

# Progress Report: Executive Summary 9/30/04 to 9/29/23

A summary of the activities, productivity, and impact of CPCRN over the past year and across all years dating back to 2004.



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# **Executive Summary**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN) has been in operation since 2002 with additional support from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). From 2002 through the current funding cycle, the Network has included Collaborating Centers at a total of 19 academic institutions across the country, as well as Affiliate Members from a wide variety of organizations. The fifth 5-year funding cycle, "CPCRN5", began in 2019 and will span until 2024. The Network is currently comprised of eight Collaborating Centers (Table 0.1), as well as Affiliate Members and CPCRN Scholars at 46 additional institutions. The Network includes Affiliate Members from seven former CPCRN Collaborating Centers as well as 64 CPCRN Scholars across three cohorts.

This report demonstrates the impact of the work accomplished by CPCRN members during Year 4 of CPCRN5 and summarizes the research, dissemination, and implementation activities accomplished by CPCRN Collaborating Centers, cross-Center Workgroups, and the Coordinating Center over three time periods: in the past year (September 2022-2023), in CPCRN5 (Years 1-4), and across all years since 2004 (September 2004-2023), when the Network's logic model and progress reporting system were introduced.

It is particularly notable that the CPCRN5 funding cycle saw the onset and continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Readers will note throughout this executive summary and report that there were many research, dissemination, and collaborative partnership efforts made by members of CPCRN's Network Centers and Workgroups to address issues related to the pandemic and its impact on cancer risk factors, cancer care, and cancer survivorship.

**Executive Summary Table 0.1: Funded CPCRN Centers** 

CPCRN1: 2002-2004	CPCRN2: 2004-2009	CPCRN 3: 2009-2014	CPCRN4: 2014-2019	CPCRN5: 2019-2024
University of Washington	University of Washington	University of Washington	University of Washington	University of Washington
University of South Carolina	Morehouse School of Medicine	University of South Carolina	University of South Carolina	University of South Carolina
University of Kentucky – West Virginia University	Emory University	Emory University	University of Kentucky	Emory University
Harvard University	Harvard University	Harvard University	University of Pennsylvania	New York University - City University of New York
University of Texas, Houston	University of Texas, Houston	University of Texas, Houston	Case Western Reserve University	University of Arizona
	University of North Carolina (Coordinating Center & Collaborating Center)	University of North Carolina (Coordinating Center & Collaborating Center)	University of North Carolina (Coordinating Center & Collaborating Center)	University of North Carolina (Coordinating Center & Collaborating Center)
	St. Louis University	Colorado School of Public Health	Oregon Health & Science University	Colorado School of Public Health
	University of California, Los Angeles	University of California, Los Angeles	University of Iowa	University of Iowa
		Washington University		
		Central Texas (A&M)		

#### By the Numbers

CPCRN has had significant impact on the scientific literature in cancer prevention and control. In Year 4 of the CPCRN5 funding cycle, CPCRN members published 255 CPCRN-related articles, 73 of which reflected multicenter collaborations, and delivered 179 CPCRN-related presentations, 31 of which reflected multicenter collaborations. In the first four years of the CPCRN5 funding cycle, members published a combined total of 758 CPCRN-related articles, 124 of which reflected multicenter collaborations, and delivered 494 CPCRN-related presentations, 57 of which reflected multicenter collaborations. Finally, since Network inception in 2004, a total of 2617 CPCRN-related publications have been published in peer-reviewed journals, 272 of which reflect multicenter collaborations. Also dating back to 2004, CPCRN activity has led to 2,430 presentations delivered to outside organizations, 276 of which were multicenter collaborations. Hundreds of these presentations have been delivered in collaboration with research partner organizations, such as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs, 127 since 2004) and National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Centers (112 since 2004), and other health care providers (241 since 2004). In 2016, the CPCRN Coordinating Center began tracking trainings and educational workshops separately from other types of presentations. Since 2016, CPCRN Collaborating Centers have conducted 142 training and educational programs, 25 in the past year alone, representing expanded collaborations between participating Collaborating Centers, as well as existing or new partnerships with external individuals and entities.

