

**FIGHT COLORECTAL CANCER™**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**Fight CRC is the leading patient advocacy group for colorectal cancer in the United States.**

**Our  
Mission**



We fight to cure colorectal cancer and serve as relentless champions of hope for all affected by this disease through informed patient support, impactful policy change, and breakthrough research endeavors.



# Change-makers for more than 15 years, and we're just getting started.

Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death. By 2030, it's projected to become the leading cause of cancer death for those under 50. Yet, it's the cancer no one wants to talk about. Fight CRC works to support and inform patients while driving policy change and breakthrough research.

Together, with our community of patients, families, and caregivers, Fight CRC works relentlessly to bring attention to colorectal cancer and all the issues surrounding it. Driven by this increased sense of urgency, Fight CRC is propelling science forward by ensuring patients' real needs are at the core of conversations.

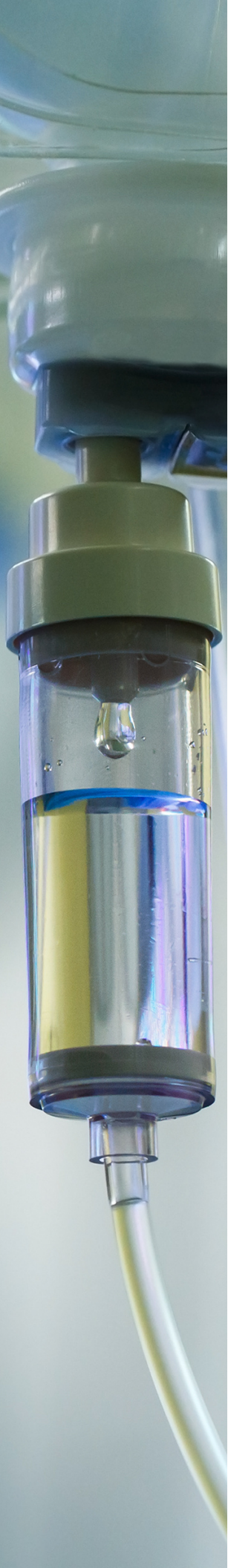
The overall survival rate for people with colorectal cancer has not budged, and the treatment pipeline has stagnated. We need to re-evaluate how we look at overall survival and begin to look beyond only "stage of colorectal cancer."

We need to adjust narrow goals of targeted therapies for specific demographics: **We need to push the science.**



**"The Path to a Cure Report is the first of its kind, pushing us to collaborate and align our efforts in all areas of colorectal cancer.**

— Anjee Davis, MPPA | President, Fight CRC



The Path to a Cure Report is a professional, multidisciplinary publication, which seeks to summarize and communicate a plan for our community to rally around: pushing forward critical areas of research; care for patients; and policy — from prevention to survivorship. The use of technical jargon and associated acronyms is avoided as much as possible. This report is not exhaustive and will be updated as our community takes critical steps forward.



**"As a community, there is tremendous potential when we coordinate our efforts toward common goals. This project brings together many of the thought leaders in the colorectal cancer community that are passionate about accelerating research and improving outcomes for colorectal cancer patients. Together, we can tackle big ideas with ambitious and meaningful impact!"**

**– Dr. Scott Kopetz**

The Path to a Cure Report is broken down into four sections, each providing progress indicators, key messages, opportunities and challenges, and the voices of survivors.

Each indicator has a plan of action to ensure that all our partners, collaborators, and champions know how they can play a role in contributing a Path to a Cure by:

- \* Creating awareness by helping identify preventable and unpreventable causes of colorectal cancer;
- \* Promoting importance of screening so colorectal cancer is found early when it is most treatable with less invasive methods, while also advising people to be screened if showing signs and symptoms;
- \* Supporting ongoing research and advancements in innovative treatment options; and
- \* Addressing quality of life beyond diagnosis, treatment, and surgery.

