Selection of Presentations and Speakers

Francesca Gany, MD, MS, Service Chief
“FOOD (Food to Overcome Outcomes Disparities): Addressing Food Insecurity among Cancer Patients,”
International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA) Annual Meeting, June 2016, Capetown, South Africa

Lisa Diamond, MD, MPH, Assistant Attending
“Overcoming Language Barriers to Improve Quality of Care and Outcomes,”
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

Announcements and Funding Update

Congratulations to Francesca Gany, MD, MS and the Taxi Network team for winning 2nd place in the Clinical Research Professionals Week poster session.

Congratulations to Dr. Gany and the FOOD team for winning the Best Poster Award at the Annual ISBNPA meeting.

Dr. Gany and Claudia Ayash received additional funding from Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert for AMBER (Arab American Breast Cancer and Education and Referral Program) to expand their work with Arab American women.

Jennifer Leng, MD, MPH received an R03 from the NCI to inform the adaptation of a Community Health Worker model to facilitate lung cancer screening targeting high-risk Chinese livery drivers.

Dr. Gany received funding for The Ventanillas De Salud (VDS) Breast and Colorectal Cancer Education and Referral Program. This funding opportunity is a result of the collaboration between the Embassy of Mexico, the Institute for Mexicans Abroad and the American Cancer Society to promote health equity within Latino communities.

Dr. Gany was awarded funding from Aetna Foundation Inc. for Taxi BP Meter to determine the impact of three strategies to facilitate blood pressure control among taxi drivers.

The FOOD program received continued support from the Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, Inc. to expand its services for food insecure cancer patients and their families.

Rebecca Schwartz accepts the 2nd place CRPW Poster Presentation Award

Integrated Cancer Care Access Network (ICCAN)

ICCAN addresses the social and economic barriers to cancer treatment experienced by underserved cancer patients and aims to improve health outcomes. ICCAN staff continues to recruit for a randomized controlled trial in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Brooklyn to assess the impact of ICCAN on cancer treatment completion and quality of life. We continue our work with on the Coalition for Housing and Health. We are working with the group to prepare testimony for a City Council hearing to alert them of the housing issues faced by underserved cancer patients.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Food to Overcome Outcomes Disparities (FOOD)

The FOOD Program serves cancer patients with seven hospital-based pantries in Queens, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Brooklyn. FOOD staff has successfully piloted ten Spanish nutrition education workshops in partnership with the New York Common Pantry at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, and will continue to offer English/Spanish workshops at additional sites through the fall. Staff recently completed a needs assessment to determine food insecurity levels among MSKCC patients; based on the results, we are planning a pilot pantry program at MSKCC. MSKCC’s Annual Giving office partnered with the JP Morgan Analyst & Associate Council to pack over 100 bags of healthful food items, which were distributed at all FOOD pantries.
STAFF UPDATES
We are pleased to introduce our newest staff member: Alex Ocampo, Assistant Research Biostatistician.

South Asian Health Initiative (SAHI)
SAHI is a multidisciplinary community-academic partnership that focuses on community-engaged research, education, and service to reduce health disparities in the South Asian community. SAHI investigators are working on a book chapter exploring the multilayered factors (physical, behavioral and structural) which make South Asians vulnerable to cancer disparities, and making recommendations to improve cancer outcomes among South Asian immigrant communities. Additionally, we are developing a special NIMHD R34-funded issue on cardiovascular disease and cancer among South Asians in the United States for the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health.

Ventanillas de Salud (VDS, aka Health Windows)
VDS is a partnership between the Mexican Consulate and IHCD to provide disease prevention services, increase access to preventive care, raise awareness around health-related issues, and promote healthy lifestyle choices for Latino communities in New York City. Through this collaborative effort, VDS addresses its key objective: to decrease health disparities in the Mexican community. IHCD continues to organize health screenings and nutrition workshops, along with connecting individuals to health resources. From June 7-9, IHCD participated in a Strategic Planning and Reflection Workshop with all East Coast VDS sites, which provided an opportunity for each group to share best practices and discuss programs and activities.

Arab Health Initiative (AHI)
AHI focuses on educating Arab communities on cancer issues as well as providing services to people in need with the hopes of reducing health disparities experienced by these communities. We coordinated a mammography van screening and education event in Brooklyn with project partners. All of the women completed screenings and received follow up. We completed data collection for our study, Assessing the Socioeconomic Determinants of Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Completion among Egyptian Women, which uses an interviewer administered questionnaire to assess the needs of breast cancer patients. The data is currently being analyzed and will be used to develop interventions to address the findings.

Taxi Network
The Taxi Network is a community-based participatory research and service project to improve health and health care access among New York City taxi drivers. This summer, more than a dozen interns have joined the Taxi Network to help provide free health screenings to drivers in garages across the city. Interns and staff are also conducting needs assessments with drivers in French, Bengali, Spanish, Urdu, and Arabic. Results of these and other projects will be made available to the Taxi and Limousine Commission, the New York City Council, and taxi companies and trade associations.

IHCD Internship Program
Thank you to our summer interns: Kathryn Traub; Rachel Glass; Matthew Diamond; Sarah Ali; Hanish Kodali; Victoria Okusanya; Daniel Iqbal; Jason Lin; Emily Zheng; Christian Kadima; Maria Chaname; Angel Morquecho; Gabby Ro; Lauren Diller; Leah Galitzdorfer; Nureen Ahammed; Modupe Moladel; Caitlyn Sing; Husam Ahmed; Yousr Shallout; Fatima Zahra Boualououi; Romina Almada; Emely Perez; Normarie Blasco; Stephan Lestin; Elizabeth Yim; Marcela Toto Bejarano; Sonja Taneja; Julia Scarlett; Stephanie Christian; Oluwatomi Oluwasanmi; and Tarun Sharafi.

If you are interested in internship opportunities available at IHCD, please contact Claudia Ayash at ayashc@mskcc.org or visit our website at www.mskcc.org/cih.

Language and Cultural Responsiveness Initiatives
Language Initiatives supports researchers, healthcare institutions, and outreach programs serving diverse populations with linguistic and cultural responsiveness, with endeavors to empower key stakeholders and interpreters to overcome language and cultural barriers to healthcare access. Five students from the City College of New York have been accepted into the CCNY-MSK Summer Learning Lab. They will use their language skills in programs aimed at ensuring equity in health. A new cycle of Medical Interpreting Training (MIT) is in session through August 2016. This language-specific training was designed to meet the growing interest of many bilingual individuals who want to become professionally trained medical interpreters. Interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to us for more information about future trainings.

NYS Health Benefit Exchange
IHCD has been designated as a New York State facilitated enroller, which allows us to directly assist patients, their family members, and other NY residents with enrollment into the New York State Health Benefit Exchange. Our navigators speak English, Arabic, Bengali, Spanish, and French.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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Language Initiatives
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Arab Health Initiative
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