

THE COALITION VOICE

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

Inside:

*Dr. Jocelyn Elders & Dr. David Satcher to Speak at MDACC
New NCI Website: cancer.gov en español
TCDC Inventory Update*



NEWS MAKERS

New Houston Alliance to Improve Healthcare for Low-Income Residents

Lewis E. Foxhall, M.D. was chosen to lead a new health collaborative, the Harris County Healthcare Alliance that will work to support comprehensive healthcare delivery for uninsured and low-income county residents.

The Harris County Public Healthcare System Council — appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court — formed the Healthcare Alliance that selected Dr. Foxhall as chairman of the board of directors for the independent, non-profit corporation.

“The Healthcare Alliance will work to improve delivery of care by facilitating coordination of public- and private-sector efforts, as well as helping increase resources to support care for this population,” says Dr. Foxhall, vice president for health policy at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, where he chairs the Uncompensated Care Advisory Committee.

Building on the work of the Public Health System Council, and in collaboration with the Texas Department of Insurance and a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson foundation, the Healthcare Alliance already has issued a Request for Proposals and will select a Texas health insurance provider to create a health group purchasing cooperative offering coverage options for uninsured and underinsured individuals.

This novel insurance initiative is expected to help address Harris County’s burden of caring for uninsured patients, which may increase dramatically, according to official projections of population demographics and economic indicators.

Health policy leaders cite three major issues straining the current safety-net system: 1) demographic and economic trends, 2) inadequate funding for indigent healthcare services and 3) limited service coordination among providers.

Today, an estimated 1.6 million Harris County residents are uninsured or underinsured, according to county figures. Of these, 1.1 million (31.4 percent of the Houston/Harris County population) have no insurance at all.



Lewis E. Foxhall, M.D.

**Don't Delay
Register Today!**

**Don't forget to register
for the *Tools for Texans:
Helping Communities
Fight Cancer* workshop
April 26-27 in Austin!**

**Call NOEP today at
1 (800) 515-6770.**

Currently, annual healthcare demand for uninsured and low-income groups outstrips available funding by about 65 percent. Public and private agencies provide more than \$2 billion annually in healthcare funding for the uninsured and underinsured, Dr. Foxhall says.

"But this funding provides only a small part of what's needed to meet the annual demand for services," he says. "The capacity of our safety-net system is severely limited."



A 13- member Board of Directors governs the Healthcare Alliance and includes another M. D. Anderson employee, Lynne Nguyen, who represents the Asian American Health Coalition/Hope Clinic. The general membership elects nine members, and four are designated for public healthcare agency members — including the City of Houston, Harris County public health departments, Harris

County Hospital District and Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority.

Alliance membership is open to any public or private healthcare or healthcare-related organization supporting the Alliance mission. Members are assessed annual fees on a sliding scale to cover costs of core staff and operations.

For more information about the Healthcare Alliance or the Request for Proposals, visit www.hchalliance.org.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS & PARTNERS

Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation Applauds Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment Act

The Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation (CRPF) was pleased to join Representatives Albert Wynn (D-MD) and Kay Granger (R-TX), Olympian Dara Torres and partners in the cancer community to announce the introduction of H.R. 1738, the Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment Act. The legislation establishes a program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide screenings and treatment for colorectal cancer and targets screening services toward individuals 50-64 years of age or those under 50 with high risk of such cancer. Uninsured, underinsured, and low-income men and women are priority-screening recipients.



L-R: Durado Brooks (ACS), Carolyn (Bo) Aldigé (CRPF), U.S. Reps. Albert Wynn (D-MD) and Kay Granger (R-Texas), and Wendy Selig (ACS), Dara Torres (9-time Olympic medalist in swimming).

CRPF supporter Dara Torres, the most decorated American female swimmer in Olympic history, shared how she was personally touched by the disease. "My father was diagnosed with colorectal cancer five years ago. He fought a valiant battle, but one that he did not win, in part because the cancer was diagnosed in a late stage," said Torres.

“And because I have a family history, I've already talked with my health care provider about when to begin screening. The Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment Act will ensure that all individuals have access to colorectal screening - regardless of their ability to pay - so that they, too, can be empowered to prevent colorectal cancer or detect it in its early, more treatable stages.”

Carolyn Aldigé, president and founder of the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation added, “The Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation supports this comprehensive legislation that provides access to screening for uninsured and underinsured men and women. This bill will help further reduce deaths from colorectal cancer through prevention and early detection, an approach to attacking cancer that has been the centerpiece of the Foundation’s mission for more than twenty-one years.”

For more information, contact Lisa Hughes, director of policy and advocacy at (703) 519-2118 or at lhughes@preventcancer.org or Jasmine Greenamyre, director of colorectal cancer initiatives at (703) 836-4412 or jasmine@preventcancer.org. To encourage your House Representative to support this bill visit www.house.gov/.

