



UPSTATE CAROLINA

Connector

May 2021

Meeting Updates

NRG
July 22-24
Philadelphia

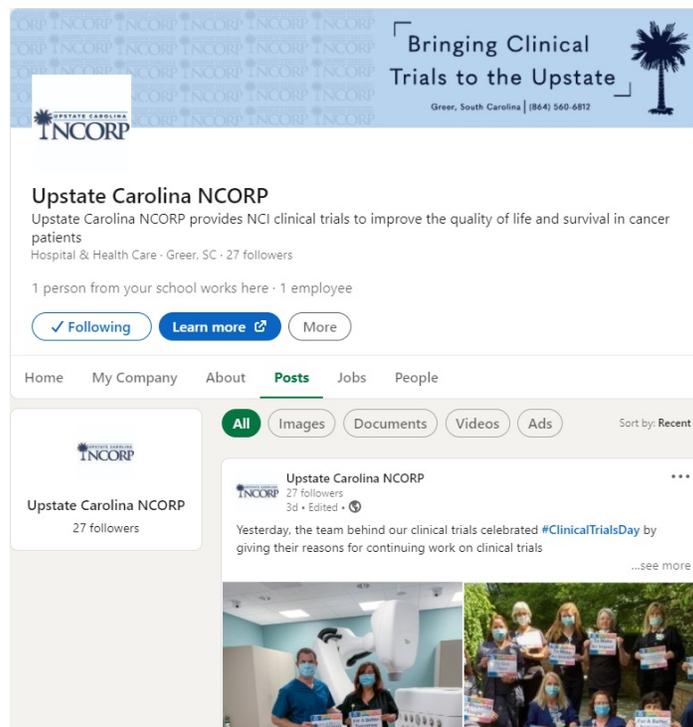
Issue Highlights:

- Smiling Faces
- The Cancer Letter
- Diving into Disparities



NCI Community Oncology Research Program

A program of the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health



Connect with us on LinkedIn!

Our LinkedIn page went live on May 4!

Be sure to Follow us for your chance to be entered to win a prize.

**The last day to enter the drawing is Monday, June 21*

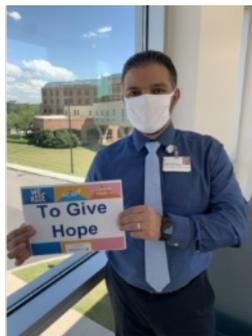
Follow the link to view our page

[LinkedIn.com](https://www.linkedin.com/company/upstate-carolina-ncorp)

Smiling Faces

Clinical Trials Day

May 20, 2021



The Cancer Letter

TCL
THE CANCER LETTER

Inside information on cancer research and drug development

ISSUE 4720
MAY 21, 2021
www.cancerletter.com

CHERYL WILLMAN NAMED HEAD OF MAYO CLINIC CANCER PROGRAMS, DIRECTOR OF CANCER CENTER

Cheryl Willman was named executive director of Mayo Clinic Cancer Programs and director of Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center. Her transition to Mayo will occur sometime in August, officials said.

→ PAGE 4

HERE'S SOMETHING FOR THE BIDDENS AND ARPA-H TO DO: BUILD A NATIONAL, FEDERATED ECOSYSTEM FOR DIGITAL HEALTH. MITRE PROPOSES

→ PAGE 16

DAVID TUVESON: NCI NEEDS MORE FUNDING TO INCREASE SUCCESS RATE OF RPCS

→ PAGE 25

DONALD PINKEL, THE CANCER PIONEER WHO INTRODUCED THE WORD "CURE" TO CANCER

→ PAGE 26

THE SIXTH VITAL SIGN, RADIATION ONCOLOGY AND CANCER CALLIGRAPHY, JAMIE HOLLAND, GERALD HANKS, AND ALFRED KRUGSON

→ PAGE 31

May 21, 2021

TCL
THE CANCER LETTER

Inside information on cancer research and drug development

ISSUE 4719
MAY 14, 2021
www.cancerletter.com

ST. JUDE'S \$11.5B, SIX-YEAR PLAN AIMS TO IMPROVE GLOBAL OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER AND CATASTROPHIC DISEASES

Small dreams have no power to move hearts, and in a new six-year strategic plan, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is thinking very big.

