



# STL Connection

Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities Volume III Issue I 2008

## Findings of the Community Attitudes Project

*Attitudes among African Americans in St. Louis about participating in research*

In 2004 PECaD's Disparities Elimination Advisory Committee recommended that local researchers engage in constructive dialogue with community members about research to improve the way it's conducted and its relevance and impact on local health outcomes. At the committee's suggestion, researchers focused their work on attitudes about research among African Americans in St. Louis.

The project team interviewed local community leaders and minority physicians and conducted focus groups with African American community members. Participants were asked about what keeps people from participating in medical research and what would make it easier to participate. Qualitative data from interviews and focus groups were rigorously collected, reviewed, coded and analyzed.

One key finding was that African Americans in the St. Louis area believe in the importance of medical research and the merits of participation. One participant said, "...research benefits us. We're the ones that benefit from research...". However, a fundamental

reason for African Americans' lack of research participation is pervasive mistrust of the healthcare system. This theme was expressed clearly by one participant who said, "I think Tuskegee (the Tuskegee Syphilis Study based in Alabama) is maybe the marching event in a long line of reasons why we (African Americans) don't care to be study participants." Negative perceptions of Healthcare persist due to historical events, institutional racism and healthcare disparities. Adverse perceptions of medical care extend to perceptions of medical researchers.

Another barrier to participation was fear of the unknown and adverse effects. One participant said, "I think as an African American sometimes I think people in my community are afraid of maybe just the consequences of what they might find out. Because a lot of people don't routinely go to physicians for preventive care, especially men."

A key facilitator for participating in research was the relevance of research to the individual, family members or African American community. One participant said, "if someone makes the

case that it's going to make society more amenable, accessible and some sort of meeting the needs of African Americans, or meeting the fact that African American males are on the top of every high risk list, then I think I may do it."

Another facilitator was altruism as expressed by one participant, "duty, meaning how are you going to [help] find a cure if somebody doesn't say, okay, test me." Information seeking individuals also expressed willingness to be a part of research. "And because as I think about myself now getting older, the more information and the more studies that are done on dementia and memory interest me very, very much. Because if I can in any way have warning to whether I would be susceptible I'd want to know. And the only way that we're going to know that is to be taking part in [research]."

Overall, to increase African American research participation, those interviewed encouraged the development of sustained relationships with the African American community that extend both before and after individual research projects, dissemination of research

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The Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities is one of 25 Community Network Programs funded by the National Cancer Institute. (Grant number 1 U01 CA 114594-01).



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findings back to the community, and the need to convey the relevance of proposed studies. This is summed up well by one participant quote. "Let us know if someone has benefited from your research, the medicine that they took and what you did for them, and stuff like that."

Physicians interviewed expressed:

- The importance of research to clinical practice and the need to involve more African Americans in clinical trials to improve the quality of care for this population.
- Lack of time, resources, and motivators prevent many from conducting research.

- Physicians echoed that patient mistrust of the healthcare system is a barrier to participation.
- Physicians encouraged strategies to reduce mistrust and the use of incentives and lay-friendly communication and materials to motivate participation.
- Physicians said they would likely be more involved if a sustained, inclusive and equitable partnership can be formed with them and researchers that would also bridge lack of awareness of available trials and lack of research training among practitioners and limit exclusion of practitioners from the research infrastructure.

Community members who participated in the project had an average age of 46 and were predominately female (61%).

Attitudes expressed were consistent across education levels, socioeconomic status, and gender.

Next phases of this project include a partnership with Mound City Medical Medical Forum to increase awareness of ongoing research studies and additional initiatives to bring information to the community about past and current research projects.

*This project was conducted by Katherine Jahnige Mathews, MD, MPH; Dorothy Farrar Edwards, PhD; Darcy Scharff, PhD; Pamela Jackson, MA, BSN; J. Lindsay Reed, B.A.; Jonathan Hoffsuemmer, MPH; Tricia Moo-Young, MD; Rahel Nardos, MD; Monique Williams, MD and funded by the Alzheimers Disease Research Center and the Herbert W. Nickens, MD, Faculty Fellowship.*

## New Award Strengthens PECaD's Capacity in Prostate Cancer for the St. Louis Metro Area

"Siteman Cancer Center Receives \$4,000 for Prostate Cancer" reported in *BJC Outlook* - March 10, 2008 by Jason Merrill

"The Siteman Cancer Center is the recipient of a \$4,000 grant for cancer screening, education and research from the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis. Dollars raised at the annual Prostate Cancer Survivors and Awareness Walk – a grass roots effort to increase public awareness, education and raise money for prostate cancer research – were granted to Siteman, People's

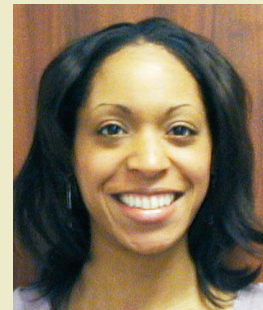
Health Center and Myrtle Hillard Davis CHC (Comprehensive Health Centers) in a Feb. 20 press conference."

The Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD) at Siteman is a partner in the Annual Prostate Cancer Survivors and Awareness Walk that offers screening to participants and will be held this year on Saturday, August 23, 2008 in downtown St. Louis. For more information about this year's walk, go to [www.100bmstl.org](http://www.100bmstl.org) or call 314-367-7778.



Washington University urologist Robert Grubb, MD speaks to reporters following acceptance of the award by Siteman Cancer Center's PECaD colleagues Katrina Bridges and Brian Springer, right, at a Feb. 20 press conference. Thomas Bailey, left, Chairman of The Prostate Cancer Walk 2008.

## New PECaD Project Manager



**Victoria V. Anwuri, MPH** joined PECaD as the Project Manager in February 2008. She has a background in public health, and

specifically chronic disease prevention, health promotion and health disparities. She will work closely with Dr. Graham Colditz, PECaD Director to provide overall management to the program and support implementation of its goals.

If you would like to receive PECaD's newsletters (Updates & STL Connection) electronically in the future, please send an email to [pecad@ccadmin.wustl.edu](mailto:pecad@ccadmin.wustl.edu).

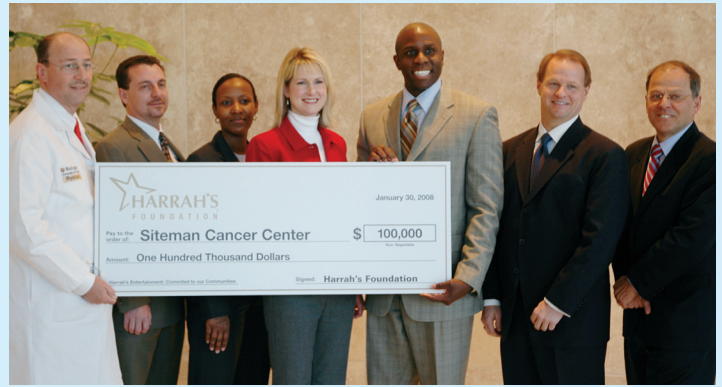
We will only use your email to share info about our programs and events.



## Harrah's Foundation donates \$100,000 to PECaD of the Siteman Cancer Center

Harrah's Foundation made a two-year, \$100,000 grant to the Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine for its Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD) on January 30, 2008, during a press conference. The grant will focus on breast and prostate cancer in support of PECaD's goal to eliminate racial, ethnic, gender and income disparities in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

"We are incredibly appreciative of this gift from Harrah's," says Timothy J. Eberlein, MD, director of the Siteman Cancer Center. "PECaD is an amazing example of what sets the Siteman Cancer Center apart from other institutions as a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center. Through our extensive outreach, this gift will help expand our programs of PECaD impact on all communities in the St. Louis area."



From left, Siteman Cancer Center director Timothy Eberlein, MD, accepts a \$100,000 gift from Harrah's representatives Bob Mast, Jill Thurman, Jonathan Tilghman and Greg Hinton.

## The Many Faces of Prostate Cancer Screening Event



Left to right: Reverend B.T. Rice, Ray Waligurski, Dewey Helms, Dr. Bruce Walz, Dr. Arnold Bullock, Dr. Leon Ashford and Marvin Johnson

Siteman Cancer Center's PECaD was successful in collaborating with the Saint Louis University Cancer Center and area churches for a prostate cancer education and screening event on March 29, 2008 at New Northside Conference Center. Reverend B.T. Rice, of New Horizon Seventh Day Adventist Church and Bishop Willie Ellis of New Northside M.B. Church volunteered to assist and offer guidance in organizing this event. Other clergy who supported the event included Pastor Miki Merritt of New Cote Brillante Church of God, Reverend Donald Hunter of New Sunny Mount, Reverend James T. Morris of Lane Tabernacle C.M.E. Church and Reverend Sammie Jones of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Complex. The three hour event titled, *The Many Faces of Prostate Cancer* included a health fair, The Witness Project Mime presentation, PSA screenings at no cost to participants, prostate cancer presentations from prostate cancer survivor Dewey Helms, Dr. Arnold Bullock of Washington University School of

Medicine, Dr. Bruce Walz of Saint Louis University Cancer Center and Del Doss-Hemsley of Lane Tabernacle C. M.E. Church and a question and answer session. The event was moderated by Marvin Johnson of 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis.

