

THE COALITION VOICE

**A newsletter of the
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
January 2007**

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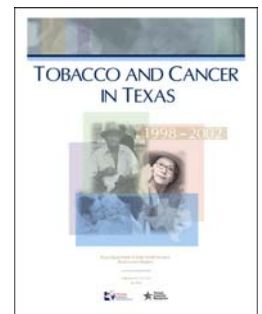


NEWS MAKERS

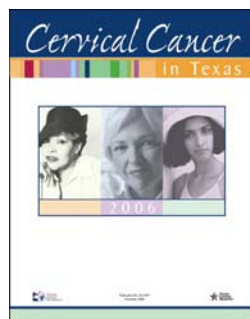
New Reports from the Texas Cancer Registry

A number of new reports produced by the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR), Texas Department of State Health Services are now available. These reports were written to describe and better understand the impact of cancer on Texas residents. Information provided in these reports can be used to describe the epidemiology of cancer in Texas, to better plan cancer control activities, target and evaluate interventions, and ultimately save lives.

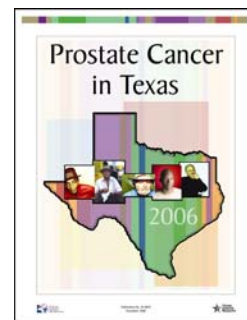
Tobacco and Cancer in Texas, 1998–2002, is a newly developed report that describes the impact of tobacco-related cancers on Texans and highlights that tobacco use remains a significant public health problem. The report finds that tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the U.S. and Texas. From 1998–2002, tobacco-related cancers accounted for over 32% of all newly diagnosed cancers and 47% of all cancer deaths. Significant health disparities also exist in cancer incidence, mortality, and smoking rates, particularly among Texas African American men and women, and Hispanic men.



Cervical Cancer in Texas, 2006, is an updated TCR report that describes both the incidence and mortality for cervical cancer in Texas women and is intended to compliment the legislatively mandated *Texas Cervical Cancer Strategic Plan Initiative*. The report highlights the significant cervical cancer disparities among Texas Hispanic and African American women compared to non-Hispanic whites, presents some limited data regarding cervical cancer among Asian/Pacific Islander women, and suggests that despite cervical cancer being virtually preventable, much work remains before cervical cancer deaths can be completely eliminated.



Prostate Cancer in Texas, 2006, is another updated TCR report that describes the incidence and mortality for the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Texas and U.S. men. The report highlights the significant disparities in both prostate cancer incidence and mortality among African American men, as well as provides maps of Texas regional variation in both newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases and deaths.



The *Tobacco and Cancer in Texas, 1998–2002* report is available in both hard copy and on the TCR web site, while the cervical and prostate cancer reports are currently only available on the web (hard copies will be available in February). To access these reports, visit <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/publications.shtml#epipubs> and to request hard copies, e-mail CancerData@dshs.state.tx.us or call 1-800-252-8059. For questions regarding any of these publications, contact: Melanie A. Williams, Ph.D., senior epidemiologist, Cancer Epidemiology & Surveillance Branch, 458-7111, ext. 3633, Melanie.williams@dshs.state.tx.us.

NEWS FROM COALITION PARTNERS

S.W.A.T. Team Fights for Smoke-free Restaurants

The Swisher County S.W.A.T. (Students Winning Against Tobacco) team participated in the Great American Smokeout by recognizing smoke-free restaurants in their small rural county. They recognized all the smoke-free restaurants in an ad that ran in the two county newspapers.

They also challenged the four restaurants that allow smoking to go smoke free for the day. As a result, two of the four restaurants went smoke free for the event. Those restaurants were also recognized in the newspaper ads.

The S.W.A.T. team conducts peer education activities in their communities of Tulia, Happy, and Kress. They are part of the Texas Cancer Council grant

awarded to Texas Cooperative Extension that focuses on reducing youth tobacco use in rural communities. The team members decided to organize the smoke-free restaurant event after attending a regional teen tobacco summit conducted by the Texas Department of State Health Services at Ceta Canyon in February 2006. At the conference they were challenged to do an activity in their community related to tobacco education. In addition to recognizing the restaurants in an ad, S.W.A.T. team members visited the restaurants that were smoke free and provided them with a sticker that said "Smoke-free Restaurant." The sticker was placed where patrons could see it and know their dining would be smoke free.



S.W.A.T. team members in action.