→ PAGE 1

REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE: CANCER TRIALS ARE GETTING HARDER TO COMPLETE, SUGGESTING A NEED FOR MORE POWERFUL BWE, AI SOLUTIONS

→ PAGE 14

CONVERSATION WITH THE CANCER LETTER "SOUCIUS"—A CVN ONCOLOGIST EXAMINES THE TOLL OF SEXISM IN THE OR

→ PAGE 18

CANCER HISTORY PROJECT: PAUL CALABRESI, A FOUNDER AND GIANT IN THE FIELD OF MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

→ PAGE 23

TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS: IT'S TIME TO REETHINK CLINICAL TRIALS IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

→ PAGE 28

May 14, 2021

TCL
THE CANCER LETTER

Inside information on cancer research and drug development

ISSUE 4718
MAY 7, 2021
www.cancerletter.com

MENTHOL BAN HAS BEEN A NO-BRAINER FOR DECADES—WILL IT FINALLY HAPPEN?

Mainstream tobacco control advocates are celebrating the recent announcement that the Food and Drug Administration is poised to restrict the manufacture and sale of mentholated cigarettes and cigars.

→ PAGE 5

THE UNKNOV, UNFILTERED HISTORY OF MENTHOL CIGARETTES

→ PAGE 8

CTCA LEAVES TULSA AND PHILADELPHIA; TULSA MOVE COMES AND BLUE CROSS COST-CUTTING MOVES

→ PAGE 15

HINRICHS REFLECTS ON HIS MOVE FROM NCI TO RUTGERS CANCER IMMUNOLOGY AND METABOLISM CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

→ PAGE 19

A DOCUMENT IN PERSPECTIVE: OTIS BRAVLEY ON FRANK S. BAUSCHER'S 1995 CANCER PROGRAM UPDATE

→ PAGE 22

May 7, 2021

TCL
THE CANCER LETTER

Inside information on cancer research and drug development

ISSUE 4717
APRIL 30, 2021
www.cancerletter.com

IN 3-DAY MARATHON, ODAC WINNERS' "DANGLING" ACCELERATED APPROVALS OF PD-1/PD-L1 DRUGS

This was not your ordinary ODAC, but a three-day checkpoint inhibitor marathon that consumed April 27, 28, and 29. You might call it six ODACs for the price of one: subtle as all get-out, if you blink-you-miss-it head-spinner of a shindig.