Dr. Arnold Bullock, MD, urologist and Associate Professor at Washington University School of Medicine, discussed prostate cancer and treatment options. Dr. Bullock emphasized that early detection of this disease can lead to a successful treatment. Dr. Bruce Walz, MD, FACR, and Medical Director of Radiation Oncology at Saint Louis University Cancer Center, discussed the CyberKnife, a non-invasive innovative treatment option for cancer. Dewey Helms, of the PECaD Prostate Cancer Speakers Bureau, shared his empowering story of prostate cancer survival with the audience and urged all men to get a PSA screening. Ray Waligurski and Leon Ashford, PECaD Prostate Cancer Speakers Bureau members

also encouraged all men to take advantage of the PSA screening test offered. Additionally, Del Doss-Hemsley, Director of Health Ministries at Lane Tabernacle C.M.E. Church presented information on colorectal cancer. Mrs. Hemsley encouraged men and women ages 50 and older to receive a colorectal screening from their physician. Del provided information about places where uninsured individuals could go for colorectal screening at little or no cost.

*PECaD would like to especially thank Reverend B.T. Rice, of New Horizon Seventh Day Adventist Church, Bishop Willie Ellis of New Northside M.B. Church and Pastor Miki Merritt of New Cote Brillante Church of God for helping to plan and promote the event and for attending weekend festivities. PECaD would also like to thank Rick Hess, Kathleen Klebert, Elizabeth Torno, and Cathy Turcotte of Saint Louis University Cancer Center and all other volunteers who helped make this event a success.*

## Community Coalitions for Tobacco Control

African Americans experience greater health disparities than the general population in many health areas, in part due to greater levels of exposure to secondhand smoke which contributes to heart disease, lung cancer and premature death.

While 81% of African Americans support 100% smoke-free laws in workplaces and restaurants,<sup>1</sup> a recent analysis of city smoke-free ordinances in the United States found that communities with significant numbers of people of color are less likely to have any city tobacco control ordinance in place (including workplace smoking bans) when compared to communities with fewer people of color<sup>2</sup> and 72% of African Americans are exposed to secondhand smoke, compared to 50% of whites.<sup>3</sup>

The Saint Louis University (SLU) Tobacco Prevention Center, directed by Pat Lindsey, has been responsible for building four tobacco coalitions in the Greater St. Louis area. They are: Smoke-Free SLU, Smoke-Free St. Louis City Coalition, Smoke-Free St. Charles County Coalition, and the Tobacco-Free Missouri Greater St. Louis

Coalition, which is the umbrella organization for the other three coalitions.

In January, the Smoke-Free St. Louis City Coalition began implementing a Missouri Foundation for Health grant to help build the coalition and prepare it for readiness to pursue a clean indoor air ordinance in St. Louis City by the end of 2008. In February, the city coalition also received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant which will allow the coalition to purchase air quality testing equipment and do air quality testing in local casinos, bars and restaurants.

The Tobacco-Free Missouri-Greater St. Louis Coalition has been training and working with youth advocates for several years. A local S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco) team has presented the dangers of secondhand smoke and the importance of clean indoor air laws to local officials. The coalition is urging municipalities to pass local ordinances that ban smoking.



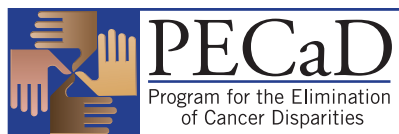
All of the coalitions have been holding monthly “meet & greets” in Smoke-Free venues in efforts to raise awareness about the work that is being done by the local coalitions and to attract new coalition members.

Additional information and links to all four coalitions can be found at [www.tobaccofreemo.org](http://www.tobaccofreemo.org). A list of smoke-free restaurants and entertainment venues is also available.

1 [n.a.], “Secondhand Smoke Exposure, Clean Indoor Air Policies, and Communities of Color,” *The PRAXIS Project*, 2003.

2 Themba-Nixon, M. Are Jurisdictions with Significant Concentrations of Communities of Color More or Less Likely to Have Tobacco Control Ordinances? Washington, DC: *The PRAXIS Project*, 2002.

3 [n.a.], “A Quantitative View of Tobacco-Related Disparities of Racial and Ethnic Populations,” *NNTPP (National Network on Prevention and Poverty) News*, Fall 2004.



