

ABOUT THE GW CANCER INSTITUTE

GW CANCER INSTITUTE MISSION AND FOCUS

The GW Cancer Institute (GWCI) takes a comprehensive approach to this complex disease. In connection with the GWU Hospital and the GW Medical Faculty Associates, the Institute provides for multi- and trans-disciplinary collaboration in the study, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Our mission is to provide a confluence of groundbreaking biomedical and clinical research, high quality educational programs, outstanding patient care to the entire Metropolitan Washington area, and effective outreach to our community.

GW is centrally located in the District of Columbia, which is ranked highest in overall cancer mortality in the nation. All patients are welcome, and most types of cancer are studied and treated here at GW; however, from a research and outreach perspective our Institute seeks to understand and eliminate cancer disparities why certain cancers are so predominate in our community. Many of our programs are focused on studying cancers that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, such as minority local and national citizens. These include, but are not limited to, Breast, Lung, Prostate and Gastrointestinal/Colorectal cancer.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER VISION STATEMENT

The George Washington University Medical Center will improve the health and well-being of our local, national and global communities by:

- Developing tomorrow's leaders
- Delivering high-quality healthcare
- Advancing scientific discovery and translating discoveries into action
- Harnessing new technology
- Establishing community partnerships
- Fostering multidisciplinary collaboration
- Pursuing alliances unique to our location

GWCI COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Community-By-Community Cancer Control Campaign: city-wide campaign aimed at educating our high-risk community about cancer prevention and importance of screening for early detection.

- Congregational Cancer Wellness Initiative – Nearly 40 churches are currently participating
- Workplace Cancer Wellness Initiative – Conducting seminars and screenings at business sites
- Neighborhood Cancer Wellness Initiative – Out and about a neighborhood events, barbershops, and beauty salons. Working collaboratively with the American Cancer Society and a host of partners.

Prostate Cancer Screening Campaign

- More than 2,000 men received free screenings (both PSA and DRE) in the past 18 months
- 25% had positive findings and were referred for physician follow-up
- Offering free prostate cancer screenings on Fridays at GW MFA
- Washington Redskin's "Timeout for Men's Health"—Locker room screening event

GW Mammovan

- Mobile Mammography program offering state-of-the-art digital
- More than 20,000 women screened since 1996: nearly 2500 per year

Patient Navigation — helping patients “navigate” the healthcare system and access appropriate social, psychosocial and financial services

- Assisting minorities with breast or prostate cancer programs in partnership with the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society.

Survivorship Programs

- Coping with Cancer Seminar Series
- “Look Good Feel Good”
- Men Against Breast Cancer
- Seven patient support groups
- Survivors Luncheon Program
- Office of Cancer Survivorship

HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW CRITICAL RESEARCH AT GWCI

Patient Navigation Research Program - Received a \$3.1 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to create the DC City-Wide Patient Navigator Research Program, to offer navigation services to underserved individuals and perform outcomes analysis with respect to cancer disparities, quality of life, timeliness of care and cost effectiveness.

Genomics Basis for Cancer Disparities - Received a \$465,000 seed grant from the National Cancer Institute to create a new research center focused on the genomic analysis of cancer disparities—the only one of its kind in the United States.

Young Investigator Pilot Grants - Received an \$180,000 Institutional Research Grant from the American Cancer Society to fund young scientists

Ongoing funded cancer research programs – Wide array of federal and foundation funding for research projects in: genomics of colo-rectal cancer, stem cells and cancer, molecular signaling mechanisms in carcinogenesis and experimental therapeutics, cancer biomarkers, HIV and HPV associated malignancies, parasite-associated malignancy, cancer imaging, cancer survivorship, smoking cessation, health policy, cancer health communications, cancer epidemiology, and clinical trial research.

OTHER RECENT KEY ACTIVITIES

DC Cancer Control Plan - GW is deeply engaged in the implementation of the DC Cancer Control Plan, working with the DC Cancer Consortium, which it helped found and helps lead.

DC Cancer Registry Advisory Board - GW has a principal role in this Board that guides the DC Department of Health’s cancer surveillance efforts.

Mapping Cancer in DC - working with the Department of Health and the National Cancer Institute to map cancer throughout the city based on census tracts. By documenting the role of race and poverty on cancer, GW is part of the effort to base policy on solid data and reduce mortality.

Oral Cancer Initiative – oral cancer in DC is increasing because of HIV, HPV, alcohol and tobacco. GWCI is pioneering, together with the Howard University School of Dentistry, a multi-tiered outreach, education, prevention and screening program.