

The Thrill of the Chill

We are proud to announce that our Kinexer, Joy Cavagnaro, once again took the Icy Plunge and [Went] for the Cold! Coach Joy has been involved with the Special Olympics Organization for over 20 years, not only as a polar plunger, but as a multi-sport coach in her local area, Loudoun County, VA and as a national swim coach for Team Virginia at USA Games in 2014, 2018 and 2022. She is mentoring her 5th Global Messenger, a leadership program for athletes helping spread the mission and vision of Special Olympics.

Special Olympics is much more than sports - it is a global movement helping transform the lives of children and adults with intellectual disabilities and build communities of respect, inclusion, and unity. Joy currently serves as Chair of the Board for Special Olympics VA.

As a distinguished scientist, Joy gets a thrill assisting in the translation of novel therapies into the clinic. This past fall, Dr. Cavagnaro received the American College of Toxicology's Distinguished Scientist Award for her "*involvement in important public health issues of the last 30 years; service to the public, pharmaceutical industry, scientific and regulatory literature, and public health regulatory policy; and pivotal contributions, in the field of biologics.*" Dr. Cavagnaro's early contributions to the field of biopharmaceutical safety advocacy for science-based, case-by-case evaluations, has formed the basis for all subsequent testing in this area.

Remarkably, Joy recently received another prestigious award: the [American Society of Cell and Gene Therapy \(ASGCT\) Catalyst Award](#). The award recognizes an ASGCT member that has had **an extraordinary impact on the translation of gene and cell therapies** and has contributed in biomarker identification, endpoint development, manufacturing and scale-up, policy, or regulatory science. The ASGCT Catalyst Award will be given to Joy in the context of the [annual ASGCT meeting](#) in May 16-20, 2023, in Los Angeles, CA.

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<https://impact.specialolympicsva.org/fundraiser/4313504>

