



Immigrant Health & Cancer Disparities

Towards Equity in Health

What's New at the IHCD?

Presentations & Speakers

The Immigrant Health and Cancer Disparities Service sponsored a series of talks this quarter: Nazleen Bharmal, MD, PhD, Division of General Internal Medicine/Health Services Research University of California, Los Angeles presented, "**Mixed Methods to Understand Social Determinants of Health in Racial/Ethnic Populations**"; Nisha Agarwal, JD Deputy Director at the Center for Popular Democracy, presented, "**Si Se Puede: Community-Driven Strategies to Promote Immigrant Health.**"

Francesca Gany, MD, MS, IHCD Service Chief, gave the following presentations: "**Practicing Prevention in a Changing Health Care Environment: The Affordable Care Act – its implication**" at the 8th Annual C5 Summit in New York; "**Immigrant Health: Engaging the Community to Improve Outcomes**" at the 2nd Annual Boston Children's Hospital Center for Collaborative Community Research (C-Core) Forum; "**VDS2G: Assessments and Review of Data, Best Practices and Challenges**" at the Ventanilla De Salud Advisory Group Meeting; "**Crossroad: U.S. Immigration Policy and Challenges of the New American Symposium**" at the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President; and "**Immigrant Health and Cancer Disparities – Bringing Linguistically and Culturally Responsive Care to Early Childhood Development**" at the Transatlantic Forum on Inclusive Early Years, King Baudouin Foundation.

Abraham Aragones, MD, MS, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, presented at Jornada del IME: Ventanillas de Salud annual meeting, "**Tema: Panel de vacunacion/Immunization Panel Presentacion proyecto de investigacion sobre vacuna HPV/HPV Research Project at VDS**".

Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Gany, who was a finalist for the Junior Faculty Council Mentoring Award at MSKCC.

Funding Updates

Dr. Gany received funding from the National Cancer Institute as part of the U54 grant mechanism that funds the CCNY-MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research, Training and Community Outreach in partnership with Tim Ahles, PhD, MSKCC and Karen Hubbard, PhD, Maurizio Trevisan, MD from CCNY.

Francesca Gany, MD, MS was awarded a State Department of Health's Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP) Center grant to conduct community-based participatory research to address cancer and CVD risk due to PM/ air pollution exposure among NYC taxi drivers.

We received additional funding from the NYC City Council to support Food to Overcome Outcome Disparities (FOOD) in Queens, which alleviates food insecurity in economically disadvantaged cancer patients.

We received generous support from Judges and Lawyers Against Breast Cancer (JALBCA) to expand the Arab American Breast Cancer Education and Referral program (AMBER).

Staff Updates

We are pleased to introduce our newest staff members: Taif Rady, Community Outreach Assistant II, Arab Health Initiative.; Xiaoliang (Barry) Ma, Community Outreach Assistant, Language Initiatives; Mamadou Mouctar Bah, Community Outreach Assistant, Taxi Network; Michael Nosanchuk, Community Outreach Assistant, Taxi Network.

We would like to extend a big thank-you to our 2013 interns for their hard work and contributions: Andres David Calvache; Arlene Castillo; Harry Chen; Sam Denzer; Nardin El-Shammaa; Astha Joshi; Neha Joshi; Youngjin Jung, MPH; Syeda Hasan; Navroop Kaur; Gita Kavala; Yamina Kezadri; Rijul Kochar; Assile Koubeissy; Lei Lei; Shu Lei; Henrietta Lewis; Yamlika Mena; Kamrun Nahar; Girish Ramrattan; Tahira Randhawa; Erika Torres; and Dora Velez.

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IHCD Staff at South Asian Health: From Research to Practice and Policy Convening Day

Program Updates

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. We have increased capacity building to support community-based services for immigrant cancer patients through the delivery of ongoing training. We continue to host quarterly meetings to train cancer service providers CBOs, social workers, and advocacy organizations. We are pleased to announce ICCAN services are expanding to a new site, Coney Island Hospital. The program has commenced recruitment at The Ralph Lauren Center and Lincoln Medical Center for a randomized control trial to assess the Impact of ICCAN on Cancer Treatment Completion and Quality of Life. Additionally, ICCAN will be expanding its pediatric program, PEDS ICCAN, to additional sites in 2014 through funding from the New York Community Trust. For more information, contact Julia Ramirez at ramirej1@mskcc.org.

