

# Enhancing Patient Engagement at FDA

**Andrea Furia-Helms, MPH**

Director, Patient Affairs Staff  
Office of Medical Programs and Tobacco  
Office of the Commissioner

Global Patients Congress  
International Alliance of Patients' Organizations  
25 May, 2018

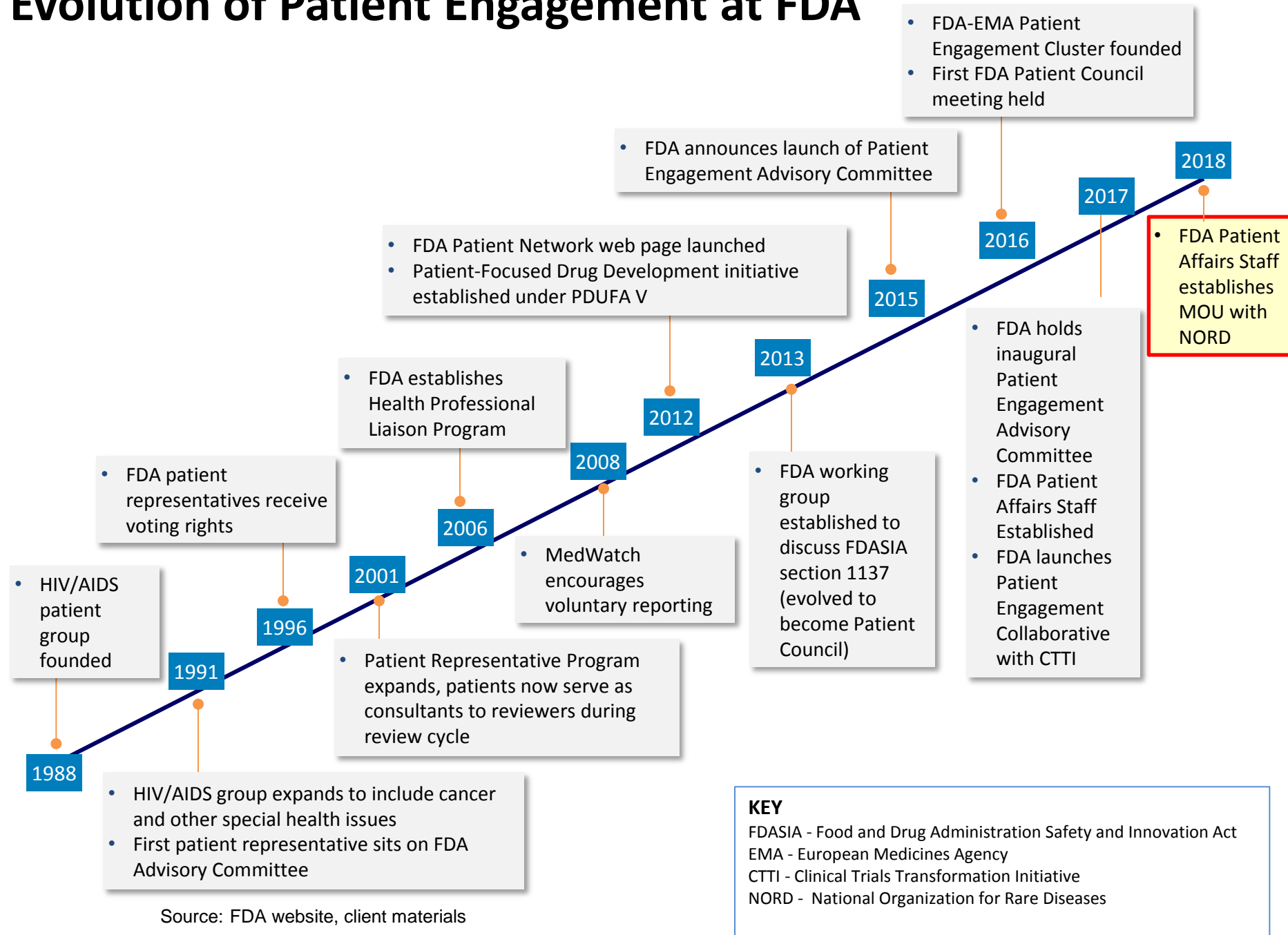
# Why is the Patient Voice Important?

