



FLORIDA-CALIFORNIA HEALTH EQUITY CENTER

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORE (COC)

Spring 2024/Issue # 13

COMMUNITY REPORT





FLORIDA-CALIFORNIA HEALTH EQUITY CENTER

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The primary aim of the Community Outreach Core is to diminish the unequal impact of prostate, lung, and pancreatic cancers within Black and Latinx communities. This involves engaging these communities in both Florida and California by forming partnerships with key leaders and project investigators to encourage community input and share scientific knowledge with high-risk populations. Utilizing evidence-based cancer education and materials, our outreach efforts strive to share information throughout our communities.

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If you would like to hear more about participating in research, scan the QR code below to access the CaRE² Contact Registry.



The purpose of the CaRE² Contact Registry is to create a list of minority individuals who are interested in hearing about future research projects led by the CaRE² Health Equity Center that focuses on learning more about preventing and eliminating cancer health disparities.

JUNE NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVOR MONTH

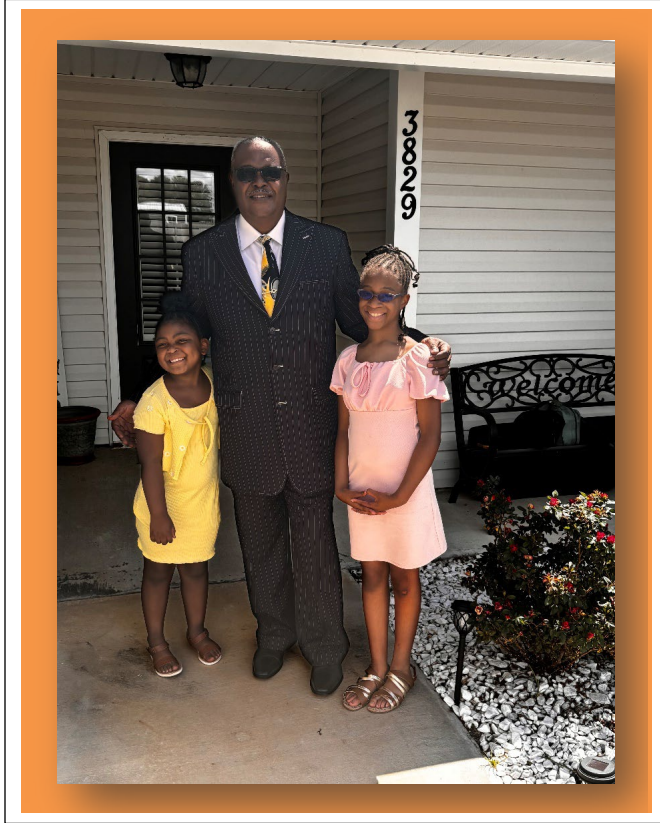
The impact of cancer extends far beyond the initial diagnosis. Despite significant progress in treatment and survivorship, many individuals continue to face challenges that affect their quality of life. Here are some key points reflecting the current situation and the ongoing need for improvement:

1. **Survivorship Numbers:** Over 18 million people in the U.S. are cancer survivors, highlighting the growing number of individuals who require ongoing support and care post-treatment.
2. **Quality of Life Challenges:** Despite surviving cancer, a substantial number of survivors report poor physical and mental health-related quality of life. This underscores the importance of addressing not just the disease itself but also its long-term effects.
3. **Diverse Challenges:** Each survivor faces unique challenges ranging from physical impairments to psychological issues such as anxiety and depression. Tailored support and interventions are crucial to address these diverse needs effectively.
4. **Call for Improvement:** There is a clear call to improve survivorship care, focusing on enhancing physical well-being, mental health support, access to rehabilitation services, and promoting overall quality of life for survivors.
5. **Research and Innovation:** Continued investment in cancer research is vital to advance treatment options, survivorship care strategies, and understanding the long-term effects of cancer and its treatments.

By raising awareness, advocating for better support systems, and promoting ongoing research, we can work towards better outcomes and a brighter future for all cancer survivors.

<https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/ocs/about/survivorship-month>

<https://rdcu.be/dMLqw>



Lynell C. Williams, father of CaRE² CAB member Gerald Williams, enjoying a Sunday with his granddaughters. Mr. Williams is 5 years post Prostate Cancer survivor. He advises all men, especially African Americans to "get your blood work done and know your PSA Levels".

