



# STL Connection

Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities Volume II Issue I 2007

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HEALTH CARE IN ST. LOUIS: A Profile on Dr. Katherine Mathews



In October 2006, Katherine Mathews became the Chief Medical Officer of St. Louis ConnectCare, the specialty care provider for the safety net system in the St. Louis region. ConnectCare provides outpatient specialty care for the uninsured in our community. It links people to hospital-based care, and is one of eight member

organizations of the Integrated Health Network (IHN), the safety net system that serves over 200,000 patients.

Katherine is part of a six-person executive team that provides leadership for the organization and its task of overseeing 14 specialty services, urgent care and endoscopy services. One initiative of the executive team is to improve quality of care, including the timeliness of cancer referrals. Another objective of the team is to implement an electronic medical record (EMR) system in each of the specialty clinics.

Public health outreach and policy work is not new for Katherine Mathews. Providing care for the underserved and implementing change to help disparate populations has been a central part of her career mission for many years. Katherine received her medical degree

from Harvard Medical School and her public health degree from Yale. An obstetrician-gynecologist by training, she has always been an avid supporter of health initiatives that benefit low income and uninsured women. For several years, she served as Community Outreach Director for the Siteman Cancer Center, and more recently she helped launch the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities. She served as Co-Director of PECaD for 3 years. Her work has been instrumental in building many of PECaD's networks and programs. Katherine has also had leadership roles on key regional and statewide initiatives, including the Missouri Cancer Consortium and the Regional Health Commission.

Dr. Mathews continues to provide leadership and advisory support for PECaD. She currently serves as a member of PECaD's Disparities Elimination Advisory Committee and Co-Leader of PECaD's Colorectal Cancer Community Partnership. This colorectal cancer team works with the Missouri Screen for Life Program, a CDC funded demonstration project, to increase access to colorectal screening for the uninsured in St. Louis. Although her primary responsibility is no longer PECaD, Katherine continues to exemplify the values of PECaD in her daily work at ConnectCare and at Washington University. PECaD looks forward to working with Dr. Mathews and ConnectCare in the future.

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## GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT Keep Kids Tobacco Free Program



Some might say that “Be Ram Tough! Don’t Smoke,” is the new slogan for Stowe Preparatory Junior High School in North St. Louis, but guess again. This year, students and faculty participated in the “Keep Kids Tobacco Free Program,” an essay and art contest sponsored by Siteman Cancer Center and PECaD. On Nov 15, six students were recognized for their artwork and essays which featured anti-smoking messages. The first place artwork was a t-shirt design worn by faculty and students during a school-wide assembly. Local

radio station, KATZ-FM 100.3, The Beat was on hand to help present the awards. The next day, winning classes took a field trip to Siteman Cancer Center for the “Siteman Smokeout for Life.”

The t-shirt design contest winner was Keenan Robinson. The winner for the “best essay” was Breana Jackson. Both students were presented with a \$250 gift certificate. Second and third place winners received \$50 gift certificates. For the t-shirt design, second and third place winners were Demarcus Martin and Artesha Ford. For the essay contest,

second and third place winners were Bernise Frazier and Vanessa Roberts. Contest entries were on display Jan. 15 – Jan. 27, 2007 in the St. Louis Galleria Mall.

The Great American Smokeout Program is one of several community initiatives that PECaD supports to reduce tobacco use among local youth and disparate populations. To learn more about PECaD’s Lung Cancer Community Partnership initiatives, please call Katrina Bridges at 314-454-5646.

## CLINICAL PARTNER UPDATE Siteman Launches New Mobile Mammography Van



In October 2006, a new mammography van was purchased through philanthropic donations from Celebrate Fitness and Share the Care. The Avon Foundation provided grant funding to purchase state-of-the-art digital mammography equipment for the new van. The new van is the first in the St. Louis area with digital mammography equipment and one of only 10 in the country.

The mobile mammography program provides needed screening services for

women in underserved areas, including low income and minority women in St. Louis City and St. Louis County, as well as rural communities in surrounding counties. The van also increases mammography access for many of the New American and immigrant populations in our community, including the growing Bosnian, Vietnamese, and Hispanic populations. The outreach program provides screening services for many uninsured and underinsured women, primarily using funding from Missouri Show Me Healthy Women

Program, Judy Ride Foundation and the local affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure St. Louis.

