

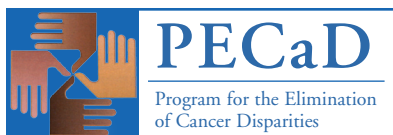
# PECaD Website Revamped

The Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center launched a new and improved website in October 2010. As a part of this effort, PECaD updated and revamped its website content. You can now find detailed information about the program, its leadership, and initiatives to reduce and ultimately eliminate cancer health disparities.

Major sections of the new website include the following: community partnerships; outreach and education; research and quality-improvement; training in transdisciplinary community-based participatory research; news; resources; and clinical studies outreach. Our newsletter is also archived online.

PECaD website content is linked from the top navigation bar of the main Siteman Cancer Center website (<http://www.siteman.wustl.edu>). From the top navigation, you can find PECaD in the Prevention and Screening section and in the Research section or directly at <http://www.siteman.wustl.edu/pecad.aspx>.

If you would like to link to the Siteman Cancer Center or PECaD from your organization or program website, you are encouraged to contact us at 314-747-4611.



PECaD

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PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CANCER DISPARITIES

# STL Connection

Volume VI Issue I 2011

**In this Issue • Regional Navigator Workgroup • Health Connections • PECaD Website • Clinical Trial Recruitment Tool**

**Insert • Facts About Lung Cancer Game • Community Calendar January-March 2011**

## Connecting Patients to Care: The St. Louis Regional Breast Navigator Workgroup

Have you ever been given the responsibility for a task, but felt there were too many obstacles to complete it successfully? Some people would simply give up. However, there is a motivated and resourceful group of individuals in the St. Louis region that never give up. Who are they? Their formal titles within organizations can vary from case manager, to navigator, to community health worker, to coordinator and so on. Essentially, they are breast health navigators in the St. Louis Metropolitan area in Missouri and Illinois.

Breast health navigators work through every challenge, over every hurdle and around any barrier to help successfully facilitate women through breast cancer screening and diagnosis. They leave no stone unturned. For example, one navigator states, “I help women overcome financial, physical and emotional barriers [to mammography].” This includes ensuring timely follow-up appointments and coordination of services and treatment.

The complex nature of breast cancer disparities, which remain prevalent among racial/ethnic minorities and underserved populations, reveals the importance of breast health navigators as linchpins in the breast cancer screening and diagnostic process. The process alone can involve many health care providers, organizations, and departments within organizations. And this is after a woman is engaged in a care pathway. Collectively, breast health navigators help ensure that women do not fall through the cracks in meeting breast cancer screening



guidelines. Ms. Chereese Agard from Family Care Health Centers says, “Case managing and keeping one-to-one communication with the patients is very important. It keeps those who are hard to reach from being lost in the system. Sometimes women are hesitant to have their mammograms done due to fear or anxiety. It’s important for those patients to have someone that can answer questions and allay those fears.”

A coalition of breast health navigators in the St. Louis Metropolitan area—the St. Louis Regional Breast Navigator Workgroup—meets quarterly to enhance communication between their sites, share best practices and resources, and brainstorm ways to improve the patient flow from medical home

*(continued on page 2)*



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## Connecting Patients to Care: The St. Louis Regional Breast Navigator Workgroup *(continued from page1)*

to specialty care to treatment center. The St. Louis Regional Breast Navigator Workgroup was established in response to interest expressed at meetings of the Siteman Cancer Center Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD) Breast Cancer Community Partnership (BCaP) and based on the following recommendation from the St. Louis Integrated Health Network's (IHN) Breast Cancer Referral Initiative:

“Key contact persons at each organization (breast navigator or referral coordinator at each community health center, community-outreach-navigator(s) at the breast health center(s), and the utilization management nurse at ConnectCare) to meet quarterly to enhance communication, improve processes, share suggestions, and provide support in the effort to facilitate all breast health referrals from the safety-network.”

*Excerpt from IHN Breast Cancer Referral Initiative Recommendations*

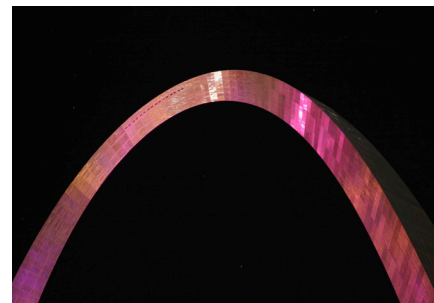


The workgroup has met three times since it was formed in 2010. Already, they have shared and implemented process improvements, shared best practices, and connected each other to resources.

