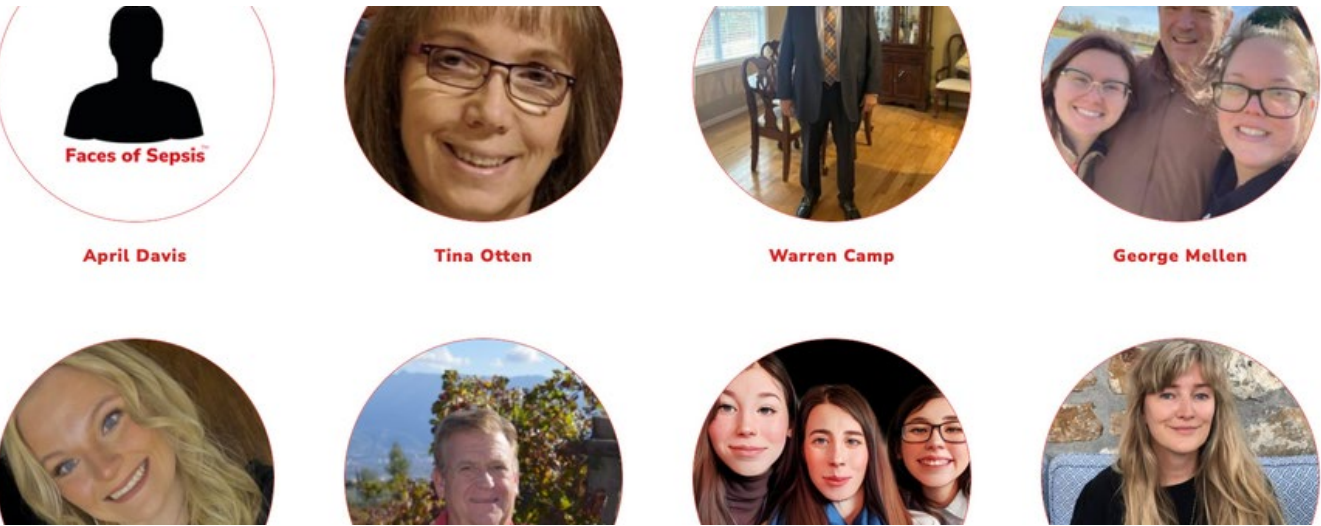
2 million visitors annually

Educational Content



Award winning videos, sepsis information guides, sepsis and... library. Multi-language and accessible content.

Faces of Sepsis™



FacesofSepsis.org

2,000+ shared experiences.

Sepsis Alliance Connect



Peer support community for all those impacted by sepsis.

More than 4,500 participants.