In conjunction with PECaD, the mammography program has also created a Mammography Outreach Patient Registry. This program planning tool will help improve the quality of the mammography screening outreach and diagnostic care for local underserved populations and enhance patient satisfaction with care delivery. Registry participants answer a brief set of questions and demographic data is collected. The registry is designed to identify local barriers to screening, and assist with program planning for the diverse populations in our community. Currently, there are over 1,000 women in the database. According to Susan Kraenzle, Manager of the Joanne Knight Breast Health Center, “The data is very exciting. It has not been done anywhere else that we can tell.” There is much more to come in the future.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

### Community Capacity Project

**Gowri Shetty, M.S., M.P.H.** is the project leader for PECaD's Community Capacity Assessment. This project will:

- identify existing cancer screening, diagnostic and treatment services and resources within the St. Louis metropolitan area
- determine if St. Louis has sufficient breast, lung, prostate and colorectal cancer resources in the community for the underserved
- help identify referral networks and other ways that community agencies can collaborate to provide needed services



Gowri is currently mentoring a graduate level social work student, **Soda Lo**, to assist with the data collection, analysis and plan for disseminating the information to the community. The information from the

Community Assessment will be of value to the community as well as provide important feedback to the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

## Program Evaluation



**Jennifer Tappenden, RHIA**, Data Manager for the Evaluation Team, has been collecting data important to PECaD as well as providing data to a National Evaluation Team hired by the NCI to evaluate the

Community Networks Programs across the country. Jennifer started working with PECaD in July, 2006. She works with Christine Nolan and the rest of the Evaluation Team to capture key metrics for tracking PECaD's impact and successes. She also provides data management support for PECaD's Clinical Trials Outreach Program.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATE

### Tobacco Prevention Education for Local Youth



Young Choices, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that develops tobacco prevention programs for children, adults, schools, churches, community organizations and businesses. Don Young's

program on the hazards of tobacco includes pictures of himself, his personal story, and others who have suffered tobacco's devastating effects.

Don Young started smoking at the early age of 14. By age 48, it had changed his life drastically. He underwent a series of operations for throat cancer which saved his life, but left him unable to speak. He now uses an electrolarynx which allows him to produce a robot-like speech; without it, he cannot even whisper.

Since his recovery, Don has been a volunteer for the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, and the Tobacco-Free Missouri - St. Louis Coalition. He shares his story with approximately 40,000 people each year.

PECaD works with Young Choices, Inc. to expand tobacco education to inner-city middle schools. The plan for 2007 is to organize activities for Kick Butts Day, a tobacco-free campaign, which will take place on March 28, 2007. There are many organizations involved in the activity planning including: Tobacco Free Missouri Coalition, BJC School Development and Outreach, Young Choices, Inc., American Cancer Society, and PECaD.

## PECaD Brief

The first Strategic Action Workshop was held recently in October, 2006. Saint Louis ConnectCare teamed up with PECaD to co-host the event. This three-hour session offered the latest information on programs and disparities-related research in colorectal cancer. Partnership members and guests dialogued about challenges related to screening. Several commented on access issues, removing barriers to screening, provider education, or navigation of the health care system.

The Breakfast Club Brothers co-hosted the second Strategic Action Workshop on Prostate Cancer in December, 2006. The Breakfast Club Brothers are a local support group for African American brothers and husbands of breast cancer survivors. The evening featured dinner and discussion led by Barbara Levin, Washington University School of Social Work. Participating organizations or local groups included, The Rho Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Lane Tabernacle C.M.E. Church, the Witness Project of Greater St. Louis, and the American Cancer Society. Lack of funding is a major challenge as well as a barrier for screenings.

Both workshops generated a list of priorities that will guide program planning and the future disparities research agenda at Siteman Cancer Center and PECaD.

## BRINGING RESEARCH TO THE COMMUNITY African American Hereditary Prostate Cancer Study

A collaboration of 12 research institutions and the National Human Genome Research Institute announced results of the first genome-wide linkage study of prostate cancer in African Americans. Using genetic markers, researchers identified several regions of the human genome that likely contain genes that, when altered, increase the risk of developing prostate cancer.

This project is the largest study to date that focuses on prostate cancer in African American families. The study was conceived, implemented and executed primarily by African American researchers. Published in the journal, "The Prostate," the findings represent a milestone in years of research designed to identify genetic risk factors for prostate cancer and to help determine if heredity plays a role in the disparity in prostate cancer rates seen in African American men. A total of 418 African American men with prostate cancer and their families participated in this study.

The benefits of the study will hopefully lead to new and improved ways of diagnosis and treatment for men with prostate cancer. Currently, family history is the most significant risk factor known for prostate cancer among ALL men. According to the National Cancer Institute, every year there are 277 African American men (168 white men) out of 100,000 diagnosed with prostate cancer. The annual death rate is also higher than whites.

It is hoped that this study will inspire researches around the world to view this as a model study for many other genetic studies of our most common diseases. This study represents one of the most impressive collections of prostate cancer families from any ethnic group, and it shows the importance of setting up a network of researchers who are close to the community being studied. For a copy of the article on this project, please call 747-4611.