## Summary of each section:

**1**

### **BIOLOGY AND ETIOLOGY**

#### **PROGRESS INDICATOR**

Applying What We Know from Biology and Hereditary Risk to Reduce Late-Stage Colorectal Cancer

**2**

### **PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION**

#### **PROGRESS INDICATOR**

Advancing colorectal cancer prevention and early detection

**3**

### **TREATMENT**

#### **PROGRESS INDICATOR**

Expanding Treatment Strategies for CRC Patients, which have not progressed quickly enough over time

**4**

### **SURVIVORSHIP AND RECURRENCE**

#### **PROGRESS INDICATOR**

Address quality of life issues and preventive steps to avoid recurrence





**"A Path to a Cure would mean that I wouldn't have to feel like I am suffering from PTSD of wondering if I am going to have a recurrence. Or am I just going to have to stay with the standard form of treatment that's been given, chemotherapy or radiation. I don't want that. So, for me a Path to a Cure means I have a better quality of life versus quantity of life."**

— Wenora Johnson, 3x cancer survivor and research advocate

## Our future is now.

This report reflects the commitment of relentless champions across the country involved in the scientific research process and locking arms to advocate for colorectal cancer research funding, and communicating research findings to the public.

We represent passionate men and women willing to push for policy change and move past the status quo. For our patients, we continue to fight for them and alongside them. We are giving a voice to all those impacted by colorectal cancer. We bravely hold on to hope for a cure.

Together, working hand in hand across industry, academia, advocacy, public health, government agencies, and with patients, this plan will drive and unify stakeholders to ask important questions, prioritize, and expand our scientific efforts.

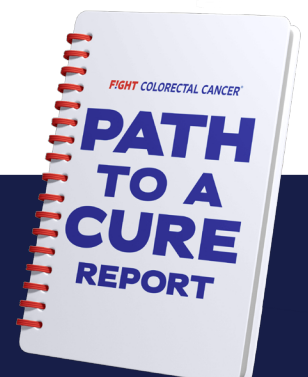


**"Going through a dedicated process with subject matter experts to define actionable steps to a cure is the least we can do for the patient, survivor, and caregiver community."**

— Andrea (Andi) Dwyer, University Colorado Cancer Center and advisor to Fight CRC

**Read the Report and be  
a Research Champion!**

[FightCRC.org/path](https://FightCRC.org/path)