- ➔ Provide insight on issues, problems, and/or questions that are important to patients and family members
- ➔ Patients have a vested interest and diverse opinions/experiences
- ➔ Varied perspectives on risk tolerance and potential benefit
- ➔ The human element (judgment vs. empirical data)

**Ultimately, patients are the focus of all of FDA's activities**



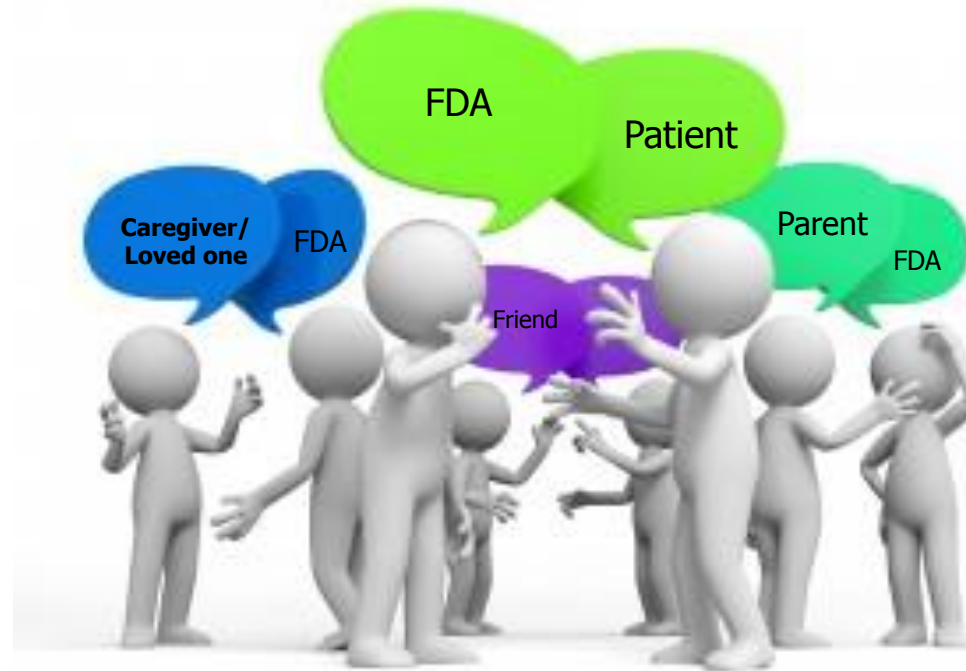
# Evolution of Patient Engagement at FDA



# Patient Affairs Staff (PAS)

## Office of the Commissioner

- Established late 2017
- Works closely with the medical product centers and other offices to support and complement patient engagement efforts
- Reports into the Principal Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco



## **Engage Listen Advocate**

*Early and iterative engagement can improve clinical and regulatory understanding of diseases and conditions, provide a common understanding of the most urgent patient needs, and inform drug development programs.*

Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D.  
FDA Voice, February 26, 2018

# Patient Engagement Cluster



Mutual exchange on:

- Best practices to further enhance engagement activities, approaches and ideas
- Information on approaches for engaging with and involving patients stakeholders
- High profile topics of mutual interest, especially those with potential high public interest
- Priorities and goals regarding future proposals and collaborations to enhance engagement

# Patient Engagement Collaborative (PEC)



The FDA and the Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative (CTTI) are establishing an external group of patient organization and individual representatives to discuss topics about enhancing patient engagement in medical product development and regulatory discussions at FDA.