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## Clinical Trials Outreach: Bringing State of the Art Care to Diverse Populations

One of PECaD's goals is to increase the number of minority patients who participate in clinical trials and other research studies at Siteman Cancer Center. In order to improve the quality of cancer care for patients of all backgrounds, it is important that research studies include participants who represent our diverse community. By enrolling more racial and ethnic minorities, Siteman researchers will be better able to assess the effectiveness of new diagnostic tests, treatments and educational interventions. To help accomplish this goal, PECaD partners with Siteman's Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee to periodically review the cancer center's research enrollment numbers to insure that they reflect our patient population. Investigators are asked to provide target goals for minority enrollment when they begin new studies. They receive a "commendable" review when their minority enrollment rates exceed 10% of their initial targets. Recently, several investigators received commendable reviews, including:



**Simon Powell, MD, PhD**, Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology. The purpose of his study, "Partial Breast Irradiation for Selected Patients with Early Breast Cancer", is to develop the use of focused external x-ray beams to deliver partial breast irradiation. Partial breast irradiation allows the treatment to be delivered in about one week instead of the usual 6 weeks currently required with traditional treatment. The results to date show that the treatment is very well tolerated with good effectiveness, although further follow-up is required before it can become a standard treatment option. Thank you Dr. Powell for your excellent work!



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 28

*Event:* Breast Cancer Screening  
*Sponsor:* Siteman Cancer Center  
Mobile Mammography Van Program  
*Location:* Saint Louis University, Busch  
Student Center, 20 N. Grand Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
*Time:* 8:15 am – 2:00 pm  
*Contact:* Natalie Sutton  
314-977-8131 or email  
natsutton@gmail.com

### FEBRUARY - MARCH

*Event:* Greece: Secrets of the Past,  
Kilimanjaro: To the Roof of Africa  
*Sponsor:* St. Louis Science Center and  
St. Louis American  
*Location:* 5050 Oakland Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
*Time:* Check for times and to  
purchase tickets  
*Contact:* 314-289-4400

### MARCH 1

*Event:* Civic Service and Volunteerism  
in Latin America (Lecture Series)  
*Speaker:* Teresa Sepulveda Matus,  
Ph.D., Catholic University of Chile  
*Sponsor:* Washington University,  
George Warren Brown School of  
Social Work  
*Location:* Brown Hall Lounge  
*Time:* 12:00 – 1:20 pm  
*Contact:* 935-6661 or abc@wustl.edu

### MARCH 10

*Event:* Health Fair  
*Sponsor:* A.G Edwards  
*Location:* A.G Edwards Learning Center,  
2801 Market Street. St. Louis, MO  
*Time:* 9:00 am – 2:00pm  
*Contact:* Lisa Fioretti  
314-821-8368 or email vandy\_  
stl@yahoo.com

### MARCH 10

*Event:* Tobacco-Free Missouri  
Coalition's First Annual Trivia Night  
*Sponsor:* Tobacco-Free Missouri  
Coalition  
*Location:* DePaul Hospital, May  
Community Center, 12303 DePaul  
Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044  
*Time:* Doors at 6:30 pm, play begins  
7:00 pm  
*Contact:* Natalie Sutton, 314.977.8131  
or email natsutton@gmail.com

### MARCH 24

*Event:* Health Fair  
*Sponsor:* Witness Project  
*Location:* Bellefontaine Recreation  
Center. 9669 Bellefontane Rd.  
*Time:* 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
*Contact:* Siinya Edmondson  
sedmondson@cityofbn.com

### APRIL 17

*Event:* Cancer Survivorship: Living  
With, Through, & Beyond Breast Cancer  
(Free Telephone Education Workshop Series)  
*Topic:* Neuropathy and Joint Aches:  
New Post-Treatment  
*Sponsor:* National Cancer Institute  
*Time:* 1:30-2:30 pm Eastern Time  
*Contact:* Preregistration is required.  
Go to [www.cancerca.org/TEW](http://www.cancerca.org/TEW)

### APRIL 25

*Event:* Lessons from the Chicago  
Project (Lecture Series)  
*Speaker:* Felton Earls, MD., Harvard  
School of Pubic Health  
*Sponsor:* Washington University,  
George Warren Brown School of  
Social Work  
*Location:* Room 132, Goldfarb Hall  
*Time:* 4:00 pm  
*Contact:* 935-6661 or abc@wustl.edu

### MAY 15

*Event:* Cancer Survivorship: Living  
With, Through, & Beyond Breast Cancer  
(Free Telephone Education Workshop Series)  
*Topic:* My Treatment is Over: Why Do I  
Feel So Alone and Sad?  
*Sponsor:* National Cancer Institute  
*Time:* 1:30-2:30 pm Eastern Time  
*Contact:* Preregistration is required.  
Go to [www.cancerca.org/TEW](http://www.cancerca.org/TEW)

### MAY 19

*Event:* Mime Presentation  
*Sponsor:* Witness Project  
*Location:* Contact for location  
*Time:* 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
*Contact:* Angela Fleming  
314-631-4787

### JUNE 19

*Event:* Cancer Survivorship: Living  
With, Through, & Beyond Breast Cancer  
(Free Telephone Education Workshop Series)  
*Topic:* Finding Hope and Meaning After  
Treatment  
*Sponsor:* National Cancer Institute  
*Time:* 1:30-2:30 pm Eastern Time  
*Contact:* Preregistration is required.  
Go to [www.cancerca.org/TEW](http://www.cancerca.org/TEW)



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