Seeking grant funding for new research and dissemination efforts is a priority for CPCRN. In the past year, members submitted 64 CPCRN-related grant applications (five of which were multicenter collaborations), worth over \$189 million. Of these, 42 applications (~66%) were funded for a total of \$59 million in grants awarded. Five multicenter grants were funded. In the first four years of CPCRN5, members submitted 207 CPCRN-related grant applications (fifteen of which were multicenter collaborations), worth over \$438 million. Of these, 158 applications (~76%) were funded for a total of \$250 million in grants awarded. Eleven multicenter grants were funded. Since 2004, CPCRN has submitted a cumulative total of 1,480 grant applications (of which 122 were multicenter collaborations), worth \$2 billion. Of these, 781 (~53%) applications were funded, totaling over \$937 million in awards received since the beginning of the Network. Multicenter collaborations have clearly brought strength to members' grant applications. Of the 122 multicenter grant applications submitted since 2004, 73 (~60%) have been funded, securing over \$74 million in funding support for collaborative CPCRN research.

A strong Network-wide emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is also a leading priority of the CPCRN. In 2020, the Coordinating Center began tracking these efforts, and found that, in Year 4, members **published 135 peer-reviewed articles**, **delivered 91 presentations**, **and submitted 36 grant proposals that were related to DEI and/or disparities-reduction**. Common subpopulations around which these activities were focused include rural (40 publications, 50 presentations, 10 grant proposals), Asian American/Pacific Islander (14 publications, 29 presentations, 8 grant proposals), Black/African American (15 publications, 30 presentations, 8 grant proposals), and Latinx/Hispanic (20 publications, 34 presentations, 15 grant proposals) among many others.

CPCRN progress reporting data reveal that CPCRN members develop meaningful and lasting relationships within the Network, as well as collaborate with external partners at local, state, and federal levels, including breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer (CRC) detection programs and large health care systems and FQHCs in their grant-seeking efforts.

# Reports, Plans, and Policies Created in Conjunction with State and National Programs

In the past year, CPCRN Centers contributed to 12 state and federal cancer reports, plans, and policies, bringing the Network to 32 total reports, plans, and policies thus far in the CPCRN5 funding cycle. Reports, plans, and policies reported in Year 4 are listed briefly below, with more detailed summaries available in the Collaborating Center Narrative Summaries:

#### • Reports:

- UNC & Emory: Best Practices for Including Rural Perspectives in State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plans
- o lowa: Cancer in Iowa 2023
- lowa: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Rural Health Clinics' Operations and Cancer Prevention and Control Efforts
- Iowa: The Involvement of Rural Health Clinic Practitioners in Cancer Treatment Decisions and Survivorship Care
- o Emory: Three Rivers Public Health Department Site Visit
- o Emory: Uncompangre Medical Center Site Visit Report
- Washington: WA Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) Evaluation Report 2021-2022
- Washington: WA National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) Evaluation Report 2021-2022
- CSPH: Smoking Cessation, Version 3.2022, NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology
- CSPH: NCCN Guidelines' Insights: Survivorship, Version 1.2022 Featured Updates to the NCCN Guidelines
- UNC: North Carolina Partnerships to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening Program Evaluation Report

#### Plan:

o NYU-CUNY: "Start at 9" campaign

CPCRN Workgroups engaged in a variety of research and dissemination activities to drive public health impact. The projects reflected below are some of the many cross-Center Workgroups and Interest Groups that were active in the Network in the past year. A full list of all projects and their respective activities can be found in the Year 4 Cross-Center Project Reports section of the main report:

# **CPCRN Scholars Workgroup**

During this reporting period, the CPCRN Scholars Workgroup implemented the third year of the CPCRN Scholars Program which aims to educate students, postdoctoral fellows, junior faculty, practitioners, and other health professionals in dissemination and implementation (D&I) science focused on cancer prevention and control and health equity. This year,

25 scholars were accepted into the training program, and they worked with 38 CPCRN mentors. The Workgroup also launched the Scholars Alumni survey and distributed it to all first and second cohort scholars.

