
**For Immediate Release
June 1, 2010**

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GW Cancer Institute Trains Executives to Launch and Sustain Navigation and Survivorship Programs

WASHINGTON— The GW Cancer Institute’s Center for the Advancement of Cancer Survivorship, Navigation and Policy (caSNP) recently hosted an executive training program in Washington, D.C. to equip decision makers with the tools and resources to launch and sustain patient navigation and cancer survivorship programs.

“Navigation and survivorship are two cornerstones of patient-centered care,” said Mandi Chapman, director of the Office of Cancer Survivorship at the GW Cancer Institute. “Our Center is training today’s cancer program leaders in strategic management to ensure sustainability for these critical programs. This kind of hands-on training for administrators is not offered anywhere else.”

The training was attended by 53 participants from 36 organizations across 20 states and provinces in the US and Canada. Participants learned strategic planning techniques for developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining patient navigation and survivorship programs. The training combined distance-learning and traditional classroom instruction to fully maximize participants’ time.

Prior to the training, participants engaged in an online webinar discussion that laid the foundation for skill development during the two-day training in Washington, D.C. At the conclusion of the training, participants walked away with a business plan for either a survivorship or patient navigation program that will enhance the patient focus of their organization.

caSNP has a multi-disciplinary, multi-tiered approach to educating entire systems of care to support navigation and survivorship efforts in a policy-savvy context. The center works to guide the ever-growing population of new lay and clinical health care professionals who are providing navigation and survivorship services within hospitals and clinics throughout the US as well as the executives who sustain these programs.

The next training will take place October 25-27, 2010 and will provide skills training for patient navigators, social workers, nurse navigators, and other medical and lay personnel who currently navigate patients through the health care system. For more information or to sign up for the training, visit <http://www.gwumc.edu/caSNP/education.html>.

The Center will also host a select group of clinicians and researchers in its inaugural Health Policy Scholars Program, October 18-21, 2010. The program will provide a unique opportunity to learn about how health policy and health reform impacts cancer prevention, detection and care.

About caSNP

caSNP focuses broadly on the interrelated scientific, clinical, public health and health policy dimensions of cancer care with a special emphasis on patient navigation and survivorship. The Center was created in 2009 by the GW Cancer Institute, in partnership with the Department of Health Policy within the School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS) and is supported by the Pfizer Foundation and Pfizer Inc.'s Global Health Partnerships Program. For more information, visit www.gwumc.edu/caSNP.

About GWCI

The GW Medical Center's Cancer Institute (GWCI) takes a comprehensive approach to a complex disease. In connection with the GW Hospital and the GW Medical Faculty Associates, the Institute provides for collaboration in the study, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. GWCI's mission is to provide a confluence of groundbreaking biomedical and clinical research, high quality educational programs, and outstanding patient care to the entire Metropolitan Washington area, and effective outreach for the community. Many programs focus on studying cancers, such as breast, lung, prostate and gastrointestinal / colorectal cancer, that disproportionately affect minority and vulnerable populations. For more information, visit www.gwumc.edu/gwci/.

About The George Washington University Medical Center

The George Washington University Medical Center is an internationally recognized interdisciplinary academic health center that has consistently provided high-quality medical care in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area since 1824. The Medical Center comprises the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the 11th oldest medical school in the country; the School of Public Health and Health Services, the only such school in the nation's capital; GW Hospital, jointly owned and operated by a partnership between The George Washington University and a subsidiary of Universal Health Services, Inc.; and The GW Medical Faculty Associates, an independent medical practice with nearly 550 physicians in 47 clinical specialties. For more information on GWUMC, visit www.gwumc.edu.