



Dane Dickson, MD
Oncologist, CEO and Founder, Taproot Health™

Dane Dickson’s goal is that he will never have to tell another cancer patient that without a miracle, they are going to die of cancer.

That’s why he founded Taproot Health in 2018. Taproot is the first data-as-a-service model to offer access to a comprehensive database of cancer research. With the availability of this critically important resource, oncologists, scientists and eventually patients will be able to access better clinical trials, tying the outcomes of individuals and groups of patients to new modalities and treatment plans driven by genomics. Taproot cuts through the silos that currently exist to prevent access to cancer data, presents this data in one platform, and ensures that patients give permission for use of their information.

This vision was inspired by Dr. Dickson’s years as a practicing oncologist and his experience in research and with the Federal government in clinical trial reporting, molecular medicine and data collection. That expertise, combined with his deep compassion for patients, inspired him to build a data clearinghouse that would change the future of cancer care for patients worldwide.

Roles Across Many Health Ecosystems

Dr. Dickson’s journey to Taproot Health, and his motivation to advance cancer research, stemmed from various roles held across the healthcare ecosystem. Dr. Dickson served as President and CEO of the Summarius Corporation for more than a decade. In that role, he developed a method of converting clinical trial information into a graphical and standardized format, thus allowing very rapid learning of the salient points of the trial. Because of its innovative approach to data sharing, two leading pharmaceutical companies adopted his proprietary format for clinical trial reporting.

Additionally, he served as the Director of Clinical Science at Medicare’s Palmetto GBA’s MolDX program, where he worked with many stakeholders on the technical and clinical strength of molecular medicine testing and direction. In this role, he authored the clinical testing evaluation process (MolDX CTEP), certification, and training registry (CTR). He pioneered the concept of coverage with data development (CDD) to allow earlier

introduction of promising technologies that had shown strong preliminary clinical utility and patient safety.

Prior to this, he was a scientific advisor for two Medicare Administrative Contractors, advising on the technical merits and evidence strength of molecular testing. Navigating the layers of the Medicare system in this role further solidified the necessity for improved clinical outcomes at a faster pace, and motivated Dr. Dickson down the path to finding a solution.

Successful Oncologist

While he was building his presence in the cancer research community, in his home state of Idaho, Dr. Dickson also established a thriving oncology practice. It was here that he resurrected the Idaho Society of Clinical Oncology (ISCO) in 2012 to meet the needs of many cancer physicians for centralized information in a rapidly evolving field. He continues to treat cancer patients today, giving him important insights into the patient experience.

In addition to his practice and leadership at Taproot, he is the Director of Precision Medicine Policy and Registries at the Knight Cancer Center at Oregon Health and Science University. He has also served in service and leadership roles at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

Education and Family

Born the second of eight boys to parents who were both schoolteachers, he felt a strong connection to oncology. At a young age, he witnessed the impact and pain caused by the diagnosis of cancer for one of his family members. That experience, among others, is what led him to dedicate his professional career toward cancer care, and ultimately to founding Taproot Health.

Dr. Dickson received his Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of Utah and completed his residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He completed his Fellowship in Hematology and Oncology from the Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah. Dr. Dickson is Board Certified in Medical Oncology from the American Board of Internal Medicine. He has written numerous articles for well-respected peer-reviewed journals and speaks often at industry conferences. He also speaks Spanish.

Dr. Dickson resides in Rexburg, Idaho, with his wife and three sons. When not working, Dr. Dickson enjoys spending time with his family, learning and reading, hiking, backpacking, and biking.

For more information on Taproot, visit www.taprootco.com