#### Health Equity Workgroup

During Year 4, the case studies/evaluation subgroup collected case studies on core projects from CPCRN researchers and their community partners. Data analysis for all interviews will continue through early 2024, with manuscript development beginning in Spring 2024. From these interviews, the workgroup hopes to better understand current health equity practices across the CPCRN network, identify areas of strengths and opportunities for improvement, and develop health equity trainings and resources accordingly.

#### Organizational Theory for Implementation Science (OTIS) Workgroup

During Year 4, the OTIS Framework manuscript "Toward a more comprehensive understanding of organizational influences on implementation: The Organization Theory for Implementation Science (OTIS) framework" was accepted for publication. The group also worked with CPCRN scholar Dr. Kristin Morrill and Dr. Prajakta Adsul as they pursued Public Goods Funds to utilize the OTIS framework with their previously collected data.

Birken SA, Wagi CR, Peluso AG, Kegler MC, Baloh J, Adsul P, Fernandez ME, Masud M, Huang TT-K, Lee M, Wangen M, Nilsen P, Bender M, Choy-Brown M, Ryan G, Randazzo A, Ko LK. Toward a more comprehensive understanding of organizational influences on implementation: the organization theory for implementation science framework. Frontiers in Health Services. 2023; 3:1-10. https://doi.org/10.3389/frhs.2023.1142598

#### Survivorship Workgroup

During Year 4, the Aging and Cancer Subcommittee published a paper and presented on the topic of comprehensive geriatric assessments in cancer care.

- Seaman, A.T., Rowland, J.H., Werts, S.J., Tam, R.M., Torres, T.K., Hucek, F.A., Wickersham, K.E., Fairman, C.M., Patel, H.D., Thomson, C.A., Hebert, J.R., & Friedman, D.B. (2023). Examining provider perceptions and practices for comprehensive geriatric assessment among cancer survivors: An implementation science focus. Frontiers in Aging (Interventions in Aging).
- Seaman, A. T., Wickersham, K. E., Rowland, J., Fairman, C. M., Hebert, J. R., Thompson, C. A., Vogel, R., & Friedman, D. B. (2023, November 9). Examining awareness and use of comprehensive geriatric assessments in cancer care: A qualitative study [podium presentation as part of a symposium]. Gerontological Society of America 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, Tampa, FL. National.

#### Health Behaviors Workgroup

The Health Behaviors Workgroup evaluated how medical students, community organizations, and other public health practitioners could operationalize the Health Behaviors framework and worked with users to learn about their experiences using the framework. The Workgroup also reviewed the literature on what types of assets to include when initiating work with a community organization.

#### Modeling EBI Impact Workgroup

The Modeling EBI Impact Workgroup previously developed a website for the Population Simulation for Healthcare Decisions (Cancer Control PopSim) work. More recently, they developed the interactive portion of this website, which provides an interface for public users to modify select variables (e.g. intervention type, cost-multiplier, effectiveness multiplier, intervention reach, health insurance expansion, and willingness to pay) of the simulation models. The tool delivers population level simulation results, such as percent up-to-date with screening, CRC cases by stage, CRC cases averted, life-years gained, costs, and incremental cost-effectiveness ratios. (https://popsim.org/tryit)

## Rural Cancer Workgroup

Using content analysis of existing cancer control plans and interviews with state cancer control program directors, the State Cancer Control Interview Subcommittee aimed to document rural involvement in state cancer plans. Interviews with state cancer control directors were completed in November 2021 along with data analysis in June 2022. A paper was prepared in summer/fall 2022 and published in the CPCRN 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition in February 2023—Hirschey et al. Prioritizing Rural Populations in State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plans: A Qualitative Assessment (see full citation below). A Best Practices document was prepared in February 2023 and sent to participants and posted on the CPCRN website (https://cpcrn.org/resources?open\_col=75).

