Bridging the Health Care Divide: Research and Program to Eliminate Cancer Disparities

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Suggestions for Increasing ACS’s Success in Addressing Cancer Health Disparities

Opps! My mistake
- CRC Tribal Dialog Meeting
  - May 22-23, 2007
  - Portland, OR
- ICC is a partner
- Don’t believe ACS is, yet
- There is still time for ACS to get involved
- Judie Blanchard, Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation (CRPF) 301-654-5677

Community based participatory research (CBPR)
- Suzanne Christopher’s “Messengers for Health”
- ACS needs more projects comparable to this
- “Community-driven” is not the same as “CBPR”

CBPR (continued)
- Smoke and Mirrors Checklist
  - “Show me the money!”
    - Are the dollars distributed equally among all partners (plus a small additional amount for the recipient)? [Lovell Jones, PhD]
    - Do the community “partners” have decision-making roles and responsibilities for every component of the project?
  - What proportion of the ACS budget will be allocated to addressing cancer health disparities?
“If the problems are in the community, the solutions are in the community.”

Gilbert H. Friedell, MD, Director Emeritus
Markey Cancer Center
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Collaborative Partners for Clinical Trials [Thank you, Colonel Jim Williams]
- Beyond a letter of support
- Partners:
  - The ICC Networks have great potential … and such a partnership is feasible with its community memberships
  - The 5 National Community Network Projects (NCI-funded), such as Mayo Clinic’s Spirit of Eagles CNP [P.I. Kaur, NCI U01 CA 114609]

Setting the Stage

You must address disparities and honor diversity.

Cancer Facts and Figures

- African Americans
- Hispanics
- Please continue to add communities frequently relegated as “others”
  - American Indians Alaska Natives
  - Pacific Islanders
  - Asian Americans
  - Poor and Un-/ Underinsured

Cultural Nuances than must have community leadership and support before ACS can reach its goals
- Hair loss example
- Cancer “risk” perception

Etymology of the Word

POLITICS

Poly = Many
Ticks = Blood Sucking Creatures

Used with permission from Dileep Bal, MD, 08-11-05 presentation Breckinridge CO

Burhansstipanov, Native American Cancer Research 303-838-9359; http://NatAmCancer.org
Messages Heard Loud and Clear

Sound Bites or Key Points from the conference – Wow!!

- Prostate health leads to sexual health (as an example of a way to make PSA, et al more appealing and effective)
- When you do community based participatory research (CBPR) the project needs flexibility to succeed
- It is New Orleans today, but it could be your community tomorrow. How do we prevent these systemic political breakdowns from devastating our health care

- To reach the 2015 ACS goals, access issues throughout comprehensive and quality care must be addressed
- 65% of cancers are preventable; cancer needs to be diagnosed when pre-cancer or earliest possible stage
- Hard to get cancer a priority until you or a family member are sick with it.

Sound Bites or Key Points from the conference – Wow!!

- 20 months after Katrina, New Orleans has less access to health / cancer services than do the soldiers in Iraq
- REMINDER: The War on Cancer was announced in 1971 … what about our “soldiers” – the patients, their families and the health care providers?
- Institutional racism causes cancer health disparities

Sound Bites or Key Points from the conference – Wow!!

- Have the people who have the trust to send the message to the community … pastor says, “I did it (the screening test). I have it. I am fine.”
- NOTE: pastor not likely to work in Indian Country
- We have to invest before we get will get the results

Sound Bites or Key Points from the conference – Wow!!

- Support quality education for all people
- Some child in an under-funded school has the cure for cancer in her mind
- The Board of Education distributes books, but God distributes genius all over town
- Early Detection can lead to Correction
- People think cancer is something you get if you are not lucky
Sound Bites or Key Points from the conference – Wow!! [Rev. Jesse Jackson]

People don’t feel welcome in the clinics
Get cancer cure on the presidential debate agenda
Movement toward Remedy and Repair
Close the gap because we can
Because it is cost efficient
Because it is morally right …

“If you want to change the world, be that change.”
– Mahatma Gandhi

Thank you for your invitation and your attention