→ PAGE 4

WE ASK FDA TO EXPLAIN "DANGLING" ACCELERATED APPROVALS—AND THIS WEEK'S ODAC AGENDA

→ PAGE 11

BIDEN URGES CONGRESS TO FUND ARPA-H AS ODP NOMINEE ERIC LANDER DEFINES AGENCY'S MISSION

→ PAGE 15

ASCO SPECIAL AWARDS: MAURA GILSON, ARUL CHINNAIVAN, JOSEPH SPARANO, BANU ARUM, DAN HAYES, FREDRICH, CRYSTAL MACCALL

→ PAGE 21

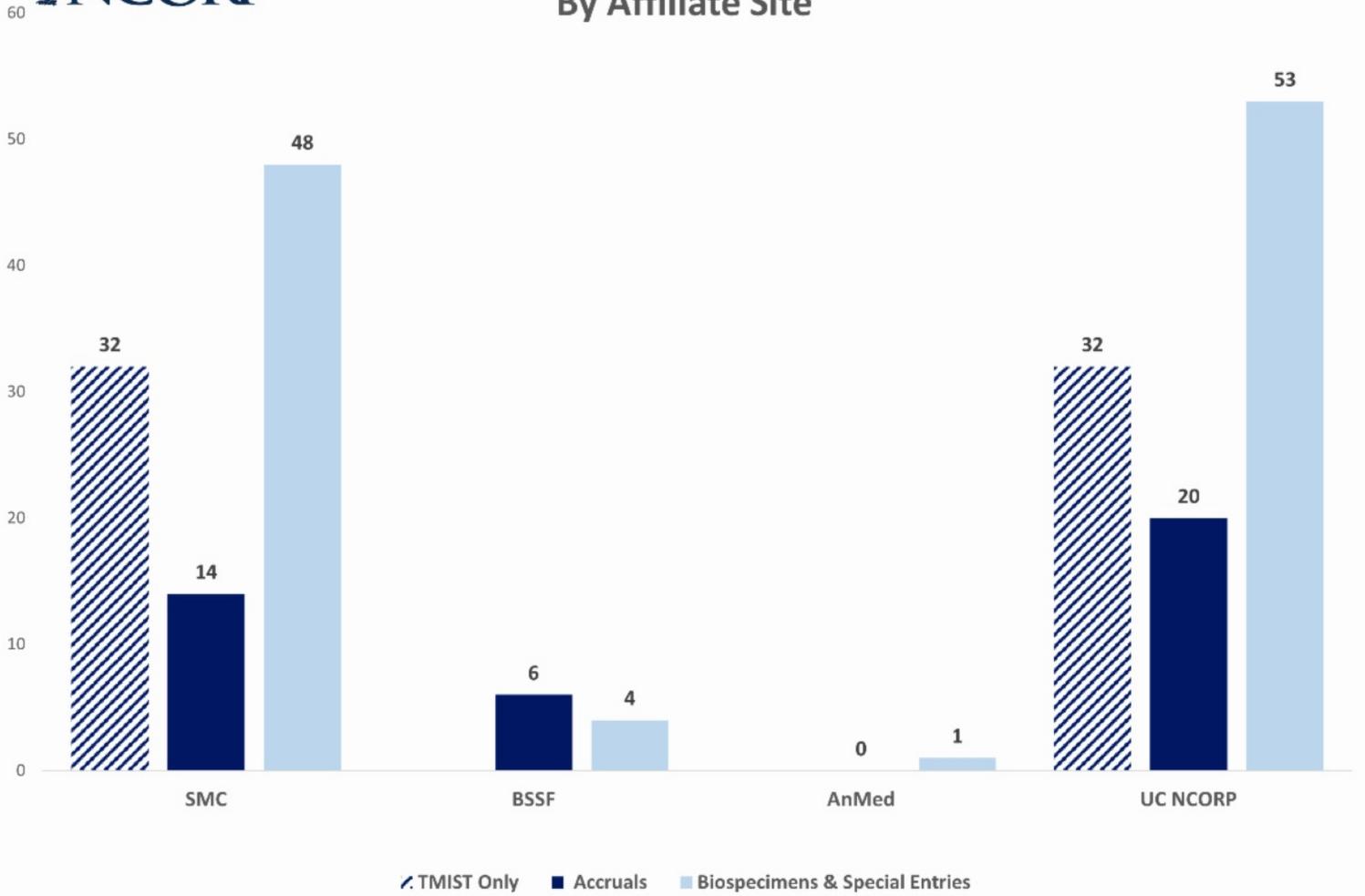
NEW NAS MEMBERS INCLUDE: MARY BECKERLE, IFFRIGI-CHEH, ALAN D'ANDREA, KATHERINE HIGH, OLUFUNMIKUNDO OLOPADIE, CELESTE SIMON, ELLEN WHITE