Language and Cultural Responsiveness Initiatives

Language Initiatives continues to help equip researchers, community hospitals, and other programs working with immigrant populations with the tools to enroll and serve diverse populations in a culturally and linguistically responsive manner. We are entering into a collaboration with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation Office of LEP/CLAS for a comprehensive training program in dual role medical interpreting for bilingual employees. The program will include testing for bilingual proficiency; a 64-hour basic course in medical interpreting; an intermediate online practicum for up to 60 hours; workshops for national certification preparation; and interpreter skill assessments. Three hundred participants are expected to enroll in the program from January 2014 to December 2015 in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Russian. We are also developing our language lab in Bengali, an emerging language in NYC and invigorating our videography in Chinese. We worked with the NYU Cancer Institute for their annual community conference. We translated their presentations into Spanish and provided simultaneous interpreting services. Lastly, we have completed two cycles for year 3 of PROMISE and have almost completed recruitment for our 14th cycle. For more information, contact Javier González at gonzalc3@mskcc.org.

Ventanilla de Salud (Health Windows)

Ventanillas de Salud (VDS) is a partnership between the Mexican Consulate and IHCD to provide disease prevention services for Mexican families in New York City. Through this collaborative effort the VDS program maintains key objectives to decrease health disparities rampant in the Mexican community. This year, the thirteenth Binational Health Week (BHW) took place **October 1-21, 2013** in the U.S. and Canada, with the participation of the consular networks of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. The main topics for this year were: **Access to Health Care and the Health Care Reform in the U.S., Infectious Diseases, Chronic Diseases, Occupational Health and Mental Health.** The inaugural event and Policy Forum on Migration and Health was held on October 1st in Washington D.C. For more information, contact Julia Ramirez at ramirej1@mskcc.org.

Arab Health Initiative (AHI)

AHI focuses on education and services to reduce health disparities experienced by local and international Arab communities. The Arab American Breast Cancer Education and Referral Program (AMBER) had a very busy fall. In addition to our workshops, staff implemented three mammography van screenings on Steinway Street in Astoria, at the MAS Youth Center in Staten Island, and at the MAS Youth Center in Brooklyn in partnership with Project Renewal. As a result, we were able to screen close to 50 women. Additionally, a story about AMBER was published in Arabic in the local Astoria Arabic language newspaper, Arab Spring-
<http://www.arabspring.us/news/news/Member/5232>. If you are interesting in planning a program at your site or learning more about our programs, please contact Claudia Ayash at ayashc@mskcc.org.

Food to Overcome Outcomes Disparities (FOOD)

The FOOD Program continues to expand its food assistance services, now helping cancer patients in Queens, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Brooklyn. Five hospital-based FOOD pantries at cancer centers throughout the City provide more than 3,600 meals per month to cancer patients in need. To document FOOD's impact, the program has commenced recruitment at Queens Cancer Center, The Ralph Lauren Center, and Lincoln Medical Center for a randomized control trial. The FOOD Program also educates cancer care providers about issues of food security and their impact on cancer treatment outcomes, and about speaking with patients about food security. For more information, contact Julia Ramirez at ramirej1@mskcc.org.

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. In partnership with the South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS) and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, SAHI recently hosted *South Asian Health: From Research to Practice to Policy*, an innovative year-long initiative that brought together South Asian health researchers, community leaders, and practitioners from across the U.S, Canada and South Asia in a series of thematic working group meetings to identify gaps and research priorities in South Asian health and develop a research blueprint for tackling cancer and cardiovascular disparities. SAHI hosted a day-long in-person convening at MSKCC on September 20, 2013 to bridge the gap between research and community priorities and to finalize the blueprint. This event was attended by approximately 50 invited working group members and 50 community members. A final set of working group meetings is scheduled for the end of 2013. For additional information, please visit the conference website at <http://www.mskcc.org/research/south-asian-health-research-practice-and-policy> or email Lakshmi Prasad at prasadi@mskcc.org.

Taxi Network

The Taxi Network is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded community-based participatory research initiative to improve the health of NYC taxi drivers. In partnership with the South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS) and a community advisory board of taxi drivers (CAB), the Taxi Network uses participatory research methods to study the health and occupational needs of this diverse community. In early 2013, we launched a needs assessment survey to profile the health and occupational priorities of 200 NYC taxi drivers. Our preliminary findings highlighted access to health care and insurance as a priority area among drivers. Our in-house trained NYS Patient Navigators educated drivers about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and assisted them with enrolling into the Health Benefit Exchange. We also conduct health fairs for drivers at multiple garages and livery bases around the city to provide them with free CVD related testing and health care navigation services. This year we screened nearly 100 drivers. For more information, contact Lakshmi Prasad at prasadi@mskcc.org.