Hirschey, R., Rohweder, C., Zahnd, W. E., Eberth, J. M., Adsul, P., Guan, Y., Yeager, K. A., Haines, H., Farris, P. E., Bea, J. W., Dwyer, A., Madhivanan, P., Ranganathan, R., Seaman, A. T., Vu, T., Wickersham, K., Vu, M., Teal, R., Giannone, K., Hilton, A., ... Askelson, N. (2023). Prioritizing rural populations in state comprehensive cancer control plans: a qualitative assessment. Cancer Causes & Control: CCC, 34(Suppl 1), 159–169. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10552-023-01673-3

#### LGBTQ+ Interest Group

The LGBTQ+ Interest Group formed as a new group during this funding year, led by Mr. Austin Waters and Drs. Matthew Lee, Megan A. Mullins, and Ryan Suk, and supported by Ms. Mary Wangen. The leadership team proposed two projects to the interest group, 1) An Evaluation of Cancer Control Plans, and 2) HINTS Data Analyses which will begin in Year 5.

**NOTE**: Collaborating Centers and Cross-Center projects were asked to report their most significant contributions to the Network during the Year 4, CPCRN5 reporting period. The items marked 'most significant' are listed in the following sections of the Executive Summary. While these are just a few of the many activities and accomplishments of the Network that occurred this year, true totals and complete, detailed lists can be found for all Centers and projects in the main report.

#### Catalyzing Action and Effecting Change

CPCRN Collaborating Centers and Workgroups are engaged in a variety of activities that demonstrate the Network's impact via catalyzing action and effecting change in partnership with community and policy organizations:

- The University of Iowa CPCRN and the Iowa Department of Public Health partnered to increase HPV vaccination rates
  - UI CPCRN's analysis of lowa's immunization registry in 2018-2019 demonstrated how immunization registries can be used to target immunization efforts by merging zip code level data to immunization registry data and provide a contextual analysis of adolescent immunization rates. These results have been used by the lowa Department of Public Health to prioritize locations and populations for immunization uptake efforts. UI CPCRN continued to meet and work with IDPH using these results to increase HPV vaccination rates in lowa.
- Colorado School of Public Health CPCRN worked to finalize Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule to remove out-of-pocket costs for colorectal screening among Medicare beneficiaries. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized the proposed rule to remove out-of-pocket costs for a necessary colonoscopy after a positive noninvasive screening test for Medicare beneficiaries. Additionally, the rule will lower the minimum age of colorectal cancer screening to 45, consistent with the American Cancer Society and the United States Preventive Services Task Force colorectal cancer screening recommendations. These changes will go into effect on January 1, 2023. Andi Dwyer, BS, a member of the CPCRN, was instrumental in this work.
- New York University-City University of New York (NYU-CUNY) CPCRN collaborated with NYC Regional Cancer Collaborative on pharmacist administration of HPV vaccines policy NYU-CUNY investigators worked with the NYC Regional Cancer Collaborative Policy Workgroup to support advancing policy to allow pharmacists to administer vaccines (L S4807 Stavisky / A6476 Hyndman); this was approved.
- UNC-Chapel Hill's Dr. Rachel Hirschey collaborated with the Striving to Hold Accountability in Research Equity (SHARE) and Community Advisory Board (CAB) on multiple research Projects

  Dr. Rachel Hirschey conducts all her research in collaboration with Striving to Hold Accountability in Research Equity (SHARE), a Community Advisory Board (CAB) that aims to improve equity and quality of cancer health outcomes. During the funding period, Dr. Hirschey and SHARE published a manuscript detailing how they research-community partnership was developed and providing practical guidance to other researchers. They also collaboratively completed a qualitative study assessing barriers and facilitators of physical activity among Black cancer survivors. Dr. Hirschey supported SHARE to plan and implement a community health fair at Jeffries Cross Baptist Church in Burlington NC and supported community partner organization the Angelic Warrior Foundation (AWF) in their work focused on increasing colorectal cancer awareness and patient and caregiver support, especially among underserved populations. Dr. Hirschey and SHARE member / AWF president gave a presentation as an exemplar research-community partnership to an audience of researchers and trainees at UNC Gillings School of Public Health. Dr. Hirschey is now serving as scientific advisor on the AWF Board of Directors.
- University of Washington-Seattle CPCRN worked with Seattle National Colorectal Cancer Round Table Steering Committee
  - Dr. Beverly Green is a member of the National Colorectal Cancer Round Table Steering Committee (an elected position), supported by the American Cancer Society and Centers for Disease and Infection Control. The committee sets goals, priorities, and timelines for the Round Table, and plans the annual meeting agenda. The steering committee has been working with partners on attaining FDA approval for HPV- self testing for cervical cancer screening.