→ PAGE 27

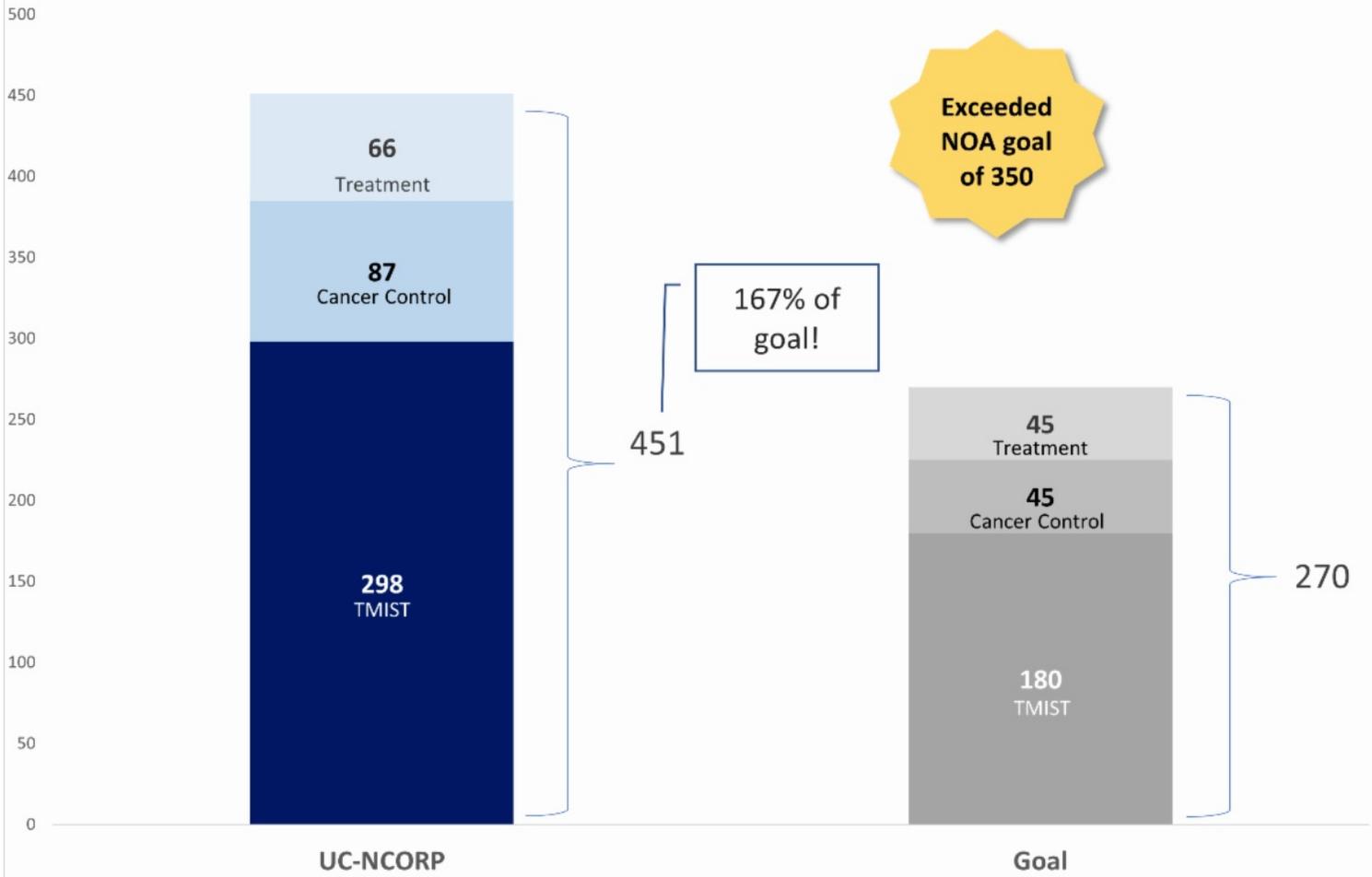
April 30, 2021

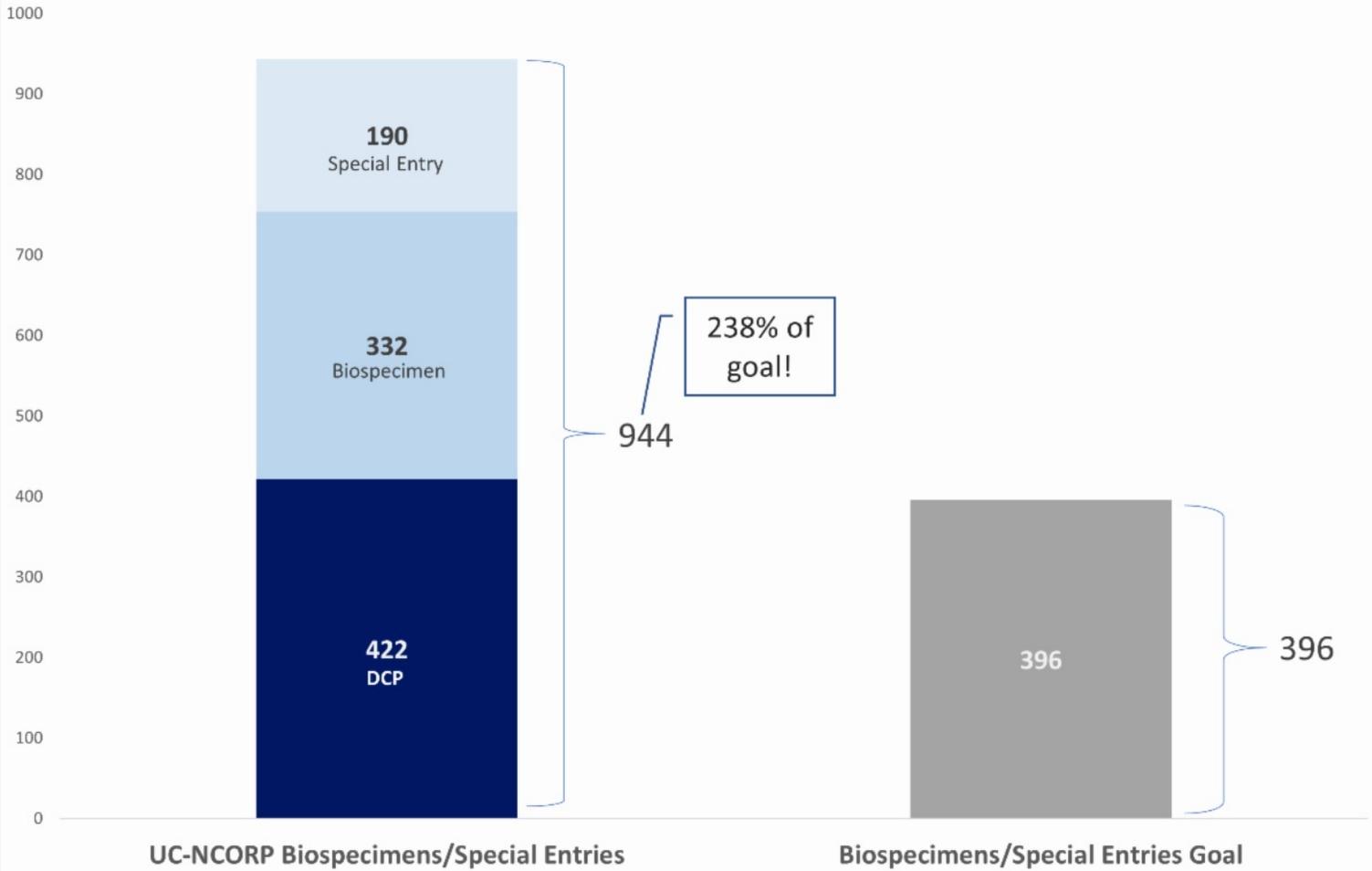
Accruals & Biospecimens—Special Entries

GY2 April 2021 Accruals By Affiliate Site



NCI Assigned Performance Target Tracking GY2 April YTD 2021

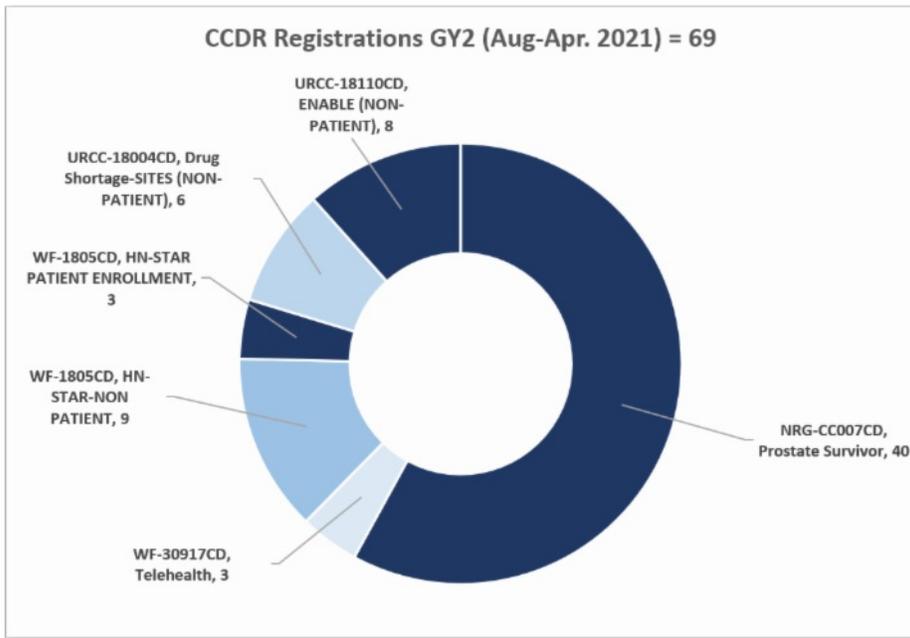




Under-Represented Populations

Underrepresented Populations

All Accruals	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	Total GY2	Goal GY2	Status GY2
AYA (15-39 yrs.)	4	0	0	1	2	3	2	7	2	21	4%	11.67%
Older Adults (>65 yrs.)	17	21	25	15	11	22	21	22	22	176	55%	37%
African American	15	11	12	12	4	12	14	15	14	109	17.6%	23%
Other Minorities	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0.4%	.8%
Hispanic	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	5	1%	1.0%
Rural	25	26	24	12	11	14	13	24	25	174	35%	36%