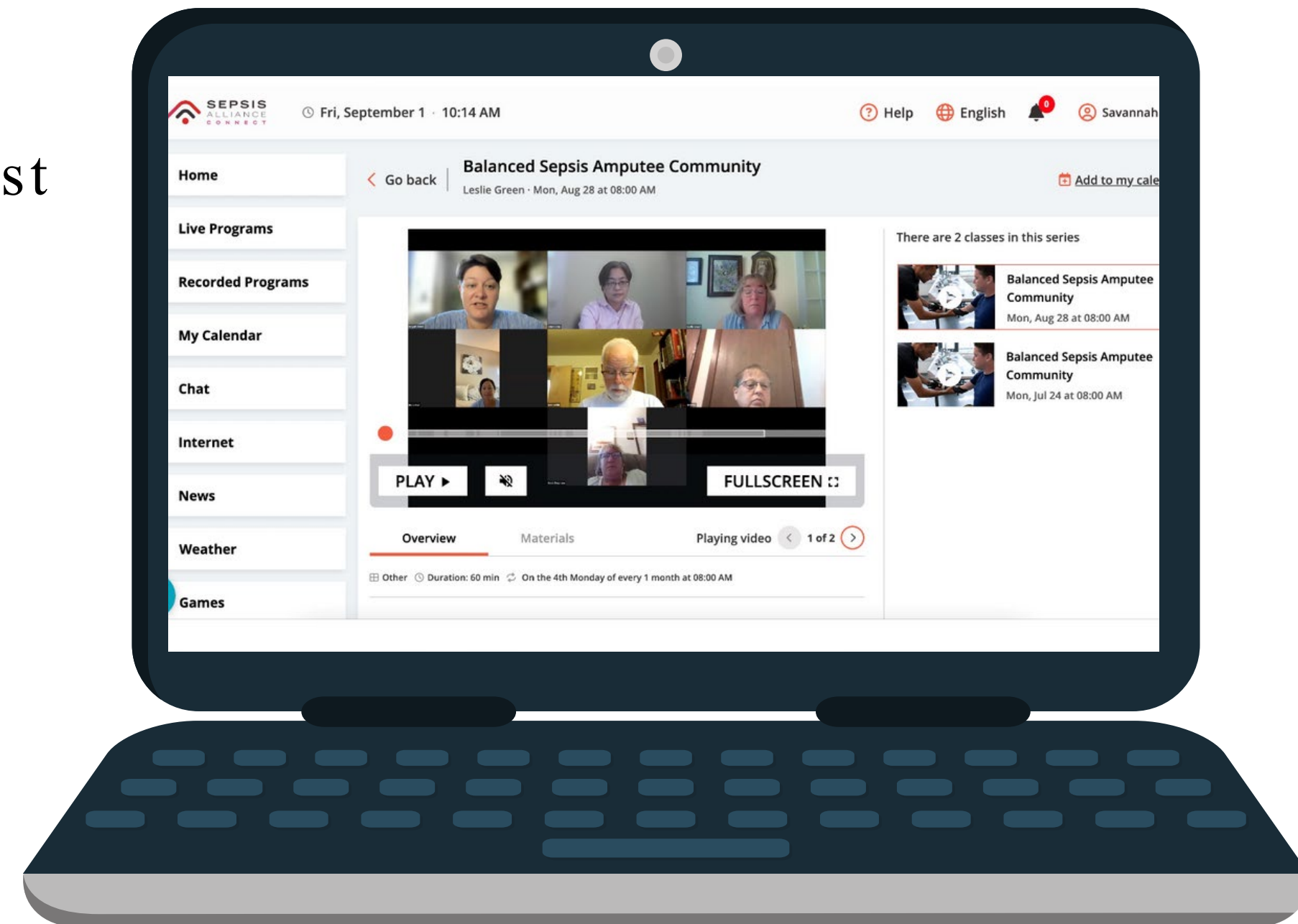
Sepsis Alliance Connect

PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT

SepsisConnect.org

- Virtual support community designed for the millions of people affected by sepsis annually, including survivors, caregivers, and those who lost a loved one.
- Launched in June 2022.
- More than 4,500 members to date.

“The connection with other survivors in the peer support group meetings. It makes me feel safe and not alone, it makes me feel like I have a shot at a longer life than I had imagined after surviving septic shock.”
- Sepsis Survivor