Lake Country AHEC Provides Cancer Education to Employees & Students

During March, Lake Country AHEC staff had the opportunity to provide education to two unique groups. The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler conducted an employee wellness fair. Each participant received brochures concerning gender-specific screening guidelines, assistance with tobacco cessation, and survivorship information. Staff visited with 319 employees of the Health Center. In addition programming was provided at the Expanding Your Horizons event conducted at Tyler Junior College. Young women in grades 6 – 8 attended programming to encourage them to enroll in math, science, and technology courses. AHEC staff delivered a program on Tobacco, emphasizing the advancements due to research on the known effects of tobacco usage.



Lake Country AHEC staffer, Debbie Warren, visits with UTHCT employee at a wellness fair.



Cancer Coalition of North Texas (Wichita Falls) meeting: Back row L-R: Betty Boenisch, Debbie Yancey, Kim George, Glenna Stewart, and Heather Becker. Front row L-R: Fernando Tezaguic, Teressa Stephenson, Brett Moyer, and Kathy Marshall.

DSHS CCC News

The Cancer Coalition of North Texas met on March 14. The group is currently reviewing evidence-based interventions affecting tobacco and skin cancer prevention among youth. They are also working closely with the *Nurse Oncology Education Program (NOEP)* to host a colorectal cancer conference for nurses on June 29. The next meeting is set for May 9.

Comprehensive Cancer Control stakeholders representing Amarillo and the Panhandle area have gathered twice. Currently they are in the process of identifying additional

members to participate in coalition activities as well as reviewing data and assessing the community. The next meeting will take place on May 1.

The Val Verde Task Force met on March 21. The Task Force is working on identifying colorectal cancer resources in the community. The Task Force is also promoting the colorectal cancer conference for nurses that takes place March 28.

LIVESTRONG™ Notebook Offer for TCCCC Members

The Lance Armstrong Foundation would like to offer the TCCCC free LIVESTRONG survivorship notebook. The notebook is designed to help survivors organize and guide their cancer experience. The portable, three-ring binder contains a variety of information covering a full range of physical, emotional, and practical survivorship topics. The order limit is 50 notebooks. If you are interested in receiving the free notebooks, please email Tara Williams at tara.Williams@laf.org. When requesting free notebooks by email, please include a shipping address and write “Free Notebook Offer for TCCCC” in the subject line.

Celebrate LIVESTRONG Day

Take part in LIVESTRONG Day by hosting a local event to raise awareness and show support for cancer survivors and their loved ones in your area. LIVESTRONG Day is the Lance Armstrong Foundation’s annual grassroots advocacy effort to unite people affected by cancer. In its fourth year, the goal of LIVESTRONG Day is to raise awareness about cancer issues on a national level and in local communities across the country.



Local events are a critical component to the success of LIVESTRONG Day. In local communities is where we will have the most impact in raising awareness, connecting with survivors and discussing issues to make cancer a national priority. Whether you ask your co-workers to ‘wear yellow,’ distribute LIVESTRONG wristbands at a nearby hospital or organize a cancer rally at your state capitol, every activity is important in the fight against cancer.

Many LIVESTRONG Day events are open to the general public. If you are unable to organize an event and still want to be involved, use the LIVESTRONG Day local event search tool to find an event in your area. To learn more about organizing or participating in a LIVESTRONG Day event, visit www.livestrong.org/livestrongday.

LAF Awards \$4.1 Million in Grants

The Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) recently awarded more than \$4.1 million in grants to support cancer survivorship research projects, the basic and clinical research of testicular cancer, and community-centered cancer survivorship initiatives across the country. The LAF’s latest grant funding includes \$3.9 million to 22 cancer survivorship research and testicular cancer research projects. In addition, to complement the nearly \$1 million in community program grants awarded last fall, the LAF awarded an additional \$244,400 in grants to five community-based, non-profit organizations for cancer survivorship programs.

“Through our grant program, the LAF focuses on improving quality of life for people affected by cancer,” said Suzanne Kho, director of grants for the LAF. “We are delighted to support community organizations and researchers at institutions across the country in their efforts to help cancer survivors face the challenges and changes that come with cancer.”

Ya-Chen Shih, Ph.D., University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, and Jens Ehmcke, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh (Pa.) School of Medicine, received the E. Lee Walker Imagination Award for their innovative approaches to cancer survivorship research. This award honors Walker, the LAF’s former chairman of the board.

Other LAF-funded cancer survivorship research studies will explore quality of life among African-American head and neck cancer survivors, chronic pain in cancer survivors, the

prevention of diabetes in prostate cancer survivors, and cancer survivors' intentions to work following diagnosis and treatment. Examples of LAF-funded community-centered initiatives are projects that provide interventions to reduce fatigue, weight gain and cancer recurrence rates, create personalized exercise programs for cancer survivors and provide breast cancer survivors with care packages that address their special needs and ongoing health concerns.

