

Presentations and Speakers

Abraham Aragones, MD, MS, Assistant Attending

The following seminars were presented with Queens Library Health Link:
“Cancer Screening and Prevention”, “Cardiovascular Disease”, “HPV”, and “Men’s Health,” Queens, New York

Lisa Diamond, MD, MPH, Assistant Attending

“Language Barriers”, Professor Rounds, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York

Francesca Gany, MD, MS, Service Chief

“How Public Policy Influences Medical Decision Making”, The Affordable Care Act Symposium: Intersections of Law, Health and Society, New York University, New York, New York

Abdulrahman M El-Sayed, DPhil

“Food Insecurity and Cancer Disparities”, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Society, New York, New York

“The Health of Arab-Americans: Current Knowledge and Future Directions”, Immigrant Health and Cancer Disparities Service, New York, New York

Funding Update

We are pleased to share that we received two grants from the Greater New York City Affiliate of Susan G. Komen® to fund:

Arab American Breast Cancer Education and Referral Program (AMBER). AMBER increases the utilization of breast cancer early-detection services, and facilitates treatment completion among Arab American women in Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island.

Promoting Immigrant Minority Equity in Cancer Research (PRIME). PRIME increases enrollment of minorities in breast cancer observational studies and clinical research.

We have also received funding for the **AMBER** project through Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA). This funding will help us to continue our services and to grow to meet the increased needs of the Arab American population.

We have received funding from the Robin Hood Foundation to support the **Program for Medical Interpreting Services and Education (PROMISE)** for a fourth year. With their support, PROMISE will continue to train unemployed and underemployed individuals, in medical interpreting and job skills, and to assist them in finding jobs.

We received generous funding from the WalMart Foundation for the continued growth of the **Food to Overcome Outcomes Disparities (FOOD) Program**, which alleviates food insecurity in economically disadvantaged cancer patients in New York City. We also received additional FOOD funding through the Council of the City of New York, to fund the food pantry at Queens Cancer Center.

Staff Updates

We would like to extend a big thank you to our Spring 2013-2014 interns for their tremendous contributions: Thana-Ashley Charles; Nardin El-Shammaa; Youngjin Jung; Yamina Kezadri; Assile Koubeissy; Lei Lei; Shu Lei; Angela Ma; Yamlika Mena; Fardina Miah; Alexander Morse; Kamrun Nahar; George Ng; An Nguyen; Wurood Nomon and Maria Vidas.

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Taxi Network
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Integrated Cancer Care Access Network (ICCAN)

ICCAN addresses the social and economic barriers to cancer treatment experienced by underserved cancer patients. We have increased our capacity building training to support community-based services for immigrant cancer patients. We hosted a convening in June that focused on research and outreach activities. We continue to recruit for a randomized control trial to assess the impact of ICCAN on cancer treatment completion and quality of life. ICCAN has expanded to include Coney Island Hospital and our pediatric program, PEDS. ICCAN, continues to assist Pediatric patients and their families. For more information, contact Julia Ramirez at ramirej1@mskcc.org.

Food to Overcome Outcomes Disparities (FOOD)

The FOOD Program continues to serve cancer patients with hospital-based pantries in Queens, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Brooklyn. The Program opened a sixth site, at Coney Island Hospital, in April 2014. Due to overwhelming food insecurity needs, FOOD has been rapidly growing and now typically sees 100 patients per week and distributes over 3,700 meals per month. We are participating in the Health Bucks program for the 2014 farmers' market season, to offer patients access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Recruitment of patients for the FOOD randomized control trial has reached its target at Queens Cancer Center, and continues at Ralph Lauren Center and Lincoln Hospital. For more information, contact Julia Ramirez at ramirej1@mskcc.org.

NYS Health Benefit Exchange

Immigrant Health and Cancer Disparities Service has been designated as a New York State facilitated enroller, which allows us to directly assist patients and their family members with enrollment into the NYS Health Benefit Exchange. For more information or to speak with a Navigator, please call 646-888-4813.

Ventanillas de Salud (Health Windows)

Ventanillas de Salud (VDS) is a partnership between the Mexican Consulate and IHCD to provide disease prevention services, increase access to health care, raise awareness around health related issues, and promote healthy lifestyle choices for the Latino communities in New York City. Through this collaborative effort, the VDS program addresses its key objective: to decrease the health disparities of the Mexican community. In Spring 2014, the VDS, together with its partner organizations, served 4988 people through free screenings for blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, and STDs. The VDS has developed two new important partnerships, one with NYU College of Dentistry and the other with Cornell University Cooperative Extension. NYU College of Dentistry has provided free dental screenings and vouchers to receive free cleanings at their clinic. Cornell University Cooperative Extension began providing weekly nutrition workshops and education. For more information, please contact Julia Ramirez at ramirej1@mskcc.org.

Taxi Network

The Taxi Network celebrates an exciting and productive spring 2014. We finished data collection for our driver workplace social network analysis survey and are now working on conducting a closed network analysis. We are pleased to report that our Taxi Network Community Advisory Board of NYC taxi drivers is growing and is working with the research team to develop interventions to address health concerns. Our team has been conducting free health screenings for drivers around the City, and has been instrumental in facilitating drivers' health insurance access by navigating them into the NYS Health Benefit Exchange. Approximately 75 drivers have been enrolled to date. For more information, please contact Margaux Genoff at genoffm@mskcc.org.

Language and Cultural Responsiveness Initiatives

Language Initiatives is committed to empowering researchers, community hospitals and other programs in their efforts to best serve diverse populations in a linguistically and culturally responsive manner. We provide linguistically and culturally appropriate services and research support. We are pleased to report that we are completing our patient navigation and medical interpreting trainings at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center and Flushing Hospital Medical Center. We are about to embark on a medical interpreting training program at the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, with face-to-face and online trainings. We continue to grow our Virtual Language Lab and our language coach pool through our 2014 Workshop Series. Our efforts in curriculum design and development continue as we broaden our language neutral and language specific face-to-face and online hybrid training offerings, in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Arabic, Haitian Creole, and Bengali, among others. For more information, contact Javier González at gonzalc3@mskcc.org.

Arab Health Initiative (AHI)

AHI focuses on education and services to reduce health disparities experienced by local and international Arab communities. As part of our Arab American Breast Cancer Education and Referral Program (AMBER), we facilitated 5 breast health workshops in community-based organizations, mosques and churches across the city this past quarter. We navigated over 100 women to receive breast cancer screening, assisted 20 women with medical interpretation at their appointments, and linked 3 newly diagnosed women with resources and supportive services to help them complete their treatments. We are initiating a research project with our community partners to identify perceptions of, and barriers to, colorectal cancer (CRC) screening in the Arab community, and will incorporate the findings into our CRC education and screening initiative. Additionally, AHI Coordinator, Perla Chebli, was featured on the Arab Radio and Television Network in April, where she discussed AMBER program activities. For more information, please contact Perla Chebli at chebli@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. During the spring, SAHI staff implemented several community Health Fairs at community locations including the Shri Guru Ravidas Sabha of NY and the Jamaica Muslim Center. We have been working with community partners in Chicago and NYC to host community meetings in the summer to continue disseminating the findings from the *South Asian Health: From Research to Practice to Policy* initiative. These findings were also presented at the Canada India Networking Initiative in June.

For additional information, please email Rijul Kochar at kocharr@mskcc.org.