Freddie Muse Jr. wears many hats – he’s Chief Executive Officer and President of the Men’s Cancer Network, chair of the Community Advisory Board at USC Norris, and a resilient prostate cancer survivor. In 2007, during a routine physical for a new position, Freddie's doctor suggested a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening. Elevated PSA levels can serve as an early indicator of prostate cancer. Being asymptomatic, Freddie was not expecting the tests results to reveal anything troubling. However, his results indicated elevated levels of PSA, and further testing revealed that Freddie had stage two prostate cancer. He received treatment and went into remission, but 10 years later, his PSA levels began rising again, indicating that the cancer had returned. At this point, he was referred to the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center at Keck Medicine of USC where he underwent surgery to remove his prostate. Thanks to the care he received at USC, Freddie is now once again in remission. “Though my quality of life has changed dramatically from the recurrence of prostate cancer, I am so thankful to be alive and cancer free.” His personal experience with prostate cancer inspired him to create the Men’s Cancer Network, a vital community that is committed to delivering comprehensive educational support, and additional resources for men and their families aimed at raising awareness and preventing cancer.



COC SPRING EVENT

Science of Community Outreach and Engagement (SoCOE) Conference in Jacksonville, FL

On May 8-10, 2024, **Dr. Carolina Aristizabal**, the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center – Office of Community Outreach, Education, and Engagement and the Florida-California Health Equity Center CaRE² Community Outreach Core, was invited to present on Cancer Burden among African Americans & Hispanic/Latinos/as and Community Based Interventions as part of the Cancer Advocates Master Training Track at which 30 Black/African American community advocates were trained on Cancer Health disparities and Clinical Trial disparities.

The SoCOE conference was hosted by the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center COE Office, focused on decentralization of clinical trials. Participants included health care workers, community health advocates, cancer patients, survivors, patient navigators, caregivers, and COE scientists, professionals, and clinicians from different comprehensive cancer centers nationwide.



COC SPRING EVENTS

Feria de Servicios

On May 18th and 19th, 2024, in Orlando, FL, CaRE2's Community Outreach Core participated in the Feria de Servicios event hosted by the Colombian Consulate. Our team provided cancer health information and encouraged community members to register for our Community Contact Registry.



Eat Smart, Move Light, & Be Well Health Fair

On May 25th, 2024, in Jacksonville, Florida, CaRE2's Community Outreach Core participated in the Eat Smart, Move Light, & Be Well Health Fair, sponsored by the Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and UF College of Medicine. Our team shared information on prostate and lung cancer health and promoted our Community Contact Registry.



COC SPRING EVENT

Juneteenth Festival Tallahassee, Florida

On Saturday, June 15, 2024, our COC was present at the Juneteenth Festival in Quincy, Florida. Dr. Sandra Suther and volunteers manned a table where they distributed information on participating in research and assisted 30 individuals with the contact registry form.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cancer Wellness Pop-Up Hub	July 26, 2024	The Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA
3 RD Tu Salud Importa 2024 Health Event	July 27, 2024	Hope Community Center, Apopka, FL
Cancer Nutrition Workshop "Healthy BBQing"	July 27, 2024	FAMU 2 nd Floor Dining Area



scan to visit our website for upcoming outreach events and resources:



COC Highlight



On April 19, 2024, Dr. John Luque received the “Research Excellence Award in STEM” at Florida A&M University



Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati



Juan Luque



Sandra Suther



Fern Webb



Carolina Aristizabal



Rosa Barahona



Brooke Hensel



Ileana Guzman



Eduardo Ibarra



Janet Rodriguez



Abria Mcneill



Fayettea Justin



Nazleen Del Rio



Mariana C. Stern

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORE

The goal of the CaRE² Community Outreach Core (COC) is to reduce the disproportionate burden of prostate and pancreatic cancers among Black and Latinx populations through bidirectional engagement of Black and Latinx communities; partnerships with core leaders and project investigators to foster community input and the dissemination of scientific information to high-risk communities; and use of evidence-based cancer education materials for community outreach.



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