#### **Dissemination Communications**

During the previous reporting period, CPCRN received a wide variety of coverage across the media and other dissemination avenues:

- Ul's Dr. Whitney Zahnd wrote on National Rural Health Day: The Power of Collaboration to Advance Equity in Rural Cancer Control
  - For National Rural Health Day, Whitney Zahnd wrote about collaboration being a key component of advancing cancer and rural equity.
  - https://www.geohealthequity.org/national-rural-health-day-the-power-of-collaboration/
- UArizona's Dr. David Garcia advocated for significant public health benefits in Arizona's Medicaid program

David Garcia, PhD, wrote an opinion piece calling on legislators to protect access to cancer screening and treatments by continuing Arizona's Medicaid program. In the article, Dr. Garcia discussed the importance of removing structural and systemic barriers that affect early cancer detection and screening efforts, particularly for underserved communities. He emphasized the importance of ensuring access to comprehensive health insurance coverage in order to improve access to cancer prevention and treatment. This op-ed was picked up by media outlets around the state.

https://tucson.com/opinion/local/local-opinion-lawmakers-must-protect-arizona-s-medicaid-program/article 6f68ab8e-b229-11ed-beaa-372c93a7dd63.html

- NYU-CUNY'S CPCRN investigators worked on translating Stamp Out Cancer Brooklyn (SOCB) Brochure
  The SOCB brochure was translated into four different languages (Spanish, Traditional and Simplified Chinese,
  Russian, and Arabic) explaining to the community about the opportunity to work with a Community Health Worker
  on cancer prevention, early detection, and care.
- UNC reported Putting Public Health Evidence in Action (PPHEIA) Google Analytics
  The Putting Public Health Evidence in Action training (<a href="https://cpcrn.org/training">https://cpcrn.org/training</a>) is the most viewed training on the CPCRN website. During this funding year, the updated PPHEIA webpage received 3,161 views. The PPHEIA training also makes up the most views of the CPCRN YouTube Channel, with a total of 2,005 views across the six modules, up 1,275 views since the last reporting period. PPHEIA playlist views account for 64% of total views across CPCRN YouTube channel (N = 3,089).
- Emory's CPCRN Investigators featured in The Albany Herald, Atlanta Journal Constitution for "UV exposure study will focus on black outdoor workers in Dougherty County"
   The news story described Emory's partnership with Dougherty County (and City of Albany) on the adaptation of the program, published in The Albany Herald on April 25, 2023.
- CSPH CPCRN investigators featured on University of Colorado Anschutz for "Part of the Plan UCCC Works Towards Goals of NCI and Cancer Moonshot"
   CSPH CPCRN investigators were featured in an article on University of Colorado CU Anschutz website on the participation of multiple CPCRN partners in the NCI National Cancer Plan and Cancer Moonshot. https://news.cuanschutz.edu/cancer-center/part-of-the-nci-cancer-plan

# **Quotable Quotes**

CPCRN members' work generated many quotable quotes and anecdotes throughout the funding year. One example is featured below. More details are featured in the full report:

- NYU CUNY Ashley Marimón, Vice President of Special Projects Related to SDoH, CAMBA, May 12th, 2023
  - "We appreciate how Stamp Out Cancer Brooklyn (SOCB) has embraced the evolving healthcare field by acknowledging how it is to address the Social Determinants of Health in our attempts to decrease health inequities. We are excited to continue our work with PCC in their efforts to make healthcare a more accessible, inclusive, quality and human-centered experience for our community."

