

THE COALITION VOICE

A newsletter of the
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
FEBRUARY 2005



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CANCER IS NOW THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICANS YOUNGER THAN 85, FOR THE FIRST TIME SURPASSING DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASE

In 2002, the most recent year for which data are available, 476,009 Americans younger than 85 died of cancer, compared to 450,637 who died of heart disease, according to the American Cancer Society's annual report issued in January. The death rate from both diseases is declining, but the rate for heart disease is dropping more quickly, causing the relative change in positions, reported the Los Angeles Times January 20. Heart disease sufferers have benefited from better surgical techniques and devices, and from better drugs to treat heart problems and control factors such as high blood pressure.

http://www.statesman.com/news/content/auto/epaper/editions/thursday/news_14fe561c45acd00900de.html

The story behind this story, according to Jane E. Brody of the *New York Times*, is that reducing one's personal cancer risk through improved health behaviors is a longer term process. She notes that five year cancer survival rates have been rising steadily, to 74 percent from 50 percent in the 1970's. Adding that early screening has the potential to further reduce cancer deaths, she encouraged the general public to take advantage of early screening and preventive measures.

CONFERENCES

March 5, 2005

Practical Applications of New Agents in Oncology, Marriott River Center Hotel – San Antonio, Texas
Sponsored by The Cancer Therapy and Research Center, Institute for Drug Development, and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Target audience: physicians, pharmacists, and nurses who treat oncology patients.

This symposium will focus on the large number of new anticancer agents and related supportive therapeutics approved over the last several years, and those likely be approved. Speakers will discuss the use of these agents in standard clinical practice, providing guidance to front-line clinicians about current or projected appropriate use of these therapeutics. Topics include both early and late stages of various malignancies, and combined modality therapies (chemotherapy + surgery + radiotherapy).

Registration form due by February 25, 2005, or register on site. Registration fee \$95 for physicians, \$65 for other health professionals. Continuing educational credits will be available for physicians, pharmacists, and nurses. For more info and to register please call CTRC Scientific Symposia Dept at 210-616-5912.

April 15-17, 2005 NEW POSTING

7th ANNUAL NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN BREAST CANCER CONFERENCE
"The New Spirit of Survivorship"

J.W. Marriott Galleria - Houston. Hosted by Sisters Network Inc., the nation's largest African-American breast cancer survivorship organization. Registration is \$165 and includes workshops, exhibits and the Awards Luncheon featuring Dr. Gabriel Hortobagyi. Nationally recognized motivational speaker Les Brown is the featured speaker for the Astra Zeneca Gospel Brunch. CEU AND CHES credits provided through M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

More than 600 African-American breast cancer survivors, nationally recognized medical experts, elected officials and community leaders are expected to attend the historic conference during National Minority Cancer Awareness month.

To register, please call (866) 781-1808 or visit www.sistersnetworkinc.org

April 22, 2005 FRIDAY NEW POSTING

Tobacco Cessation Training Conference Embassy Suites Hotel, Lubbock.

Sponsored by Spit Tobacco Prevention Network. Intended audience: Dentists, nurses, physicians, dental assistants, health educators, social service professionals, teachers, coaches and others involved/interested in tobacco prevention/education. CDE, CNE, and CHES credit available. Conference registration \$20. Hotel rooms \$80.00 (Embassy Suites, 5215 S. Loop 289 – at Slide Road, 806.771.7000)

For more information and registration forms please contact Rebecca Miller at rebecca.miller@nospit.com. or call her at 512.869.4223.

This conference is funded by the Texas Cancer Council.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

February 26

Annual Cancer Update, San Antonio. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

March 18

Pain, Nutrition and Oral Care, Midland. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

March TBA

Genetics and Cancer, Bedford. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

April 27 2005

A CNNT Patient/Caregiver Workshop as well as a Train the Trainer workshop is planned for April 27, 2005 in McAllen, TX. The CNNT also hopes to visit Edinburg, El Paso, Laredo, Del Rio and San Antonio. Please contact Libby Smith at easmith@utmb.edu or (409) 772-6602 for details on how to schedule or attend a workshop.

NEWS FROM COALITION PARTNERS

Many People Living With Cancer Say Non-medical Needs Are Unmet

Nearly half (49 percent) feel their non-medical needs are currently unmet by the healthcare system, according to the LIVESTRONG™ Poll, a national poll of 1,000 released in November by the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Of the 10 million people in the U.S. now living with cancer, roughly half believe the healthcare system is not addressing their critical needs. Among those who felt their non-medical cancer needs were unmet, 70 percent said their oncologists did not offer any support in dealing with the non-medical aspects of cancer such as depression, fear of recurrence, chronic pain, ongoing health challenges, infertility, sexual dysfunction, difficulty with relationships and financial or job insecurity. The other 30 percent said their oncologist was willing to talk about these issues, but did not have enough information or experience to really help them out in this area.

Encouragingly, people living with cancer are optimistic about life. Nearly three of every five (59 percent) of study respondents say they expect to die from something completely different than cancer. And almost half (47 percent) said that dealing with their cancer diagnosis forced them to focus and they feel they're leading a better life now.

For more information about this study and the Lance Armstrong Foundation and its work, visit www.laf.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CORNER

Practical information for busy local cancer control program, planning and service providers. Got a great resource to share? Tell us about it.

FOCUS: Three Free Colon Cancer Resources In Spanish

Two free brochures and a video are highlighted this month:

“STOP Colon & Rectal Cancer” (Parar el Cáncer de Colon y Recto) Available in Spanish or English through the Stop Colon/Rectal Cancer Foundation. Call 312-944-4636 or email brochures@coloncancer.org “This is an excellent brochure which I use at all my events,” says Norma Castillo, a program coordinator/case manager with the Valley Colorectal Screening Information and Service, a project funded by the Texas Cancer Council.

“Colorectal Cancer and Women – What is the reality?” (El Cáncer Colorectal y Mujeres - Qué es La Realidad?) – This free brochure is available in English and Spanish from the Foundation for Digestive Health and Nutrition. Call 1-866-337-FDHN or visit their web-site, www.fdh.org. It is endorsed by the Society for the Advancement of Women’s Health Research.

“DON'T BE EMBARRASSED” - This informative and entertaining educational video in Spanish with English subtitles introduces viewers to colorectal cancer and addresses the basics of the disease, including methods of screening, symptoms, the issue of embarrassment, as well as how nutrition and exercise impact health. It is available through Colorectal Cancer Prevention at the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

Ms. Castillo at Valley Colorectal Screening Information and Service let us know about this one too because she likes it very much. To order this and more, visit www.hispanichealth.org. Once there, click Resources, Publications, Cancer, to view the colorectal materials. Or call 202.797.4324. A \$5 shipping charge may apply. Ask when you check it out.

<p style="text-align: center;">LOOKING AHEAD Cancer-Related Health Observances Calendar Source: http://www.healthfinder.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March will be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH™ 2005</p>
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Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. Please direct your newsletter ideas to Susan Nenny, Project Coordinator, snenny@tcc.state.tx.us or call 512-289-8166. If you wish to be removed from this list please let Susan know at the above address. The *Coalition Voice* is produced by the Coalition Support Project which is funded by the Texas Cancer Council.