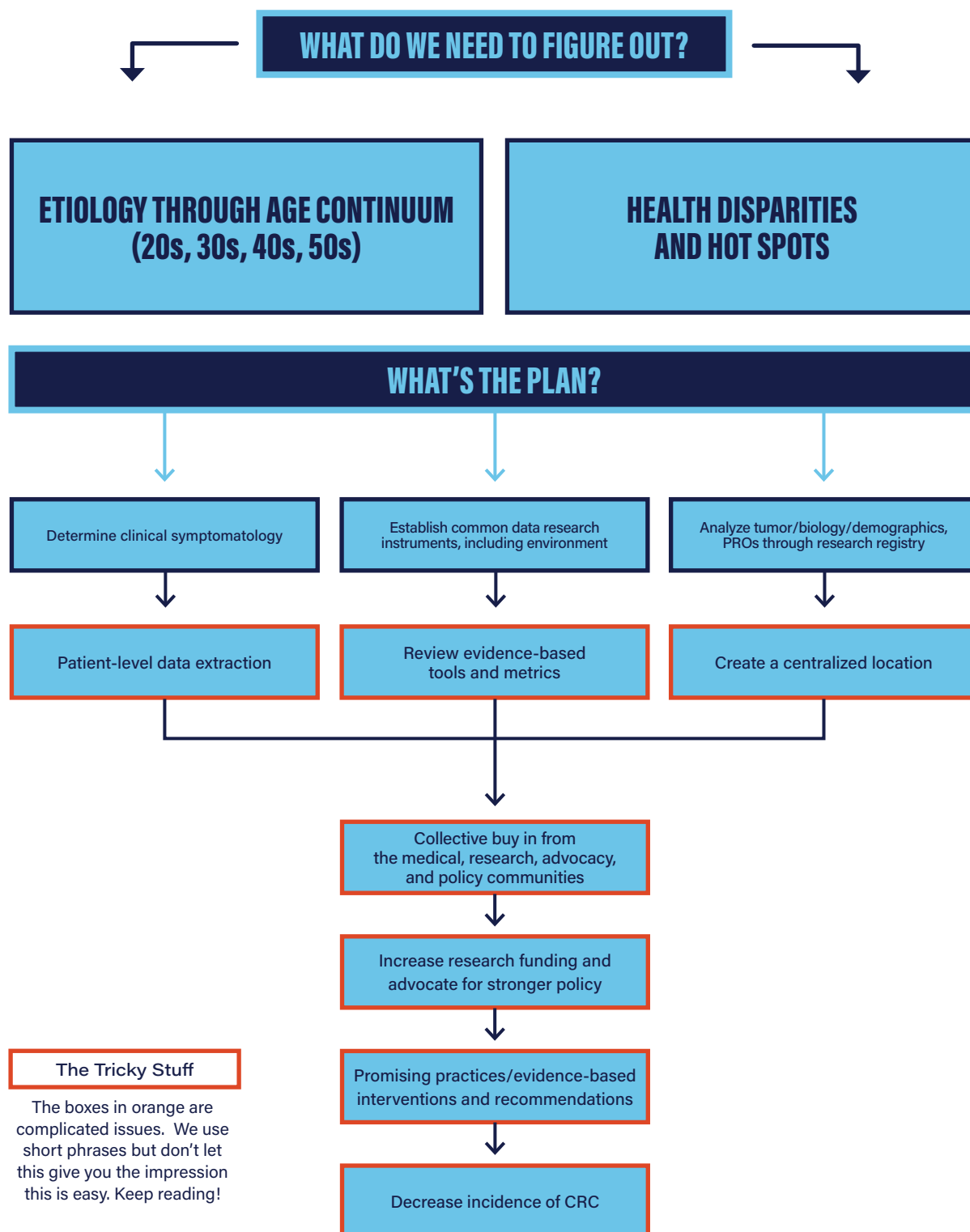




# 1 BIOLOGY AND ETIOLOGY

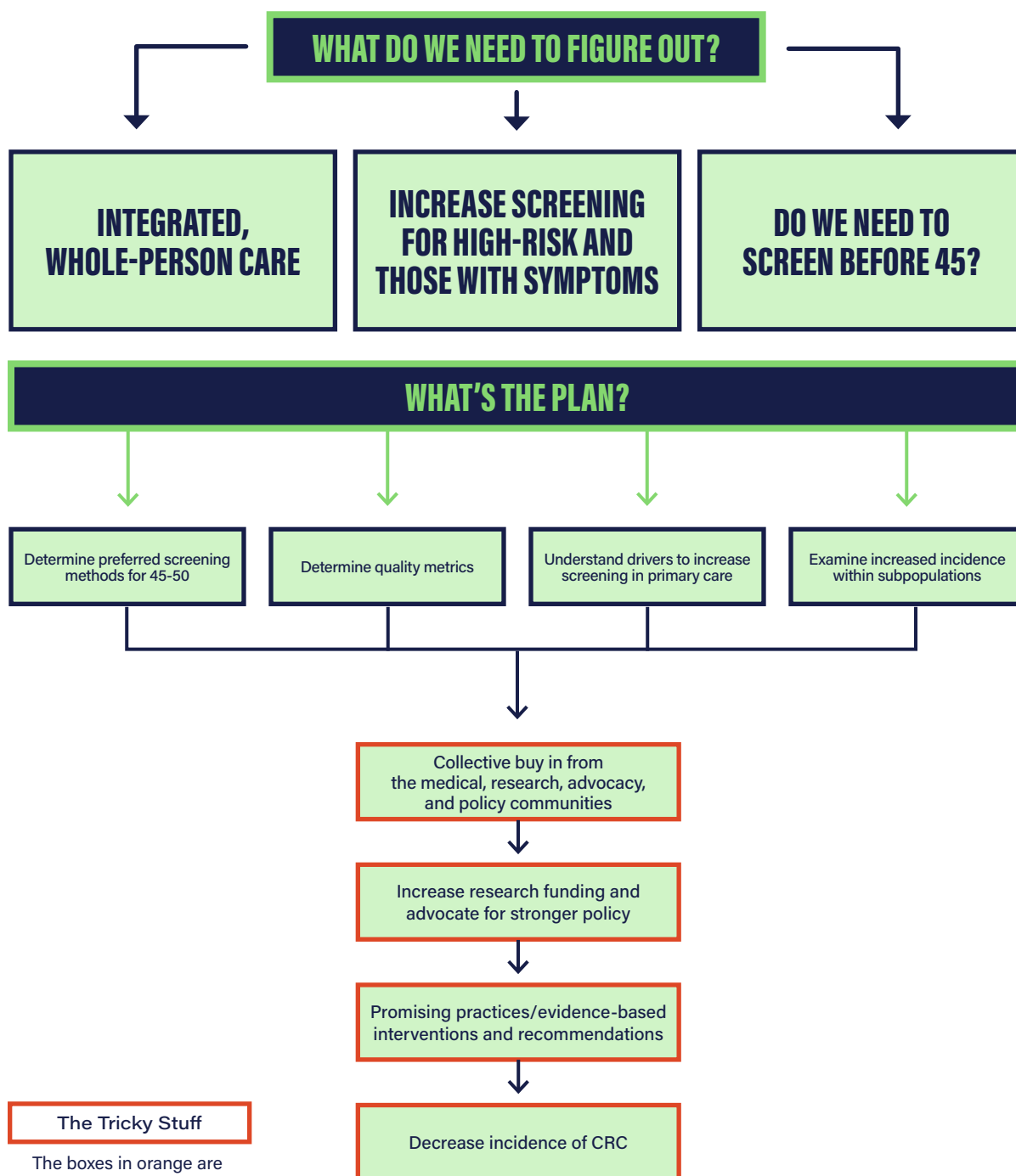
## PROGRESS INDICATOR

Applying What We Know from Biology and Hereditary Risk to Reduce Late-Stage Colorectal Cancer