The workgroup is facilitated by Heidi Miller, MD, a safety-net primary care provider at Family Care Health Centers. Dr. Miller led a consensus process as a consultant of the Integrated Health Network to understand and improve referral processes in the region for breast cancer care. From this experience and her clinical practice, Dr. Miller has brought remarkable context to the workgroup and know-how for facilitating group conversation. “These enthusiastic and thoughtful navigators have an enormous impact on the health of their patients. They work tirelessly to overcome the socioeconomic, logistical, and emotional reasons that vulnerable patients may miss out on breast screening. It is an honor to facilitate their discussion and to understand what their patients are actually experiencing,” says Dr. Miller.

“The workgroup’s task is consistent with the goal of the PECaD to work with community partners to find solutions together to eliminate cancer health disparities,” says Dr. Graham Colditz, PECaD Director and Niess-Gain Professor in the Division of Public Health Sciences, Department of Surgery, at Washington University School of Medicine. PECaD has supported the goals of this coalition, by nurturing its development and underwriting all activities of the workgroup.

The St. Louis Regional Breast Navigator Workgroup is a unique collaborative partnership among safety-net providers. These dedicated breast navigators work one-on-one with large



panels of patients on a daily basis within their own organizations. Empowered by each other, the navigators use workgroup meetings to identify collective concerns and develop potential solutions. This enhances their ability to serve as change agents in the broader community as well as in their own organizations. As such, navigators have tremendous impact on the health and empowerment of uninsured and underinsured women in the region.



# Hitting the Airways on “Health Connections” with Rose Troupe

The Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD) has teamed up with Clear Channel Radio to offer cancer health and prevention information over the radio waves. The program entered into a yearlong campaign in collaboration with the “Health Connections” radio show and host Rose Robins Troupe, BSN, RN, MPA on KMJM Majic 104.9 FM and KATZ Hallelujah AM 1600.

PECaD’s goal for this campaign is to empower the St. Louis metropolitan community with important cancer health and wellness education. Long term, we want to empower the community with cancer prevention information in order to eliminate a disproportionate and excessive cancer burden.

Cancer-related show segments on “Health Connections” with Rose Troupe air live from 7:30-8:00 am during the “Sunday Morning Live” show on Majic 104.9 FM on the first and third Sunday of every month. If you miss the live show, a taped re-broadcast is aired on Hallelujah AM 1600 from 6:00-6:30 pm, also on the first and third Sunday of every month.

Segments will feature interviews with local cancer prevention and control doctors and experts. Radio listeners will have opportunities to call in and ask the expert about cancer topics. Listeners can also tune into the “Health Connections” show via the internet at KMJM.com and click on “Listen Live.” Health content and resources discussed during show segments will be available online via the



“Health Connections” Health Portal on both the FM and AM station websites.

We are excited about the campaign. It will offer another opportunity for community members to learn about cancer prevention. It adds to our ongoing community engagement activities and media outreach with venues like the St. Louis American newspaper. For inquiries about the campaign, please contact PECaD at 314-747-4611.

## PECaD Profile: AccrualNet

In this section of the newsletter, we usually profile the work of a clinical investigator or physician related to his/her achievement of diverse patient participation in clinical studies at Siteman. However, in this issue, we highlight a resource tool that investigators can use to help with clinical trial recruitment.

AccrualNet (<http://accrualnet.acscreativeclients.com>) is a website that is maintained by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). It is both a resource and a community for professionals for clinical trial accrual. The goal of AccrualNet is to offer health care providers a single source for clinical trial recruitment resources, strategies and tools. It is intended to be both an information resource and a forum for asking questions, sharing suggestions, lessons learned, and useful resources.

How it works: NCI posts new evidence-based information and articles about resources for clinical trial recruiting, accrual and retention. They share training, education and sample materials. The site provides a forum for discussion of strategies and experiences. You can:

- Find or submit a new tool, strategy or resource
- Add comments
- Begin or join a discussion topic

