

WASHINGTON

CANCER

Partnership

# ***CANCER CONNECTION***

November 2016

Dear WA CARES,

Welcome to the November edition of the Cancer Connection, the monthly briefer of the "*Washington Cancer Partnership*."

If you have information about upcoming news, events, organizational happenings, or other cancer-related topics you wish to include in the December Cancer Connection please email them to me by December 9.

If you are interested in having your organization highlighted in an upcoming Cancer Connection, please feel free to reach out to me!

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Partner Spotlight



## Genetic Support Foundation

### Cancer Risk and Prevention: Family History & Genetics

All cancer is due to genetic changes (mutations) but only about 10% of all cancers run in a family due to strong inherited genetic changes. For example, the genes *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* (named "BR" for breast and "CA" for cancer, 1 and 2 in the order that each gene was discovered) are important in repairing genetic damage and protecting us from certain types of cancer including breast and ovarian cancer in women and prostate cancer in men. In some families, a non-working (mutated) copy of this gene may be passed from generation to generation and increases the chance for certain types of cancers. Similarly, there are other genes that, when not working properly, can increase the risks for other types of cancer such as colon, uterine, stomach, pancreatic skin and other cancers.

It is increasingly recognized that identifying inherited predisposition to cancer due to these genetic changes can be very important for early detection and prevention of cancers in high risk families. One of the best ways to determine a risk in the family is by looking at the family tree. Additionally, there are several genetic tests available today that can analyze specific genes through a blood or saliva sample to better understand risk in a family.

Genetic counselors are board-certified and licensed health care professionals who provide evaluation of medical and family history to determine the likelihood of an inherited susceptibility to cancer. They can provide guidance on genetic testing that may be appropriate and also help people use this information to empower informed decisions towards early detection and prevention of cancers in the family.

In Washington State there are several genetic counselors at clinics throughout the state. You can find genetic services near you through this directory on the Department of Health website at [this link](#).

Genetic counseling services are also offered remotely via telehealth. At Genetic Support Foundation, they provide genetic counseling via a HIPAA compliant televideo-conferencing platform with the goal of increasing access to genetic counseling in communities who do not have local services available. With support of the Department of Health, they have established telehealth sites in Mason County and in Grays Harbor

County. These sites allow patients to see a genetic counselor from their local doctor's office. In communities that do not have established telehealth sites, patients can also schedule with them directly for genetic counseling and can meet with them via computer from their own homes.

You can learn more about their telehealth services on their website [here](#). Are you interested in setting up a telehealth site for genetic counseling in your community?

They would welcome an opportunity to discuss how they can bring genetic counseling services to your area. Call them at 844.743.6384 or email at [info@geneticsupportfoundation.org](mailto:info@geneticsupportfoundation.org).

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## BREAST CANCER

### **Save the Date: The Young & Strong Webcast- Local therapy issues from surgical decision making to long-term side effects**

Young and Strong, the program for young women with breast cancer at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, invites you and any patients who use your services/program to join us for our last webcast of the year. Please circulate the write up and flyer for our upcoming webcast to your extended partners and circles. Once you have completed, let us know to whom you have shared and the date shared.

Please join us for a live webcast on December 13, 2016 from 7:00PM-8:00PM EST. Laura Dominici, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School and Shoshanna Rosenberg, ScD, MPH, of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women's Cancers at Dana-Farber will discuss, "Local therapy issues from surgical decision making to long-term side effects." Online registration is now open, please [click here](#) to register. Join us for their talk as they share knowledge on these important decisions.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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## COLORECTAL CANCER

### **[New 80% by 2018 Blog!](#)**

### **[Call for Nominations for the 80% by 2018 National Achievement Awards:](#)**

The NCCRT is pleased to announce that nominations are open for the 2017 80% by



2018 National Achievement Awards, a competitive recognition program that seeks to highlight 80% by 2018 success stories by recognizing individuals and organizations who are dedicating their time, talent and expertise to advancing the shared goal to regularly screen 80% of adults 50 and over by 2018.

Of course, they welcome nominations of partners who have reached 80%, but are also looking to recognize systems who are seeing noted improvements in baseline screening rates or recognize individual champions who have made a difference through leadership or other means. Visit the 80% by 2018 National Achievement Awards webpage to learn about contest rules, prizes and recognition and to submit your nomination. The top nominee will receive a \$3,000 donation to support their efforts (see the website for details and exceptions). Watch this video from Dr. Wender to learn more [click here](#).

The nominations deadline is December 2nd, 2016. Visit our 80% by 2018 [National Achievement Awards webpage](#) to learn more and submit your nomination (or self-nomination) today.