# 2 PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION

**PROGRESS INDICATOR**  
Advancing Colorectal Cancer  
Prevention and Early Detection



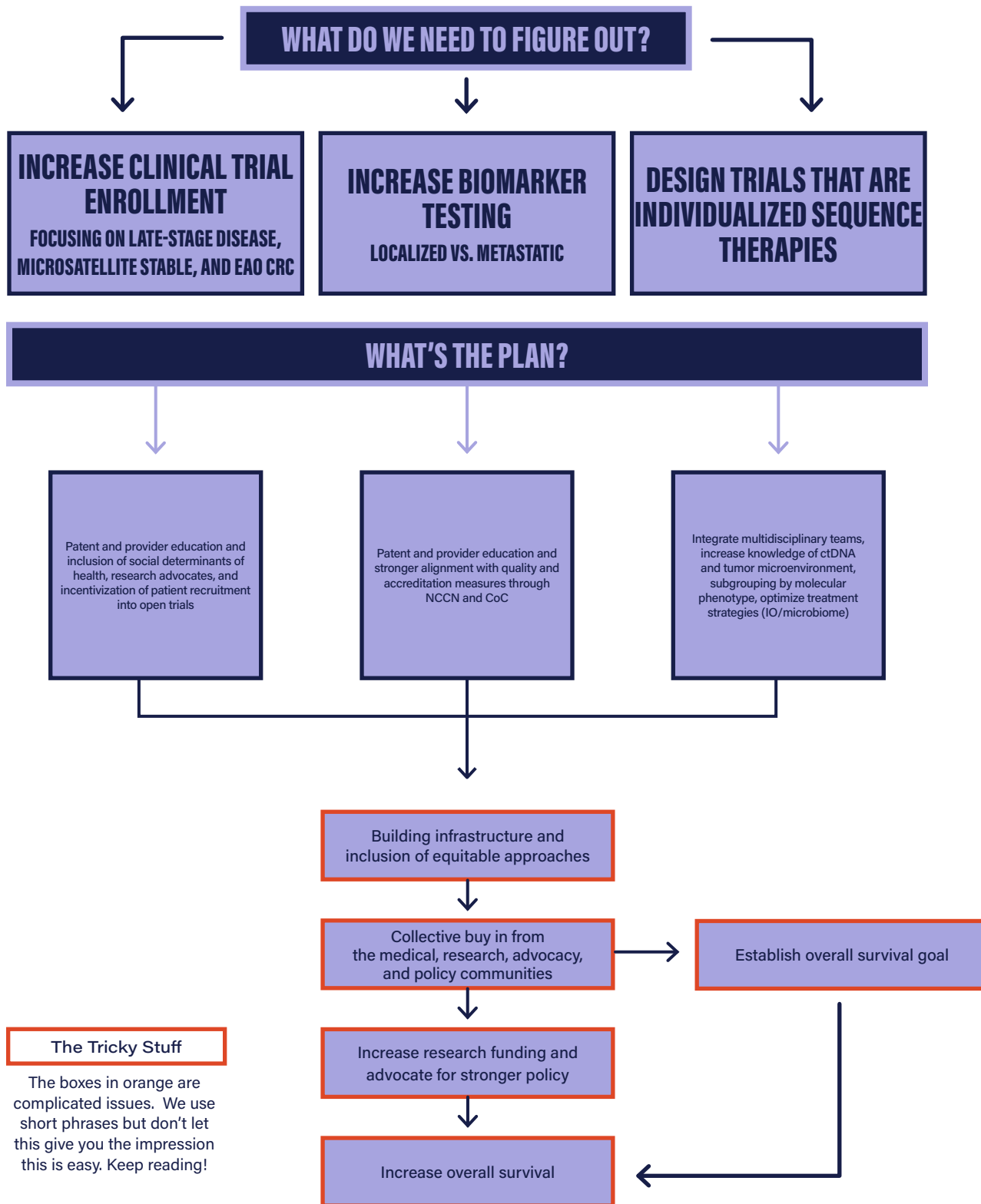
## The Tricky Stuff

The boxes in orange are complicated issues. We use short phrases but don't let this give you the impression this is easy. Keep reading!

# 3 TREATMENT

## PROGRESS INDICATOR

Expanding Treatment Strategies for Colorectal Cancer Patients, Which Have Not Progressed Quickly Enough Over Time