Protocol	SMC	BSSF	AnMed
NRG-CC007CD	24	1	15
WF-30917CD	3	N/A	N/A
WF-1805CD	3	0	0
WF-1805CD (NON-PATIENT)	4	3	2
URCC-18004CD (Sites registered)	4	2	N/A
URCC-18110CD (NON-PATIENT)	8	N/A	N/A
Site Total	38	6	17
UC-NCORP Total		69	

Diving into Disparities

NCORP Special Symposium: Improving Representation in Cancer Clinical Trials



On Friday May 21, Audrianna and Melyssa were featured at the SWOG Hope Foundation sponsored NCORP Special Symposium: Improving Representation in Cancer Clinical Trials and presented a talk, *Increasing African American Patients onto Clinical Trials: Strategies for Accrual and Engagement*.

Thank you for representing UC-NCORP during this opportunity.

Education and Cancer: How does this social determinant of health factor impact cancer death?



Education is a significant social determinant that influences health and the fight against the progression of disease and illness. According to the American Cancer Society, at least some education beyond high school associates with a decreased risk of cancer death. More specifically, researchers found that death rates for all cancers combined, including lung, colorectal, breast, and prostate cancer, were strongly associated with years of education in white men, black men, and white women (Albano, et al., 2007). Additionally, another study indicated that education captures many aspects of the constructs "social class" and socioeconomic status and demonstrates a social difference in epidemiologic studies (Mouw, et al., 2008).

How do we educate beyond the construct?

Given the importance of increasing awareness regarding cancer health disparities, focusing on the impact of education on cancer and risk factors provides the potential to address and monitor inequities in educational attainment and population health, leading to effective public health interventions. For example, public education campaigns that promote healthy, informative conversations with our nation's youth about risky

lifestyle factors, such as smoking and cancer risk, positively influence future generations. Additionally, with keeping the future in mind, generations to come will continue to emphasize the importance of building a healthcare system with equity at the forefront. Public health implementations concerning education reduce cancer risk and include valuable insight from thought leaders in the community and primary care physicians, oncology specialists, caregivers, patient advocates, and other stakeholders. With equity at the forefront, suggestions such as these can impact state and federal health policies on cancer prevention and treatment and provide insight into reaching all groups in the general population regardless of education level.

Want to learn more about how educational campaigns aid in cancer prevention and early detection? Visit the [Prevention Cancer Foundation website!](#)

Q.A With Kelsey

- Please ensure any SWOG specimens that cannot be submitted are reported into the STS system
- CRA WorkBench > Specimen Tracking > Notify that a specimen cannot be submitted
- Please note if could not be collected due to the COVID-19 pandemic (ex: site closure, cancelled appts, patient contracted COVID etc.,)



Do you have any staff you would like highlighted in The Connector?
Please submit it by the 15th of the month to Alaina: akennedy@srhs.com



Connect with us on LinkedIn!
[@upstatecarolinaNCORP](#)

[Click here to visit our website](#)

Administrator
Kamara Mertz-Rivera, MA, CCRP
Email: UpstateNCORP@srhs.com
Phone: 864-560-6104

Quality Assurance
Kelsey Bridges, MSHS, ACRP-CP
Email: UpstateNCORPQA@srhs.com
Phone: 864-560-1961

Regulatory
Heather Farmer, MS, CCRP
Email: UpstateNCORPRegulatory@srhs.com
Phone: 864-560-1060

CCDR Coordinator
Melyssa Foust, MSN, RN, OCN
Email: UpstateNCORPCCDR@srhs.com
Phone: 864-560-1035

Finance

Alex Akkary, MBA

Email: UpstateNCORPFinance@srhs.com

Phone: 864-560-6967

AYA Coordinator

Amy Adams, BSN, RN

Email: Amy_Adams@bshsi.org

Phone: 864-603-6219



2759 Hwy 14 South • Greer • SC • 29651
