Patient centered advocacy and education events bring patient leaders, public and healthcare stakeholders together to discuss contemporary issues related to a condition. Acoustic Neuroma (Vestibular Schwannoma) is a benign intra-cranial neoplasm which requires an intricate, patient driven approach for optimal management. Acoustic Neuroma Association (ANA) is a non-profit organization of over 3000 members including patients, family members, public and health care professionals. Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) has considerable experience with management of Acoustic Neuroma and related conditions and is a designated center of excellence. It fosters a multi-disciplinary collaborative care algorithm with involvement of neurotology, neurosurgery, radiation oncology, hearing and speech sciences, facial nerve and vestibular rehabilitative professionals. Here we report on a collaborative event between ANA and VUMC directed at patient education and advocacy.

The event was well attended with patients and caregivers (Total attendee = 175). Individual interactive talks focusing on contemporary aspects of diagnosis and management of acoustic neuroma were delivered with considerable audience engagement.

Two interactive panel based discussions of various aspects of management was also undertaken. This allowed a closer look at all aspects of management including observation, stereotactic radiation as well as microsurgical resection.

The event was well attended and generated considerable social media interest as well. It also resulted in new patient visits as well as second opinion visits with the department of Otolaryngology at VUMC.

Thank you Vanderbilt Oto and Neurosurgery for a fantastic day of education and support for acoustic neuroma patients and caregivers! #acousticneuroma

Vanderbilt provides closed captioning for patients at the ANA @ANAssociation patient event. #MedEd #patienceducation

Patient centered educational and advocacy events are integral in bringing healthcare professionals, patient and caregivers together to increase awareness and discuss state-of-the art treatment algorithms for a particular disorder.