#### Requests for Scientific Expertise

CPCRN members' expertise was in high demand throughout the funding year. A few of these requests are listed briefly below. A full list of requests is detailed in the full report:

- **Emory** Emory's Courtney Petagna and Dr. Escoffery attended the HPV Cancer Free GA committee to contribute to activities to promote the vaccine in GA and share our Emory CPCRN mini-grants to promote HPV vaccination in SW GA with the group.
- UNC The Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network's (CPCRN) Putting Public Health Evidence in Action (PPHEIA) Curriculum is included in a new Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) Certificate Program. With leadership from Zul Surani at Cedars-Sinai Cancer Center, representatives from offices of COE at Cancer Centers across the country have collaborated on the certificate program designed for COE and cancer center staff. Mary Wangen facilitated the three modules derived from the PPHEIA. The team presented the certificate program at the Cancer Center Community Impact Forum on October 11th. The COE Certificate Program launches in early 2024.
- **UI** Dr. Askelson joined the lowa Immunize Coalition as part of the heath equity and media working groups in addition to the joint ICC-lowa Immunizes HPV workgroup to increase HPV vaccination rates in Iowa.

#### Awards & Honors

CPCRN members received many awards and honors throughout the funding year, some of which are listed below. Further details are featured in the full report:

- USC Dr. Daniela Friedman received the University of South Carolina's Breakthrough Leadership Award which
  celebrates senior faculty who take a multifaceted approach to inspiring excellence in research through mentoring
  under-represented minorities, collaborating with colleagues across disciplines, reaching out to the community and
  engaging in other unique activities.
  https://sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2023/03/breakthrough\_leader\_daniela\_friedman.php
- USC South Carolina's Dr. James Hébert received the Research Excellence Award from the Association of Schools and Programs in Public Health (ASPPH) in May 2023. This award recognizes faculty who have devoted their careers to investigating public health issues. https://sc.edu/study/colleges/schools/public/health/about/news/2023/aspph/research/award/hebert.php
- **UAz** UArizona's Dr. Purnima Madhivanan, an associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion Sciences at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, received the Health Gamechanger Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Tucson Branch during the 2022 Freedom Fund luncheon on Oct. 22.
- UAz UArizona's Dr. Cyndi Thomson, Principal Investigator of the University of Arizona, was appointed to the role
  of Chair of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Steering Committee and Executive Committee, effective February
  1, 2022. Dr. Thomson has been a productive member of the WHI for 20 years and will serve as Chair for the next
  two years.
- UAz UArizona's Patty Molina, CPCRN community partner and Senior Director of Community Health Services at Mariposa Community Health Center in Nogales, AZ, was selected as Border Echo Magazine's 2021 Rising Star of the Year. Since 2004, Molina has implemented health education programs, designed education and training materials on public and preventative health issues, and leads a variety of research projects. <a href="https://bo">https://bo</a>
- UI UI's Dr. Whitney Zahnd received the AACR Journal Award for her article Rural-Urban Differences in Cancer Incidence and Trends in the United States. This recognition is awarded to the first author of an article published in the Journal that has had a major impact on the fields represented by the Journal's content areas, with the awardee's coauthors named as corecipients in recognition of the importance of team science. https://aacrjournals.org/cebp/pages/award
- **UW & Emory** Dr. Peggy Hannon (UW) and Dr. Michelle Kegler (Emory) were recognized by the American Journal of Health Promotion (AJHP) as two of the most accomplished and influential women researchers and educators in the public health education and health promotion field. This 'top ten' list focused on women researchers with expertise and skills in health education, community health, patient education or counseling. Selection criteria included: scholarly productivity, excellence in teaching, health promotion advocacy and executive leadership.
  - Citation: Terry PE. The Ten Most Influential Women Scholars in Health Promotion. American Journal of Health Promotion. 2023;37(7):886-893. doi:10.1177/08901171231180042
- **CSPH** The Colorado Cancer Screening Program (CCSP) was selected as an Honoree for the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable 80% in Every Community National Achievement Award in the State-based Screening Program Category. Multiple CPCRN members work with the CCSP program, including Betsy Risendal, PhD, Andrea Dwyer, BS, Elsa Staples, MPH, and Westley Lighthall, MPH.
- UNC UNC's Dr. Rachel Hirschey was inducted as a Fellow to the American Academy of Nursing.