# Patient Experience Listening Sessions

## Rare Diseases Pilot

- Memorandum of Understanding with the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
- To enhance the incorporation of patient experience information into regulatory discussions
- Inform FDA review division staff what is important to patient communities (e.g., disease burden, risk tolerance, impacts on daily activities and QOL)
- Assess value added to possibly expand



# FDA Patient Representative Program

## Office of the Commissioner



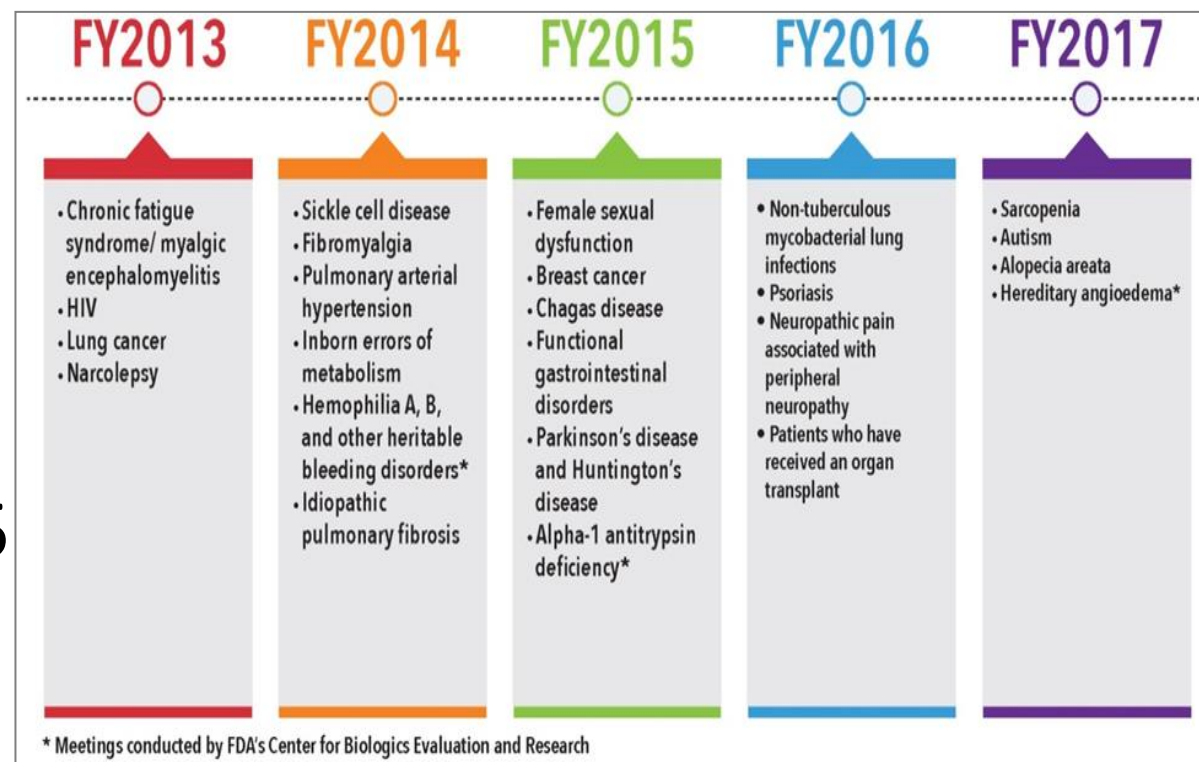
- Began in 1990s
- Patient community voice represented in regulatory discussions
- Special Government Employees (SGEs)
  - Serve in **review division consultation** meetings and on Advisory Committees
- Access to confidential background information
- Over 200 patients and caregivers, representing over 300 diseases and conditions



# Patient Focused Drug Development

Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)/  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)

- A systematic of gathering patient perspectives on their condition to strengthen understanding of disease and treatment burden
- 24 disease specific meetings over 5 years