### **[Vice President Biden's Cancer Moonshot Report includes 80% by 2018:](#)**

Vice President Joe Biden delivered the [Cancer Moonshot Task Force Report](#), which articulates the task force's strategic plan for transforming cancer research and care. The report includes a strong focus on colorectal cancer screening under Strategic Goal 4, Strengthen Prevention and Diagnosis, and specifically mentions 80% by 2018 as the driving initiative that is shaping state and local efforts to increase colorectal cancer screening (page 24). The NCCRT plans to 1) Expand colorectal cancer screening efforts in the United States and 2) Remove barriers that limit access to colorectal cancer screening.

Read the full report and find additional resources and information about the Cancer Moonshot [here](#).

### **[NCQA releases 2017 CRC HEDIS measure:](#)**

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) released the [Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set \(HEDIS\) 2017 Technical Specifications Update](#), which includes changes to the colorectal cancer screening measure.

The changes include the addition of CT colonography and stool DNA testing in response to the June 2016 U.S. Preventive Services Task Force release of an updated colorectal cancer screening recommendation. The changes also include new wording that clarifies there are "two types of FOBT tests: guaiac (gFOBT) and immunochemical (FIT)." View these and other changes in the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) 2017 Technical Specifications Update.

### **[Registration is open for NCCRT Webinar on Familial Risk and CRC Screening Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm EST:](#)**

Registration is open for the NCCRT webinar *Familial Risk and Colorectal Cancer Screening*. The purpose of the webinar is to review the recently published NCCRT commissioned article, [Understanding the contribution of family history to colorectal cancer risk and its clinical implications: A state-of-the-science review](#), that explores what we know, don't know and how we are doing in terms of screening those with a family history of colorectal cancer.

The webinar will be held on Thursday, December 8th at 1:00pm EST. You must be pre-registered to join the webinar by clicking on the registration link below. The number of attendees is limited. The webinar is open to NCCRT members, 80% by 2018 partners, CDC grantees and ACS Health Systems staff.

For registration information click [here](#).

### **[Call for Dialogue for Action Poster Abstracts:](#)**

Submit your poster abstract now for the 2017 *Dialogue for Action*® poster session. Don't miss this opportunity to share your ideas, strategies and successful programs with colleagues from around the world. The 2017 poster session theme is "Community Responses to Disparities in Cancer Screening and Prevention." The top-ranking poster will receive one waived registration fee and special recognition at the poster session and will be featured in an exclusive video interview to be recorded on site at the *Dialogue* conference. Many thanks to Lisa Han of the Prevent Cancer Foundation for sharing this opportunity with us.

Click [here](#) to read the submission guidelines and submit your abstract by 5 p.m. ET on Thursday, October 27. Questions? Contact [Ann.Mallari@preventcancer.org](mailto:Ann.Mallari@preventcancer.org). Learn more about the 2017 Dialogue for Action® at [www.dialogueforaction.org](http://www.dialogueforaction.org).

### **Stand Up To Cancer has issued a Call for Ideas for a New CRC Dream Team:**

Stand Up To Cancer (SU2C) announced it will launch commit up to \$7 million (US) for a new Dream Team to find ways to improve treatment of colorectal cancer. The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), SU2C's scientific partner, issued a "Call for Ideas" to invite proposals from the scientific community to form a Dream Team. Letters of Intent are due December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. [See the link to the release](#), which includes proposal requirements and due dates. Many thanks to Jane Rubinstein for bringing this opportunity to our attention. Please direct questions to Stand Up To Cancer.

### **New Article: Recommendations on FIT Testing:**

A new review article, [Recommendations on Fecal Immunochemical Testing to Screen for Colorectal Neoplasia: A Consensus Statement by the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer](#), summarizes current evidence for FIT in colorectal neoplasia detection and compares FIT relative to other commonly used CRC screening modalities. Importantly, the article aims to assist health care practitioners in the use of FIT by summarizing evidence about performance characteristics; assists those developing FIT-based screening programs by summarizing evidence regarding its application (eg, number of tests and quantitative cut-off values for a positive test); and addresses other important clinical questions.

Congratulations to NCCRT Members Drs. Jason Dornitz, David Lieberman, TR Levin and the other authors for their work on this paper. Additionally, the article inspired an NPR news story on CRC screening test options: [NPR: The FIT Test Measures Up For Noninvasive Colon Cancer Screening](#).