Faces of Sepsis

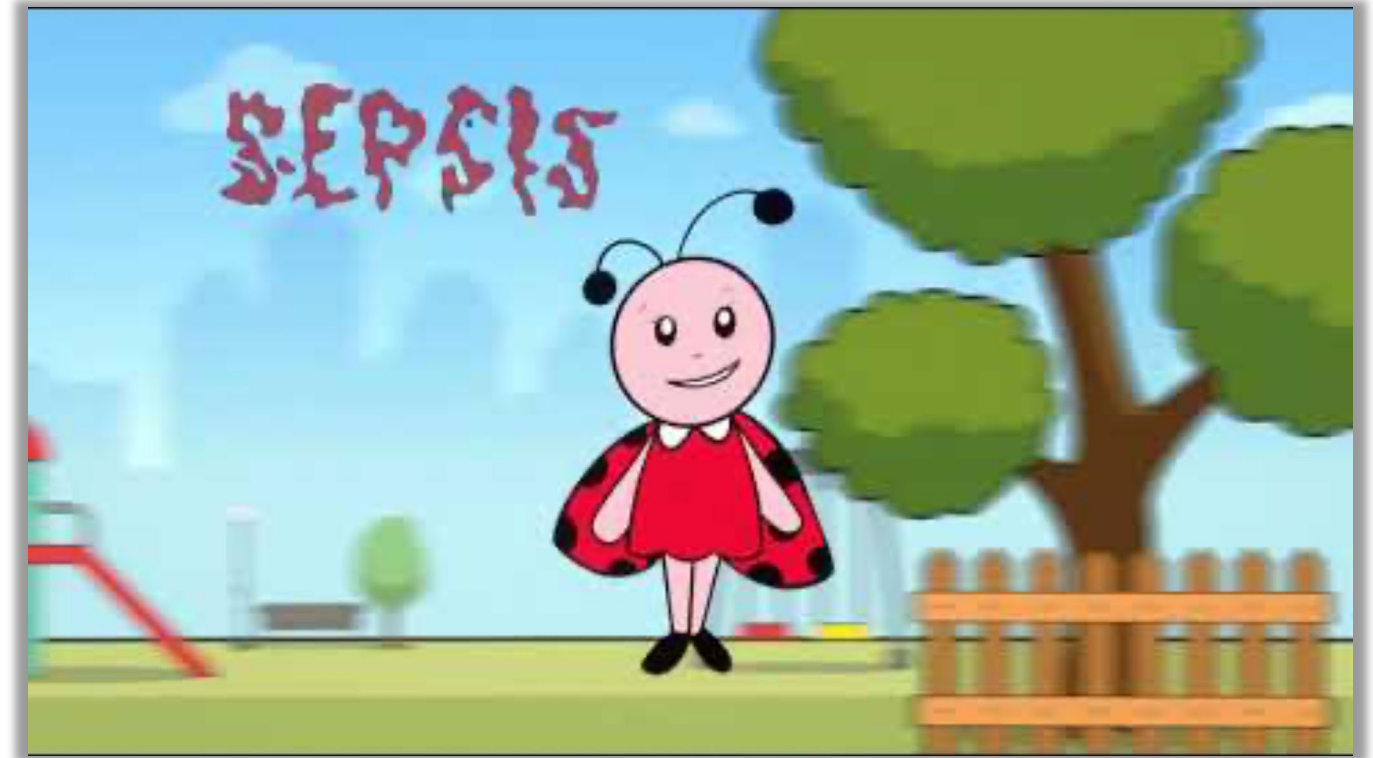
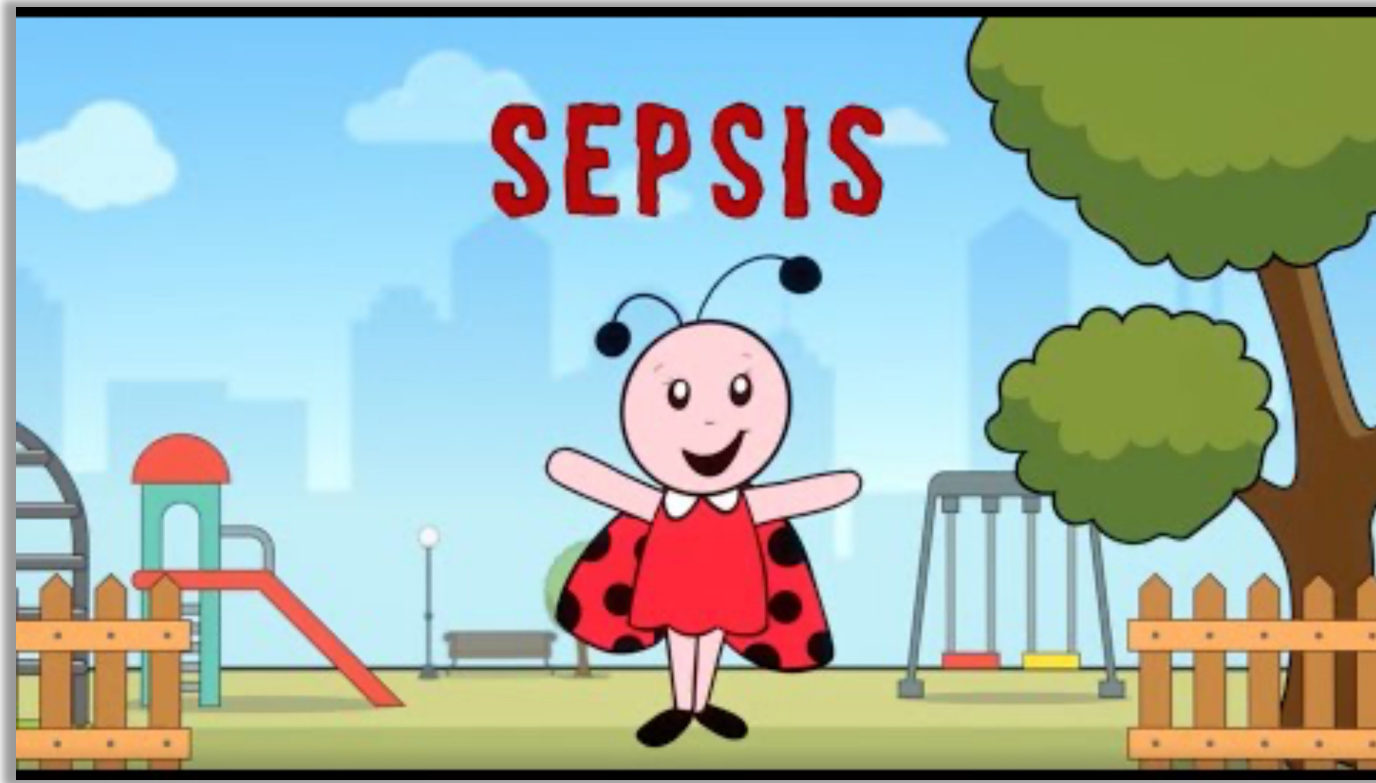


