



PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CANCER DISPARITIES

STL Connection

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Update on partner activities to address breast cancer disparities in North St. Louis

Thanks to a recent Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Vulnerable Community Project grant, the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD) at Siteman Cancer Center continues its efforts to enhance the continuum of breast cancer care in St. Louis. In order to explain the disproportionate rates of breast cancer mortality between African-American women and white women, PECaD is using the grant to identify reasons for shortfalls or gaps in the treatment of African-American women living in North St. Louis, who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Once identified, PECaD and partners will work to remedy those shortfalls and gaps.

Eight zip codes have been identified that represent areas of high breast cancer mortality for African-American women in North St. Louis City and County. Collaborating in this effort are four community partners: Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Clinic, Christian Hospital, Women's Wellness Unit of St. Louis Effort for AIDS, and Committed Caring Faith Communities. Together with PECaD and Washington University they are working to help inform science, increase recruitment, outreach and education efforts, and build trust within the community.

The project team is currently conducting focus groups with residents from the 63106, 63107, 63112, 63113, 63115, 63120, 63136 and 63174 zip codes, and will next host focus groups with various types of providers. After all the focus groups have been conducted and the data analyzed, the team will hold a town hall meeting to disseminate the information to the public. Ms. Nikia Hammond-Blakely, an African American who survived breast cancer in her teens to become a gospel singer and a member of the National Advisory Council for Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, has agreed to speak at the first town hall meeting.

With the help of Committed Caring Faith Communities, the project has secured a space in North St. Louis City and opened a resource drop-in center, the Community Partnership Center (CPC) at 3335 North Union. The CPC will be used for community outreach and educational efforts. The CPC will hold an open house early in 2012 and will host health screenings, non-profit resource groups,

Committed Caring Faith Communities - CCFC
Be the Peace You Seek



Standing in the gap linking faith with substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery...

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Prostate Cancer Community Partnership Reacts to Recent Prostate Cancer Screening Recommendations

Recently, the US Preventive Services Task Force caused controversy and confusion by recommending that no man receive a PSA, prostate-specific antigen, screening test at any point in his lifetime. The no-screening recommendation applies equally to healthy, low-risk men, and high-risk men, including African Americans, and men with a family history of prostate cancer. The Task Force concluded that there was little evidence establishing that PSA screening reduced mortality and that the test led to over-treatment of prostate cancer. In fact, the studies that the task force relied upon reflected conflicting results, and none of them included enough African-American participants to assess either the risks or benefits of screening for that group.

Just two years ago, this same task force advised women age 40-49 not to get mammograms. The recommendation caused a public outcry from advocates who stressed that mammography did indeed save lives and that no woman wanted to be on the wrong side of a risk-benefit ratio. Now, the Task Force presents a recommendation against PSA screening in a man's lifetime when there is no replacement test available and with no consideration of individual risk. One in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and one in 36 will die of the disease. African-American men have the highest rates of prostate

cancer and the highest mortality rate of any ethnic group. One in five African-American men will be diagnosed and one in twenty will die from the disease. Unfortunately,

there are no early signs and symptoms for prostate cancer. For men who have an aggressive form of the disease, not having a PSA test means no fire alarm until the house is in flames.

It is essential for men to talk to their doctors about the benefits and risks of screening for prostate cancer. Men also need to know what the statistics say about which groups are at higher risk of getting prostate cancer at younger ages and which groups are more likely to die from prostate cancer.

The PSA test is not perfect, but it is the only tool available to identify the basic health of the prostate gland and alert health care providers to potential prostate issues. Deciding to have a PSA test should remain an important option for high-risk men. Knowledge is power.

** Members of the Prostate Cancer Community Partnership (PCCP) prepared this statement.*

For more information about prostate cancer or cancer prevention, please contact: The Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD) at pecad@siteman.wustl.edu or 314-747-4611.



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St. Louis Komen Project *(continued from page 1)*

as well as offer local residents computer stations for researching medical issues through Washington University's Becker Medical Library and its online research resources.



Dr. Sarah Gehlert

Sarah Gehlert, PhD, the E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity at Washington University in St. Louis, is the grant's primary investigator. "Nationally, African-American women are 34 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than white women. In St. Louis County, breast cancer

death rates for African-American women and white women are at 41.5 per 100,000 and 25.1 per 100,000, respectively. We have to find out why and change it." Gehlert is a national leader in researching health disparities, especially in relation to cancer, and previously led a National Cancer Institute study of black women with breast cancer on Chicago's south side while she was a faculty member at the University of Chicago.

For more information about this project, contact **Dr. Sarah Gehlert**, sgehlert@wustl.edu or call 314-935-3550. To see other recent news stories about the project, visit the *St. Louis American* and the *St. Louis Beacon*.

Body & Soul Training Opportunity Available in January



A training session for churches new to the Body & Soul program will take place on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at the Washington University North Campus, 700 Rosedale Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63112, from 9AM – 12PM. Body & Soul, a faith-based wellness program developed for African-American churches, reinforces the importance of a healthy diet in decreasing the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. The program works by combining pastoral leadership, educational activities, and a church environment to help congregations make sound nutrition

choices and take steps to ensure a healthier future.

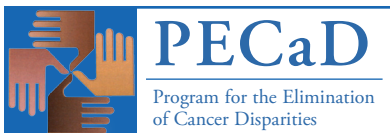
The training is open to any church in the local area, but an RSVP is required. Church representatives who wish to attend this training or future trainings should contact PECaD Program Coordinator Jackie Bernstein at bernsteinj@wustl.edu or 314-286-0095. More information about Body & Soul can also be found at: <http://rtips.cancer.gov/rtips/programDetails.do?programId=257161> or by calling the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at 1-800-422-6237.

Sharing important cancer information and answering questions from community members on the radio



From 2010 to 2011, PECaD participated in an outreach campaign with Clear Channel Radio. The goals of the campaign were to increase community awareness of cancer prevention, research and control strategies, to promote early detection of cancer, and to serve as a community cancer resource. Physicians, researchers and health experts who work with PECaD participated in half-hour interviews on the “Health Connections” radio show with host Rose Robins Troupe. The show aired live on the first and third Sunday of the month at 7:30 a.m. on KMJM-FM (Majic 104.9 FM) and was

rebroadcast at 6 p.m. on those Sundays on KATZ-AM (Hallelujah AM 1600). To listen to these previously recorded radio segments, please visit <http://www.siteman.wustl.edu/pecadradio.aspx>.



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