The restaurants and the communities of Swisher County appreciated the youth efforts. County extension agent, Calley Runnels gives leadership to the S.W.A.T. team.



Miranda prepares to enjoy a tasty treat!

Miranda's Wish Comes True
 Two Texas Cancer Council project directors recently helped to make a seriously ill girl's dream come true. Both Gloria Morin and Norma Castillo are certified "grant wishers" with the Make a Wish Foundation (MAWF) of the Rio Grand Valley. Their mission was a young girl named Miranda, who suffers from end stage renal disease and who wished for a laptop computer. The MAWF waved their magic wands and delighted Miranda with a fully

loaded laptop along with printer, scanner, and a huge basket of computer games and movies. To top it off, she was given all supplies, paper, ink, and one year of free Internet service.

The event took place at Miranda's favorite place to eat, The Mexicana Restaurant, where she was treated to several beautiful songs from a group of Mariachis. Before the celebration was over, Miranda was also given an engraved MAWF music box and gifts from the restaurant owners. Both Gloria and Norma report that this was a very rewarding experience for them.



TCC project directors Gloria Morin (in red) and Norma Castillo (in white) help Miranda show off her gift basket.

M.D. Anderson Good as Gold

M. D. Anderson has been awarded the CEO Cancer Gold Standard accreditation. This is a national accreditation given by the CEO Roundtable on Cancer, acknowledging organizations that promote workplace wellness with the goal of combating cancer. The Roundtable focuses on three key cancer-fighting objectives: risk reduction, early detection, and quality care. Even more impressive, M.D. Anderson is the first NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center and the first healthcare system to receive this accreditation. M. D. Anderson offers some great benefits to encourage a healthy lifestyle, including gym discounts, smoking cessation programs, and cancer screening opportunities. Additional programs are already under way for 2007, including "Rock Steady," a weight management group, and employee walking and running clubs. They also have exercise equipment stations across their campus and plan to continue expanding these in the future.

M.D. Anderson Job Opportunity

The Office of Physician Relations is looking for a program coordinator. For details visit <http://sh.webhire.com/servlet/av/jd?ai=700&jj=1930737&sn=1>.

RESOURCES

TYLA Legal Guide for Cancer Patients Now Available

The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) has produced a new legal guide for cancer patients that can be found at <http://www.tyla.org/pdfs/CancerGuide06.pdf>. The *TYLA Legal Guide for Cancer Patients* covers and explains legal issues concerning privacy, informed consent, insurance, clinical trials, employment law, disability, liability, guardianship, estate planning, and end of life decisions. The guide is intended to be an informative resource on which cancer patients and their family members and friends can rely to answer legal questions like, "Am I entitled to time off work?" and "Should I have a will?" and "How do I tell my doctors that I don't want to be placed on life support if my condition is terminal?"

The guide was completed under the direction of TYLA president Karin Crump after Austin attorney, George Noelke, who serves on the Austin board of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, suggested that TYLA take on the project. TYLA's Medical Issues Committee, including Brad Allen, Bryce Benson, Cheryl Camin, Davis Chapman, Kimberly Burke, Laura Miles-Valdez, Cindy Schiffer, Jamey Secrest, Jason Storck, and Kristie Wright, drafted the guide with editorial assistance and input from Susan G. Komen Foundation board members and the Lance Armstrong Foundation Editorial Board.

Sister Study Needs Participants

Is breast cancer caused by something women come in contact with at work, at home, in their communities, or in the personal products they use? That's what the Sister Study is trying to answer. The Sister Study needs 50,000 women whose sisters had breast cancer, by September 2007, to help discover the environmental and genetic causes of breast cancer. Conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Sister Study is committed to enrolling a diverse population of women to ensure the results represent and benefit all women. For more information visit www.sisterstudy.org or www.estudiodehermanas.org. Call toll-free 1-877-4SISTER. Deaf/Hard of Hearing call 1-866-TTY-4SIS.



Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Cervical cancer is nearly 100% preventable, yet according to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 9,710 new cases of invasive cervical cancer were expected in 2006. The good news is that a vaccine against the leading causes of cervical cancer has been approved, which could reduce its incidence by up to 70% (CNN June 2006).

The primary cause of cervical cancer is infection with certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV). Women who begin having sex at an early age or who have many sexual partners are at increased risk. However, a woman may be infected with HPV even if she has had only one sexual partner (American Cancer Society 2006).