Saving Time to Save Lives:

Building a Research-Ready Community "Patient Academy" for Sepsis Diagnosis

- Project running from February 2024 – July 2025.
- Trained two cohorts to include sepsis survivor and caregiver voices as partners in research.
 - Cohort 1: Sepsis survivors and family/friend caregivers; trained to use their lived experience to inform research study design, conduct, analysis, and dissemination.
 - Cohort 2: Clinicians and researchers; trained to leverage survivor/caregiver voices in the conduct of research.
- Next step: Starting in August 2025, Sepsis Alliance will serve as matchmaker, helping connect program graduates to researchers in the area of sepsis diagnosis.
- Program funded by Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

Pediatric Sepsis – Meet Bug



Bug Helps You Fight Germs

Illustrated by Alyssia Aguilar in loving memory of Mark Anthony II
Sepsis.org



Bug te ayuda a combatir los gérmenes

Ilustrado por Alyssia Aguilar en memoria de Mark Anthony II
Sepsis.org



To find out more about pediatric sepsis visit:
<https://www.sepsis.org/sepsisand/children/>

Get VAXXED

A campaign funded by GlaxoSmithKline

- Vaccination confidence campaign intended to reach medically underserved areas with low vaccination rates in New Orleans, Mississippi, and West Virginia.
- PSA ads running through June and July including billboards, busses, and transit shelters.
- **GetVaxxed.org** landing page provides information about how vaccines work and where to find them, along with their connection to sepsis.