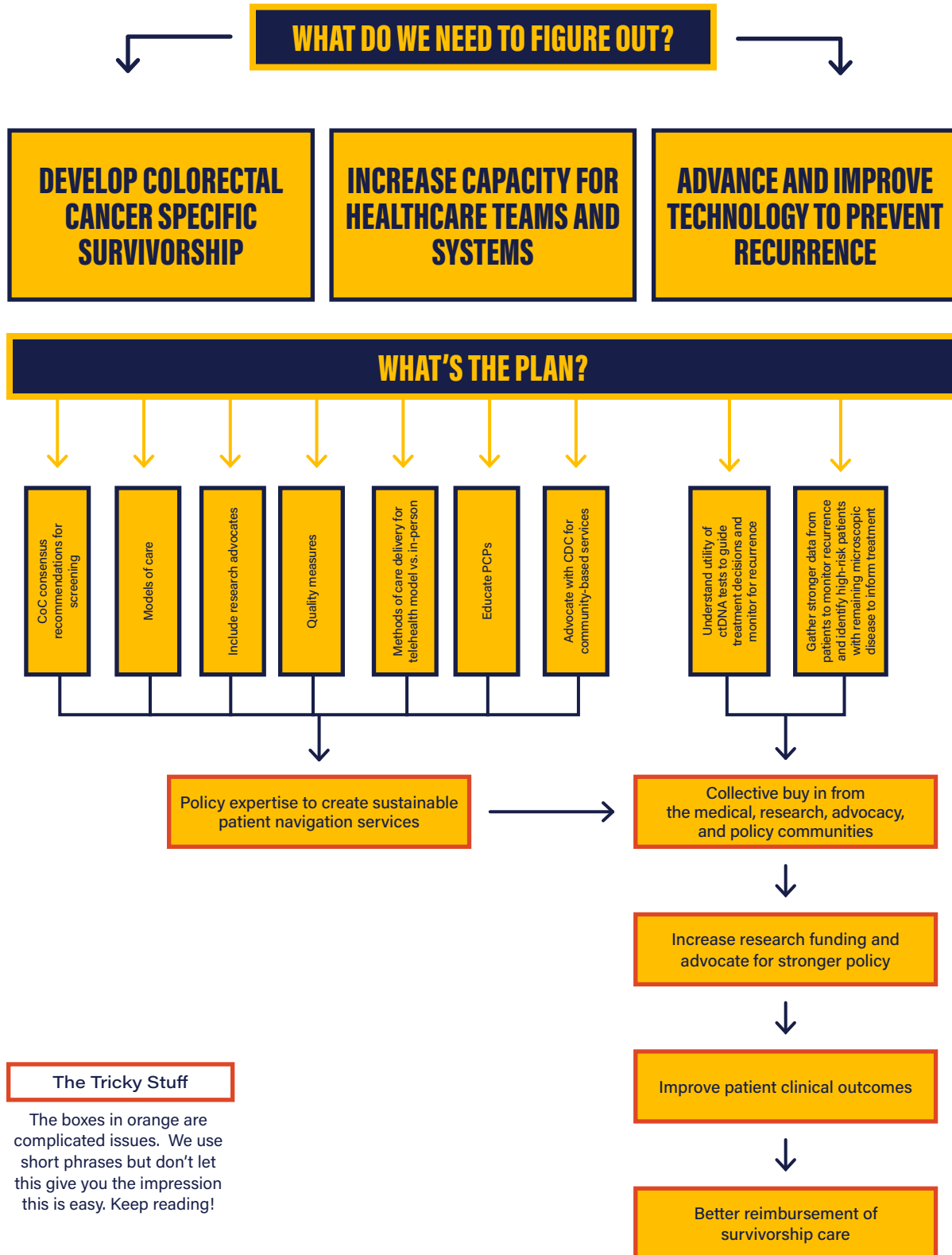




# 4 SURVIVORSHIP AND RECURRENCE

## PROGRESS INDICATOR

Addressing Quality of Life Issues and Preventive Steps to Avoid Recurrence





# Meet the Experts Behind the Path to a Cure Report

Fight Colorectal Cancer (Fight CRC) expresses our deepest appreciation to all those who provided time, effort, and expertise in their contributions, discussions, and evolution of this report. A special thanks to our advisors and writers, for their contributions in stimulating suggestions, encouragement, and vision in the efforts to save lives from colorectal cancer.

Path to a Cure Report continues to engage the conversation around patient education and awareness, communication with your healthcare provider—especially around an extremely uncomfortable topic, family history, and systems and practices—and how we align incentives with what is actually best for everyone.

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West Virginia University Cancer Institute  
University of California, San Diego  
Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Precision BioSciences  
Fox Chase Cancer Center  
Northwestern University  
VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System  
MD Anderson  
University of Texas Southwestern  
Johns Hopkins Medical Center  
University of Colorado Cancer Center  
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Fundación Jiménez Díaz University Hospital  
ChristianaCare Health System  
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UT Southwestern  
Johns Hopkins University  
American Cancer Society  
American Cancer Society  
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