#### Other Significant Network Activities

Centers reported a wide variety of additional activities that they deemed as highly significant. These include:

#### Significant Research Activities

 NYU-CUNY - Implementation Evaluation of Evidence-Based Interventions (EBIs) for Cancers with Infectious Origins among Asian Americans

In an effort to determine best practices for the implementation of EBIs for cancers with infections origins among Asian Americans, three projects have been reviewed which utilize varying implementation strategies, such as CHWs, LHWs, and patient navigators. Secondary data have been collected from three projects: a) *H. pylori* screening and treatment and stomach cancer prevention, b) cervical cancer screening, and c) hepatitis B screening and treatment and liver cancer prevention. Key-informant interviews of stakeholders to elucidate best practices have been conducted (N=16) and qualitative analysis is complete. Data analysis has been completed and data have been presented at the 2022 APHA conference. A manuscript is currently in submission.

• *UAz* - Use of qualitative methods to examining colorectal cancer screening in Hispanic Adults Diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes

Individuals diagnosed with pre-diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus are at higher risk of developing colorectal cancer than the general population. Qualitative methods are being used to assess the current awareness of cancer risk and current screening behavior in this high-risk population and the general population, including colonoscopy and Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) completion. The team is also investigating the influence of communication and marketing on screening behaviors in this population by collecting opinions on the design and impact of various informational flyer designs encouraging colorectal cancer screening. This will be completed during four to eight one-hour focus groups with Mariposa Community Health Center and Chiricahua Community Health Center Inc. participants diagnosed with pre-diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

• Emory - HPV Vaccine Mini-grant Program

In May 2022, the mini-grant program started, and four county health departments in southwest Georgia were selected as grantees. Emory CPCRN provided each of the grantees with up to \$10,000, a toolkit with evidence-based strategies, and technical assistance. The mini-grant sites received their funds in beginning of February and have received technical assistance for all of 2023. During the technical assistance, Emory provided individualized patient reminder magnets for each of the grantees and patient informational reminder cards for grantees who requested them. One site requested HPV vaccine posters, and Emory CPCRN had CDC HPV vaccine posters printed and sent directly to the site. The grantees submitted a mid-year report in July, reporting their completed and future activities for the duration of the program.

- UNC reported two significant research activities:
  - 4CNC investigator Dr. Ferrari led the following research activities for the third year of North Carolina Partnerships to Implement Colorectal Cancer Screening, a CDC Colorectal Cancer Control Program (NC PICCS).
    - conducted a pre-collaborative focus group and summarized the data for cohort 3
    - summarized the baseline and annual clinic data for cohort 3 clinics
    - completed the evaluation report for cohort 2 clinics and disseminated findings to clinics and external audiences (see presentation section)
    - prepared the post-collaborative focus group guide for cohort 3, and the pre-collaborative focus group guide for cohort 4
    - revised the baseline and annual clinic data instruments and programmed them into Qualtrics for use with cohort 4
    - participated in all QI and TA calls
    - finalized the EHR data capacity measurement tool for use with current and future clinic cohorts
    - contributed to CDC reports
    - represented North Carolina at the Southeastern Colorectal Cancer Consortium (SECRCC)
    - developed an interview guide to explore relationships among FQHCs and GI clinics
  - PharmFIT (4CNC Core Project)
    - During this reporting period, 4CNC and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center submitted three qualitative manuscripts reporting the results from 87 interviews with patients, pharmacists, and PCPs. The interviews explored their perception of a CRC screening model in pharmacy settings. The patient and PCP qualitative manuscript have been published, and the pharmacist qualitative manuscript is under review. In addition to the qualitative manuscripts, 4CNC has prepared three manuscripts reporting results from a national survey of 1040 adults regarding their perceptions of CRC screening in pharmacy settings. The first survey paper that reports the ideal PharmFIT design based upon the survey results was published in Cancer Causes and Control in Year 4.