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## **CERVICAL CANCER/HPV**

### **CDC Recommends Only Two HPV Shots for Younger Adolescents:**

As you know, we recently updated our HPV vaccination dose recommendations. We are now recommending that 11-12 year olds receive 2 doses of HPV vaccine at least six months apart, rather than the previously recommended 3 doses. I'd like to ask you to continue to encourage health care professionals in your communities to lead the conversation about the importance of the vaccine for cancer prevention. Please be sure to see and share the press release and CDC resources provided in the following message:

CDC now recommends that 11- to 12-year-olds receive two doses of HPV vaccine at least six months apart rather than the previously recommended three doses to protect against cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infections. Teens and young

adults who start the series later, at ages 15 through 26 years, will continue to need three doses of HPV vaccine to protect against cancer-causing HPV infection. For more information, read the [full press release](#).

Health care professionals: CDC is asking you, a trusted source of vaccine information, to lead the conversation about the importance of HPV vaccine for cancer prevention with your patients and their parents, your practice staff, and your colleagues in the community. See our [resources to answer the questions parents may have](#).

Thank you,

Nikki Hayes  
Chief, Comprehensive Cancer Control Branch  
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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## LUNG CANCER/TOBACCO



### [Washington State Department of Health](#)

[Tobacco Quitline](#). The Quitline is currently offering up to 5 **FREE** counseling calls to help people quit tobacco. Two weeks of free nicotine replacement gum or patches are offered to qualified callers. No callers are turned away. If you have

insurance please check with your health plan, as you may have a better benefit with no out-of-pocket costs.

## SKIN AND OTHER CANCERS

### **Volunteers Needed for Cancer Study:**

A clinical trial called NCI-MATCH (National Cancer Institute-Molecular Analysis for Therapy Choice) is exploring how to match a tumor's genetic changes with drugs that target these changes. The NCI is needed volunteers for their nationwide clinical trial.

Please visit [this link](#) to learn more about this clinical trial and where to send volunteers to.

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## SURVIVORSHIP/SUPPORT GROUPS



### **Winter Carnival:**

Cancer Pathways (formerly Gilda's Club Seattle), 1400 Broadway, Seattle

Saturday, December 17th. 1:00-3:00pm

Enjoy SpinArt, games, cupcake walk, face painting, delicious food and so much MORE! Perfect for the whole family! Free and open to the public. Lunch provided. Visit [cancerpathways.org](#) to register.

### **Cancer Unwrapped:**

Since 2006, Cancer Pathways (formerly Gilda's Club Seattle) has offered a writing contest for high school students touched by cancer, either through their own diagnosis or that of a loved one. Last year, we launched a new contest for middle school students in the Puget Sound area. Each year we receive hundreds of submissions and have

handed out more than \$110,000 in cash prizes to date. For more information, visit [cancerpathways.org/cancer-unwrapped](http://cancerpathways.org/cancer-unwrapped) or contact Liz Lange at [liz@cancerpathways.org](mailto:liz@cancerpathways.org)

**Cancer Support Group**. The Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center offers a monthly support group for individuals and their caregivers dealing with the emotional life changing challenges of a cancer diagnosis. The group is open and available on a drop-in basis (pre-registration welcomed.) The group meets at **4 p.m. the second Thursday of each month**. To register, or for further information, please contact [Peter Wold](#), MSW, Oncology Social Worker. The meetings are held in the Safeway Conference Room at Skagit Valley Hospital Regional Cancer Care Center, third floor.

**Art and Healing Group**. **First and third Mondays of each month, 2 - 4 p.m.** in the Safeway Conference Room (third floor) at the Regional Cancer Care Center. Instructor Margaret Carpenter Arnett, BSN, ATR, has been doing art therapy with cancer patients for more than 20 years. Creating art can promote healing by reducing anxiety and stress and improving emotional well-being. Please note that artistic "skills" are not required! Come and join this fun and welcoming group. For more information call 360-814-8255.



**The Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Patient and Family Resource Center** offers a monthly calendar of free classes for patients, families, and caregivers. From therapeutic yoga to food safety classes to luncheons for caregivers, SCCA offers all kinds of valuable support.



**The Swedish Cancer Education Center** offers a variety of complimentary patient education classes that are open to patients, family, friends, and caregivers. The classes range from cancer prevention to gentle yoga, and are offered at four of our different campuses. Here are a few of the classes we will be offering: Cancer and Finances 101, The Wonderful World of Hula, and T'ai Chi. To register for classes, please call 1-800-SWEDISH or visit [Swedish.org/classes](http://Swedish.org/classes). In addition to the educational classes Swedish offers, the Oncology Social Work department hosts support groups for prostate cancer, gynecological cancer, living with cancer, support for caregivers, and more. To learn more about our support groups, please call (206) 386-3228.