# Externally-led Patient Focused Drug Development

CDER/CBER

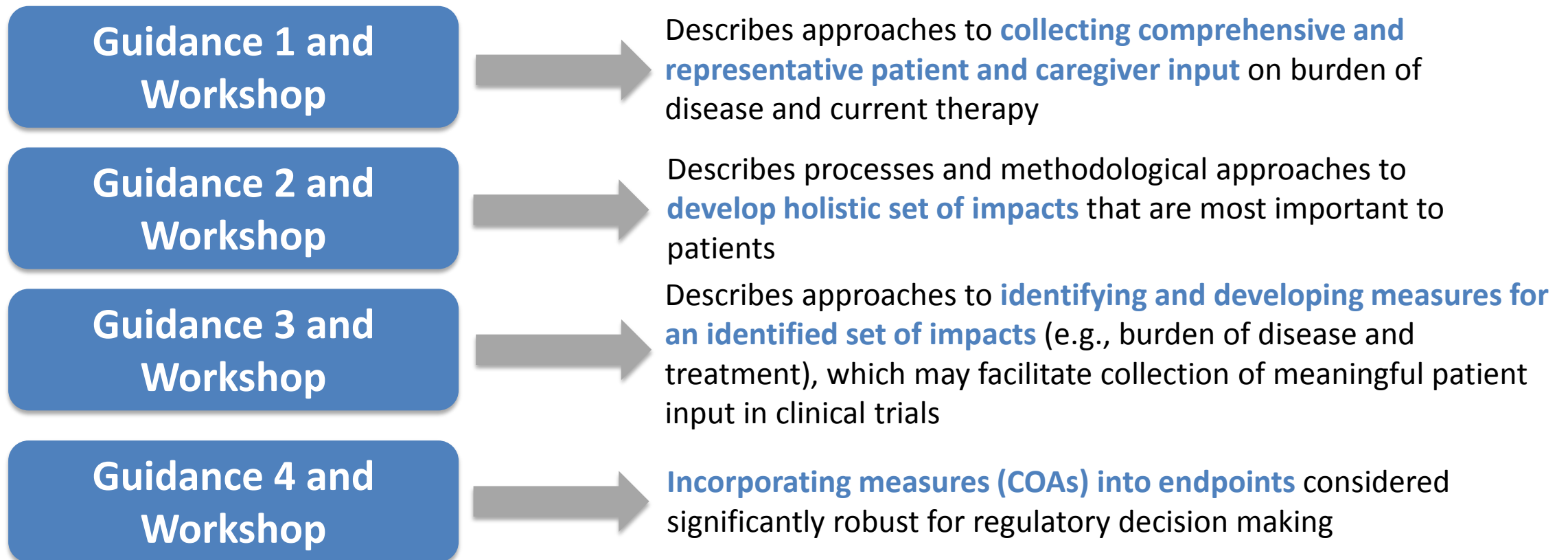
Patient organizations identify and organize patient-focused collaborations to generate public input on specific disease areas

- Amyloidosis
- Friedreich's Ataxia
- Lupus
- Osteoarthritis
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- Tuberous Sclerosis Complex
- Hypereosinophilic Syndrome
- Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) and Pachyonychia Congenita (PC)

# Patient Focused Drug Development

## CDER/CBER

- Upcoming PFDD Methodological Guidance Series



## CDER's Professional Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement (PASE)

- Engages with patient and healthcare professional stakeholders on drug specific issues
- External Stakeholder Meeting Requests (ESMR) System
- Navigating CDER Workshops for Advocacy Groups



# Center for Devices and Radiological Health

- CDRH Strategic Priority 2016- 2017 (Partner with Patients)
- Patient Engagement Advisory Committee
- Patient Preference Initiative



# Contacts

**Rare Disease Listening Sessions Pilot and Patient Engagement Collaborative:**

Patient Affairs Staff: [patientaffairs@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:patientaffairs@fda.hhs.gov)

**FDA Patient Representative Program:** [FDAPatientRepProgram@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:FDAPatientRepProgram@fda.hhs.gov)

**Patient Focused Drug Development:** [patientfocused@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:patientfocused@fda.hhs.gov)

**CDER's Professional Affairs and Stakeholder Engagement:**  
[CDERPASE@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CDERPASE@fda.hhs.gov)

**CDRH's Division of Industry and Consumer Education:** [DICE@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:DICE@fda.hhs.gov)

**Thank you**



[patientaffairs@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:patientaffairs@fda.hhs.gov)