Since its inception, the LAF has invested more than \$18.7 million in research grants and more than \$4.8 million in grants to community-based, non-profit organizations. For more information about the LAF's grant funding, visit www.livestrong.org.

HOPE Clinic Grows



Hope Clinic continues to grow and flourish! The clinic recently finished renovations of its new location at 7001 Corporate Drive, Houston, TX 77036. The new facility is 4,200 square feet with six exam rooms and administrative space for additional programs. Hope Clinic offers primary care for adults and children, vaccinations, and other preventive services.

In March, Hope Clinic's Project Phoenix, which provides support for mammogram screenings, diagnostics, and treatment for patients with no other resources, received continuation funding from the Susan G. Komen Houston Affiliate. Support from Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation and the Avon Breast Cancer Fund has enabled breast screening and treatment for more than 2,000 low-

income, medically underserved women since the program's inception.

Hope Clinic provides services on a sliding fee schedule based on income and family size.

Cancer Statistics in Minority Populations

Approximately 63,000 African Americans are expected to die from cancer in 2007. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among both African American men and women (2007-2008 Cancer Facts & Figures for African Americans, American Cancer Society).

Hispanic women residing in the US have twice the cervical cancer incidence rate of non-Hispanic whites (American Cancer Society, 2003).

The incidence of liver cancer from 1998-2002 was nearly three times as high in Asian American Pacific Islander men than in white men (National Cancer Institute).

According to a report released by the Indian Health Service in 2000, cancer is the second leading cause of death among American Indians.

Dr. Elders & Dr. Satcher at MDACC

The Center for Research on Minority Health (CRMH) at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center will observe the 20th Annual National Minority Cancer Awareness Week and Biennial Symposium Series on "Minorities, the Medically Underserved & Cancer" at a symposium luncheon on Tuesday, April 17 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Intercontinental Houston Hotel, 2222 West Loop South.

Former Surgeons General M. Joycelyn Elders, M.D., (1993 – 1994) and David L. Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., (1998 – 2002) will deliver keynote addresses at the symposium luncheon. Elders will address the current state of health disparities in the nation. Satcher will discuss the future direction of eliminating health disparities.

Elders was the first African American to serve as Surgeon General. She argued the case for universal health coverage, and was a spokesperson for President Clinton's health care reform effort. Satcher served as Assistant Secretary for Health from February 1998 to January 2001, making him only the second person in history to have held both positions of Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health simultaneously.



Top: Dr. Joycelyn Elders.
Bottom: Dr. David Satcher.

"We hope this event will highlight the unequal burden of cancer among minority and medically underserved populations," says Lovell A. Jones, Ph.D., director of M. D. Anderson's CRMH.

The event also will honor local scientists who have made significant contributions to addressing health disparities in Houston's minority and underserved communities. Other special invited guests include Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Mayor Bill White, Houston City Council members and the City Controller. In addition, members of the Asian American Health Coalition, Hispanic Health Coalition, African American Health Coalition, and the Native American Health Coalition along with others involved in promoting minority health will be in attendance. For ticket information, contact Kelly Hodges Moore at (713) 563-2752.

The CRMH at M. D. Anderson is the only congressionally mandated center for minority health research outside of Washington, D.C. Its mission is to reduce the prevalence of cancer in ethnic minority and medically underserved populations.

RESOURCES

New NCI Website: Cancer.gov en español!

The most reliable, up-to-date information about cancer is now available in Spanish! The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is pleased to announce the launch of our new Spanish website, [Cancer.gov en español](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol). NCI, the Federal government's premiere cancer research institute, is committed to reducing cancer health disparities by making cancer information readily available to underserved populations. The website features themes of prevention, detection, treatment, and survivorship. Highlights of the website include:

- Information organized by types of cancer
- Myths and beliefs
- Support and resources in your community
- Dictionary of cancer terms

For information about these topics and more, visit <http://www.cancer.gov/espanol>. Or call NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237). Cancer information specialists answer calls in Spanish or English. Spread the word! Here's what you can do:

- Link to our new Spanish website from your organization's website (<http://www.cancer.gov/espanol>).
- Feature [Cancer.gov en español](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol) in newsletters and listservs
- Promote [Cancer.gov en español](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol) to organization members, community partners, and the public
- Share this important informational resource with colleagues, family, and friends

Contact us at ncioc@mail.nih.gov to learn about promotional materials available to your organization.