**University of Washington Center for Child & Family Well-being** (CCFW) is dedicated to promoting the positive development of children and families by translating research for practical application. Through its Mindful Living and Practice Initiative, CCFW offers public lectures, professional training, and workshops to promote mindfulness practices in the community and provide parents and practitioners with ready access to the latest evidence-based knowledge.

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## CANCER AND RELATED NEWS

[Week of October 24, 2016](#)  
[Week of October 31, 2016](#)  
[Week of November 7, 2016](#)

## FUNDING

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## GENERAL

### Call for Komen Grant Reviewers:

Komen Puget Sound would like to invite you to participate in the 2017-2018 grant review process, focused on enabling organization to expand their reach and increase access to breast health services for women throughout our community.

Given your experience, we know that you would be a thoughtful reviewer of our current slate of grant applications and would appreciate your involvement. If you are unable to participate, but know of someone who would - please feel free to pass along my contact information.

Information on how to apply and an overview of the general process and requirements is below. I'm also happy to provide you with a full job description, if requested.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Warm Regards,

Robyn Sneeringer (Robyn@pskomen.org)  
Director of Programs, Komen Puget Sound

### How to Apply as Grant Reviewer:

Please complete the [online reviewer application](#) by no later than Monday, November 28, 2016.

### Additional details:

The Puget Sound Affiliate of Susan G. Komen is seeking grant reviewers for its upcoming competitive grant application process for 2017-2018 fiscal year. Komen Puget Sound is looking for qualified candidates who possess one or more of the following:

- A comprehensive knowledge of breast care, breast cancer and women's healthcare.
- Previous experience as a grant writer and/or reviewer.
- Proficiency in financial or program management for a community-based organization.
- Experience in outreach/education, especially among medically underserved communities.
- Experience with patient navigation, especially among medically underserved communities.
- Experience with breast cancer screening and/or treatment, especially among medically underserved communities.
- Experience with ACA implementation, especially its impact on medically underserved individuals.

In addition, we seek representation from diverse communities (race/ethnic, geographic/urban/rural, gender, LGBTQ, disability, etc.) as part of our review panel.

Each Grant Reviewer will be required to be a lead reviewer for approximately 3-5 grant applications over a span of 2-3 weeks during the month of January 2017. Reviewers will access the grant applications online (but there is printing capability). In addition to completing a score sheet (online) for each application reviewed, the reviewers must participate in at least two meetings:

1. **Orientation meeting** (required for all new reviewers) to be scheduled in December. Previous reviewers are welcome to attend.

2. **Panel Review meeting** (must be face-to-face) to discuss grant applications and reviewer evaluation/scores. The meeting will be held at one of the following dates and times. If you are not able to make at least one of these options, you will likely not be selected as a reviewer:

- Saturday, 8am - noon, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017;
- Saturday, 8am - noon, February 4, 2017.

3. **Review Process** will take about 60-90 minutes for each grant application. During the grant review process, the selected reviewers are expected to perform the following activities:

- Read and evaluate proposals utilizing Komen Puget Sound program criteria.
- Complete an online score sheet for each assigned grant applicant.
- Determine scoring and recommendations independently, without influence from outside sources or fellow reviewers.
- Deliver clear and concise recommendations during meetings.
- Work collaboratively and effectively with team members during meetings/evaluations.
- Provide detailed explanations for recommendations based on Komen Puget Sound standards. This includes constructive comments on the strengths and weaknesses of assigned proposals.

Below you will find additional details on the application and grant priorities. If you are unable to participate, but would like a colleague to be considered in your place, please let me know via e-mail and I can arrange for follow-up.

## Washington Cancer Partnership Projects

### **80% by 2018 Washington Employer Challenge**

This project aims to increase colon cancer screening rates across our state by partnering with employers. Enrollment in the challenge is an easy, online process and your organization will have hands on assistance every step of the way.

For assistance in enrolling your organization, contact [Cynthia Eichner](#) at the American Cancer Society.



### **Washington Alliance for Cancer Survivorship**

This alliance arose from the June 2015 George Washington Cancer Institute survivorship workshop at EvergreenHealth. The focus of this group is helping

healthcare systems to implement survivorship care plans. For more information contact [Rose Guerrero](#).

### **Washington Cancer Screening Network**

This group provides a forum for networking and training among professionals dedicated to detecting cancer in the early stages. For more details please contact [Jill Wisehart](#).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
WASHINGTON CANCER PARTNERSHIP,  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**



Cancer Connection  
November 2016

Washington Cancer Partnership  
[jill.maughanwisehart@doh.wa.gov](mailto:jill.maughanwisehart@doh.wa.gov)

*Links to external resources are provided as a public service, and do not imply endorsement by the Washington State Department of Health. For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).*