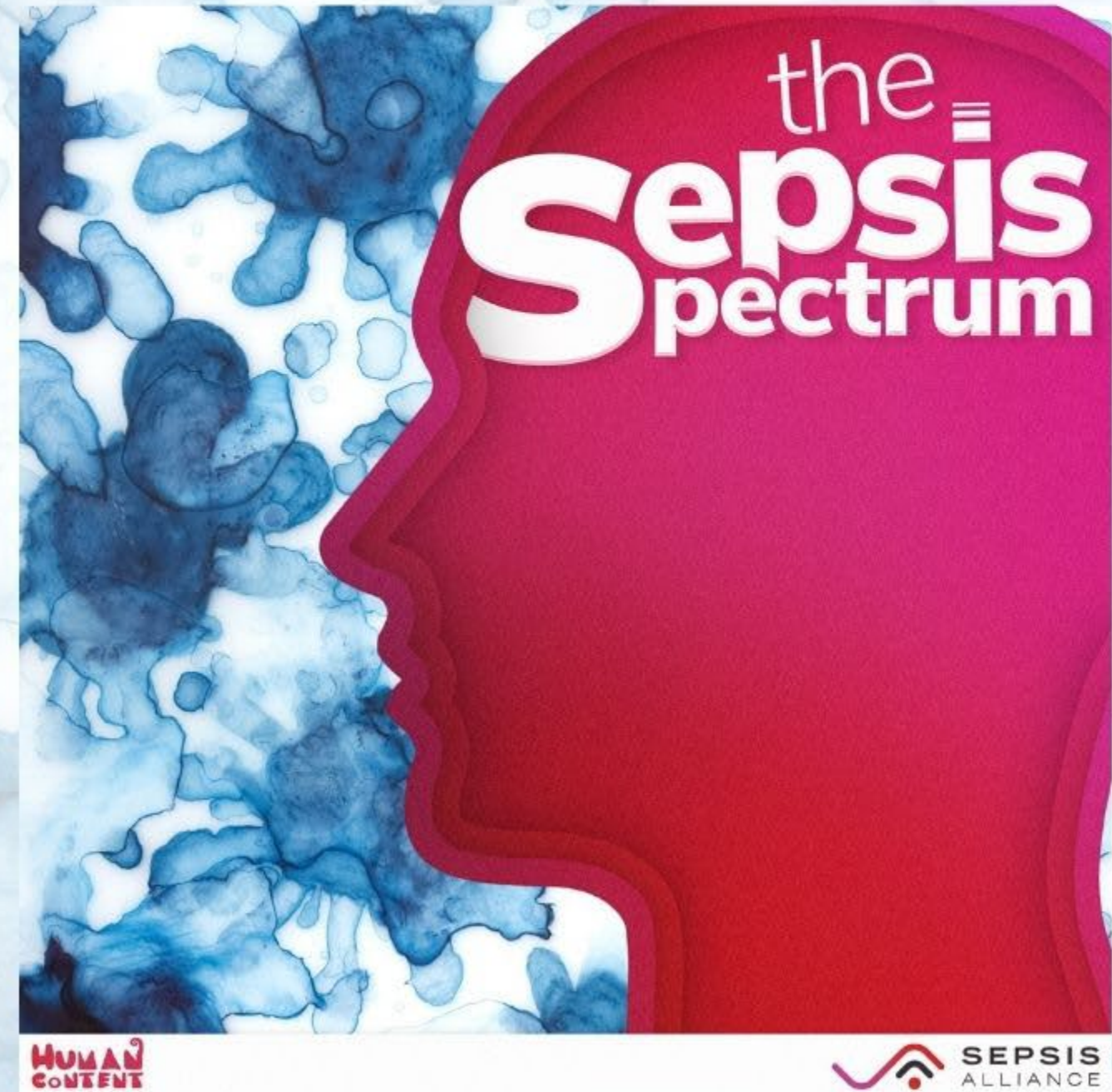


Introducing: The Sepsis Spectrum

A Sepsis Alliance Podcast

Launching July 1st

**ARE
MICROBIAL
MYSTERIES
ALL IN VEIN?**



Sepsis Observances

September is Sepsis Awareness Month

SepsisAwarenessMonth.org

In 2011, Sepsis Alliance declared September to be Sepsis Awareness Month, an annual opportunity for individuals, healthcare professionals, and organizations big and small to help save lives by raising awareness of the leading cause of deaths in U.S. hospitals – sepsis.

SEPSIS >> SAY SEPSIS
SAVE LIVES
SEPTEMBER
SepsisAwarenessMonth.org

- 2,000+ hospitals
- Growing by 1,000 each month.
- Multiple free courses (200+) - new monthly
- Symposia, roundtables, conferences.
- Free CNE (ACCME coming soon).
- Faculty of 275 leading expert SMEs.
- NEW - Sepsis Fundamentals course
- NEW – AMR Podcast

60,000+ Learners

Top Primary Practice Areas:

Quality/Safety/Performance
Improvement (25%)
Critical Care (14%)
Emergency Department (9%)
Infection Prevention (9%)
Medical Surgical (8%)

Top Learner Types:

Nurse (70%)
Healthcare Executive (7%)
Advanced Practice Provider (6%)



SEPSIS ALLIANCE SUMMIT

September 24-25, 2025 | SepsisSummit.org

Scan the QR code to learn more and register



Policy and Advocacy

SepsisVoices.org

Sepsis Alliance Voices™

- Leverage 10,000+ patient voices and 60,000+ HCP voices to influence state and federal regulatory policy and legislation.

Key initiatives:

- Working with CDC on new sepsis measures – outcomes based with automated collection from the EMR which will reduce the burden of documentation under the current SEP-1 measure.
- Lulu's Law (National Sepsis Action Plan per WHO and G-7).
- National Sepsis Data Trust (registry).
- NEW - ICD-10 diagnosis code for post-hospital sepsis care.
- Hospital reimbursement for sepsis care.
 - **NY State Department of Health (DOH) rules under Article 44, all state-licensed hospitals must use Sepsis-2 definitions (based on SIRS criteria) for identification, treatment, and associated billing**
 - Kentucky in place
 - Working with Oklahoma and New Jersey

Research and Innovation

SepsisVoices.org

Key Initiatives:

- Working with all stakeholders to accelerate the flow of innovation "from brain to bedside"
- FDA Collaborative Community – *Infection Management and Sepsis Collaborative Community (IMSCC)* - 100 participating stakeholders
- ASPR funded with BARDA and CDC participation
- Building the platform to convene and catalyze stakeholders to advance sepsis understanding and care improvement





Presents the:

Unite for **Sepsis** Symposium

In partnership with:

**The Grainger College of Engineering and Carle-Illinois College of Medicine
at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

- The Unite for Sepsis Symposium will **foster collaboration and innovation** in the fight against sepsis.
- Topics will include regulatory approval of diagnostics, AI tools, clinical trials, funding pathways, and more, all designed to enhance understanding, improve outcomes, and save lives and limbs.
- **Keynote Speakers:**
 - **Derek Angus, MD, MPH, FRCP, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences and UPMC**
 - **Laura Evans, MD, MSc, University of Washington Medical Center**
 - **Nate Shapiro, MD, Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Lahey Health**

Date: September 8 - 9, 2025
Location: Gleacher Center
Chicago, IL

To learn more or to register and sponsor visit: UniteforSepsis.org

Thank you!

Tom Heymann, President & CEO
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Learn more at sepsis.org.



@sepsisalliance

