

# Introduction of Section: Breakout Session Reports

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The Cancer Risk Communication workshop was designed to share knowledge and expertise across professional disciplines, to identify effective methods of communicating risk information, and to establish a research agenda for cancer risk communications. There were two primary workshop objectives:

- Identify “best practices” in cancer risk communications for immediate use by risk researchers, journal editors, institutional communicators, and mass media representatives, as well as those who convey risk information through interpersonal communication.
- Identify the most pressing research needs in cancer risk communications.

After hearing 2 days of presentations, workshop participants divided into two working groups—one to “best practices” and

the other to identify research needs for cancer risk communications. Following are the reports of the two working groups. Elaine Bratic Arkin summarized the results of the working group on best practices, and Edward Maibach, Ph.D., summarized the results of the group that considered a research agenda.

Workshop organizers hope that ideas in these two papers can be implemented rapidly. Many of the best practices can be implemented immediately. The research needs can be addressed not only by organizations that fund such research but also by investigators from a variety of professional disciplines.

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