Fortunately, most cervical precancers develop slowly, so nearly all cases can be prevented if a woman is screened regularly. Screening should begin approximately 3 years after a woman begins having vaginal intercourse, but no later than 21 years of age.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To strengthen the fight against cervical cancer and other cancers in women, *NOEP* will educate nurses about the importance of early detection and prevention with a series entitled *Women's Health Update: Insights for Nurses*. This conference will be held in Corpus Christi on February 10, Harlingen on February 24, and Beaumont on March 31. Register early at www.noeptexas.org.

NOEP 2007 Training Dates: CNE for Nurses in all Fields of Practice

January 26	Cancer Survivorship for Healthcare Professionals, Nacogdoches
January 27	Texas School Health Association Conference, Austin
February 3	Trailblazing Texas: Riding the Range of Cancer in Children and Adolescents, Richardson
February 10	Women's Health Update: Insights for Nurses, Corpus Christi
February 16	Cancer Survivorship for Healthcare Professionals, Frisco
February 24	Trailblazing Texas: Riding the Range of Cancer in Children & Adolescents, Harlingen
March 27	Cancer in Children and Adolescents, Wichita Falls
March 28	Leading the Fight against Colorectal Cancer, Del Rio
March 31	Women's Health Update: Insights for Nurses, Beaumont

For information or to register for *NOEP* training, visit www.noeptexas.org or call (800) 515-6770.

Upcoming Cancer Nutrition Presentations

Happy New Year from the Educational Cancer Center at the University of Texas Medical Branch! 2007 will be a busy year for the *Cancer Nutrition Network for Texans (CNNT)* presenting patient/caregiver and respite care workshops to communities throughout Texas. Please feel free attend any of the workshops listed below:



Patient Caregiver Workshops

January 31	Brazos Valley AHEC	Waco
February 6	Deke Slayton Cancer Center	Webster, TX
March 29	Gilda's Club	North Dallas

Respite Care Program

February 8	Respite Care Program Phase 2 planning meeting	Tyler, TX
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If your organization is interested in hosting the *CNNT*, please contact Libby Smith at (409) 747-2239 or easmith@utmb.edu.

The *Cancer Teaching and Curriculum Enhancement in Undergraduate Medicine Project (CATCHUM)* is moving right along and getting its cancer education modules finished and uploaded to their website. Six online learning modules are currently available and several more will be uploaded soon. If you are interested in registering to use a module, please visit www.catchum.utmb.edu or call Erin Brooks at (409) 772-9136 or erbrooks@utmb.edu.

The next Liberty County Cancer Awareness Network meeting will be February 1, 2007 from 5:30-7:00 at the Liberty-Dayton Community Hospital. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lynda Klyng at (409) 772-2556 or lklyng@utmb.edu.

Tools for Helping Communities Fight Cancer—Save the Date

In partnership with the Texas Cancer Council and CDC, *NOEP* will present a conference entitled “Texans: Helping Communities Fight Cancer” on April 26-27 in Austin. Community planners, health professionals, and volunteers will learn how to get organized, get connected, and make a difference.

STOPN Conference

STOPN has confirmed its upcoming Nicotine Cessation Conference on April 27 at the Amarillo Inn & Suites, Amarillo, TX. This is a one-day conference hosted by *STOPN* and the Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Center. Registration for the conference is \$75 per person. CE credits will be offered for this event. The agenda includes: tobacco use and health effects; motivational counseling and interviewing; pharmacotherapy; and adolescent tobacco use. For registration information, please contact Rebecca Miller (512) 657-4223 or Rebecca.miller@nospit.com.

A second meeting will be hosted in the Longview area in late March – details are not available.

Save the Date

The 18th annual meeting of the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives will take place June 21-23, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel Boston in Boston, MA. The keynote speaker will be Ira Byock, MD, director of Palliative Medicine at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Additional plenary speakers include Dan Carr, MD; June Dahl, PhD; Georgia Decker, RN, MS, CS-ANP, AOCN; and Art Lipman, PharmD. For more details visit www.aspi.wisc.edu or call (608) 265-4013.

Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. Please direct your newsletter feedback to Stephanie Uecker, suecker@tcc.state.tx.us or call (512) 438-3096. News items are collected from and written by variety of sources including the media and our cancer-control partners throughout the state. We reserve the right to edit all content for clarity and brevity.