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### APRIL 18

*Event:* Power to End Stroke Gospel Tour Health Fair

*Sponsor:* American Heart Association

*Location:* 1444 South Compton Avenue, Mt Zion

*Time:* 5-7 pm

*Contact:* 314-692-5639, Brenda Johnson or [Brenda.Johnson@heart.org](mailto:Brenda.Johnson@heart.org)

### APRIL 19

*Event:* Men's Healthy Happy Hour-PSA Screening

*Sponsor:* People's Clinic

*Location:* 5701 Delmar Boulevard

*Time:* 10 am -2 pm

*Contact:* 314-367-7848

### APRIL 19

*Event:* Witness Project Mime Presentation

*Sponsor:* Samaritan United Methodist Church

*Location:* 4234 Washington Avenue

*Time:* 2-3 pm

*Contact:* 314-533-3916, Emily Brown

### APRIL 19

*Event:* Power to End Stroke Gospel Tour Health Fair

*Sponsor:* American Heart Association

*Location:* 801 S. 50th Street, Centreville, IL

*Calvary Missionary Baptist Church*

*Time:* 5-7 pm

*Contact:* 314-692-5639, Brenda Johnson or [Brenda.Johnson@heart.org](mailto:Brenda.Johnson@heart.org)

### APRIL 26

*Event:* Smoke-Free St. Louis City

*Advocate Training*

*Sponsor:* Smoke-Free St. Louis City Coalition

*Location:* 4353 Clayton Avenue, Conference Room R

*Time:* 10 am - 2 pm

*Contact:* 314-535-0114, Jason Vander Weele or [jason.smokefreestl@gmail.com](mailto:jason.smokefreestl@gmail.com) [www.smokefreestl.org](http://www.smokefreestl.org)

### April 26

*Event:* Health Fair

*Sponsor:* Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church

*Location:* 1385 Goodfellow Blvd

*Time:* 10 am - 2:00 pm

*Contact:* 314-360-3622, Nancy Bryant or [nbryant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nbryant@sbcglobal.net)

### May 3

*Event:* Health Fair

*Sponsor:* Indian Medical Council of St. Louis, Mahatma Gandhi Center and Hindu Temple of St. Louis

*Location:* Mahatma Gandhi Center

*Time:* 9 am - 2 pm

*Contact:* 314-997-7809, Dr. Ghosh

### May 10

*Event:* Mother and Daughter Luncheon

*Sponsor:* Greater St. Mark Family Church

*Location:* 1832 Bellefontaine Road

*Time:* 12 -3 pm

*Contact:* 314-454-8565, Kathy Hyde or [Mshyde3832@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Mshyde3832@sbcglobal.net)

### May 13

*Event:* Enterprise Employee Health Fair

*Sponsor:* Enterprise

*Location:* 600 Corporate Park Drive, Clayton MO

*Time:* 11 am - 1:30 pm

*Contact:* 314-512-2360, Barbara Scott or [barbara.s.scott@erac.com](mailto:barbara.s.scott@erac.com)

### June 14

*Event:* Charles Drew Blood Drive & PSA Screening

*Sponsor:* American Red Cross and Omega Center

*Location:* 3900 Goodfellow Blvd

*Time:* 10 am - 2:00 pm

*Contact:* 314-658-2127, Alicia Smith or [SmithAR@usa.redcross.org](mailto:SmithAR@usa.redcross.org)

### June 14

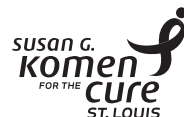
*Event:* Charles Drew Blood Drive & PSA Screening

*Sponsor:* American Red Cross and JJK Center

*Location:* 101 Jackie Joyner-Kersey Circle East St. Louis, IL

*Time:* 10 am - 2:00 pm

*Contact:* 314-658-2127, Alicia Smith or [SmithAR@usa.redcross.org](mailto:SmithAR@usa.redcross.org)



### June 21

*Event:* 2008 Komen St. Louis Race for the Cure

*Sponsor:* Susan G. Komen Foundation

*Location:* Downtown St. Louis

*Time:* 9 am - 12:00 pm

*Contact:* 1-800-600-3606 or [www.komenstlouis.org/goto/siteman](http://www.komenstlouis.org/goto/siteman)



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# Facing Cancer TOGETHER

## PARTNERS IN SURVIVAL

The Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine is offering Partners in Survival, a FREE three-hour workshop for male caregivers and their female partners with cancer.

During the workshop, participants will learn problem-solving skills that will help them deal with everyday problems that arise when a loved one is facing cancer. Separate sessions will be held for men and women.

**Partners in Survival Workshop**  
**9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 7**  
**Center for Advanced Medicine**  
**Farrell Conference Rooms 1 and 2**  
4921 Parkview Place • St. Louis, MO 63110

*Registration for this event is required. To register, call 314-747-7222 or 800-600-3606.*  
A light breakfast will be served.

This event is co-sponsored by Men Against Breast Cancer.



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