TCDC: Time to Update Web-Based Inventory

It is time to update the information about your cancer programs in the Texas Cancer Prevention and Control Programs Inventory. This information appears on both the Texas Cancer Data Center and Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition websites and helps to provide a picture of cancer prevention and control activities across Texas. The Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition also needs this information regarding the activities of member organizations for the annual report to the CDC.

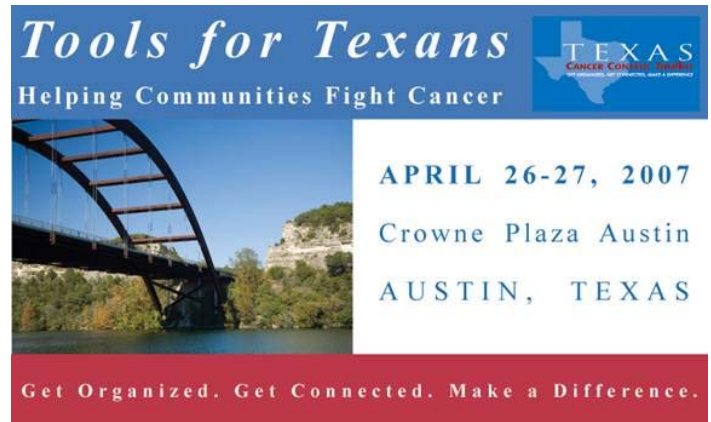
In order to ensure that the updated information is available for the Coalition evaluation process, please be sure that you review/update your information via the on-line survey as soon as possible. A separate survey must be completed for each program that you have listed in the inventory. If you have additional programs that you think should be

included in the inventory, or don't remember your ID number and password, please e-mail TCDC at tcdc@txcancer.org for assistance.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tools for Texans: Helping Communities Fight Cancer

Tools for Texans: Helping Communities Fight Cancer is a unique skill-building workshop developed for community stakeholders, planners, healthcare professionals, and volunteers. The two-day conference will enhance the capacity of participants to implement cancer prevention and control programs in communities throughout the state.



The program was developed to help Texans work together toward the goals of a) tobacco use prevention and cessation, b) improving nutrition and increasing physical activity to reduce the incidence of obesity, and c) increasing the use of screening and early detection services. Cancers that can be prevented or detected earlier by screening account for over half of all new cancer cases (American Cancer Society 2007).

Participants will acquire the tools necessary for developing a plan, using cancer statistics, planning meetings, media and outreach, finding resources, working with priority populations, locating funding, influencing public policy, and evaluating efforts.

The Texas Cancer Council, in partnership with the *Nurse Oncology Education Program* (a nonprofit project of TNA) will present four annual workshops statewide with grant funding by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The first conference will be held in Austin on April 26-27 at the Crowne Plaza Austin hotel. Registration is online at www.acteva.com/go/noeptexas. The conference fee is \$20 (includes Toolkit materials and meals) before April 12 and space is limited. Travel scholarships and registration fee waivers are available. For more information, call (800) 515-6770 or email noep@texasnurses.org.



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

May 18	Pain Management and Oral Care in the Cancer Patient, Denison
June 2	Cancer Update: Insights for Nurses, Amarillo
June 6-7	Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Administration, Arlington
June 29	Leading the Fight against Colorectal Cancer, Wichita Falls

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

UTMB: Calling all Communities

The *Cancer Nutrition Network for Texans (CNNT)* is continuing their *Cancer Respite Care Program* work and is seeking a new Texas community to establish another program.

The *CNNT* is a statewide initiative of the University of Texas Medical Branch and the Texas Cancer Council, dedicated to helping meet the nutritional and support needs of cancer patients and their family caregivers. The *CNNT* has utilized the Robert Wood Johnson *Faith in Action Program* as a model to assist communities in developing respite care networks over the last three years. If your community is interested in learning more about developing a *Respite Care Program*, we would be happy to discuss the possibilities with you. Please contact Libby Smith for more information.



The *CNNT* will have an exhibit at the Healthy Aging Conference Health Fair in Victoria on May 17, 2007. On June 25, Dr. Billy Philips will be presenting the *CNNT*'s "Information for Patients" workshop to the Man 2 Man Support Group in Galveston, Texas. For more information about the workshops we present, please contact: Libby Smith at (409) 747-2239.

Bee Good

Gwendie Camp, PhD, a *CATCHUM Project* Content Development Committee Member and creator of the PBL User's Guide has another side to her life outside of cancer education. Gwendie is part of a team of three champion spellers competing for ClarityWorks Inc. She helped spell the way to victory at the 17th Annual Spelling Bee of Buncombe County (Asheville, NC) on March 12, 2007. The 16 teams competing were part of the Literacy Council's major fundraiser for the year. Gwendie is also a volunteer tutor for the Literacy Council, which helps adults learn to read, and immigrants learn to speak English. Thank you Dr. Camp for your contributions to cancer education and to society!

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.