#### Significant Grants

- UW Building Capacity of Bilingual and Bicultural Community Health Workers to Implement Evidence-based Cancer Prevention and Control Interventions to Promote Health Equity
   This study aims to increase cancer screening among limited English proficient (LEP) populations by building the capacity of community health workers (CHWs) to select, adapt, and implement evidence-based interventions (EBIs) for cancer prevention and control.
- Emory Evaluation of the Colorectal Cancer Control Program
   Emory CPCRN has contracted with UW's CPCRN to consult and collaborate on evaluation activities in support of CDC's cancer screening programs (CRCCP and NBCCEDP).
- UNC and UW R01 to Expanding access to colorectal cancer screening through community pharmacies: The PharmFIT study

The study will test a model for distributing fecal immunochemical test (FIT) kits through community pharmacies. In North Carolina and Washington state, the study team will partner with primary care facilities and local independent community pharmacies to identify patients eligible and due for FIT screening for colorectal cancer. Patients will be referred to the pharmacy for FIT distribution, counseling, and results notification. Results will be transferred back to the patient's primary care provider, and patients with abnormal FIT results will be referred to follow-up colonoscopy by their provider.

#### Significant Publications

- Issaka RB, Chan AT, Gupta S. AGA Clinical Practice Update on Risk Stratification for Colorectal Cancer Screening and Post-Polypectomy Surveillance: Expert Review. Gastroenterology. 2023 Nov;165(5):1280-1291. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2023.06.033. Epub 2023 Sep 21. PMID: 37737817; PMCID: PMC10591903.
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#### Significant Presentations

- Barber S, Barrington W, Goodman M, Hardeman R, Ford C. "Together we can move mountains" A panel
  discussion to profile emerging centers targeting the health implications of racism field guide for assessing
  readiness to implement evidence-based cancer screening interventions. Presented at: Webinar hosted by Center
  for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Health, UCLA; March 10, 2023; Virtual.
- Robles-Morales R, Werts S, Inzunza D, Crane T, Sikorski A, Segrin C, Badger T, Thomson C. Vida Plena: A Culturally Tailored Lifestyle Behavior Change and Symptom Management Intervention for Hispanic Female Cancer Survivors. Presented at: Arizona Health Equity Conference, Phoenix, AZ; September 21, 2023.
- White House Moonshot and Colorectal Cancer: Discussion of Key Performance Indicators for Cancer Screening
  with White House Moonshot leadership. Andrea Dwyer participated on behalf of CSPH.
   \*CPCRN-affiliated presenters

## Significant Training Workshops

- University of Iowa
  - HPV and the HPV vaccine: Essentials for dental providers to educate, recommend, and refer patients
    - UI provided 2 hours of continuing education for dentists and dental hygienists during the 2022 Oral Health Champions Dinner organized by Council Bluffs Children's Oral Health Coalition with FAMILY, Inc.
  - Webinar Series: Rural Inclusion in the Comprehensive Control Planning Process
    Drs Zahnd, Charlton and Kelly Sittig (Iowa Cancer Consortium and UI CPCRN collaborator) participate in and helped develop this webinar series with CADCA's Geographic Health Equity Alliance and the University of Iowa's Advancing Cancer and Rural Equity Lab. Additional CPCRN collaborators from University of Colorado and South Carolina took part. This was originally to be a four part series, but additional webinars continue to be held with approximately 35-60 participants attending each session.

#### Significant Efforts to Address Diversity / Equity / Inclusion (DEI) and/or Disparities-Reduction

- *UAz* The University of Arizona has established an academic-community partnership with Mariposa Community Health Center (MCHC) to improve the health and reduce morbidity among border-dwelling Hispanic individuals. The research ""Focus Groups with Hispanic Individuals with pre-diabetes and Type 2 diabetes Mellitus to Gain Insights on Colorectal Screening" evaluated current knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about colorectal cancer screening and prevention in Hispanic people with pre-diabetes or Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2D). Through a qualitative approach, we conducted focus groups to better understand how current high-risk Hispanic individuals with pre-diabetes or Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus perceive colorectal cancer screening, resources, and accessibility. UArizona scholar, Adriana Maldonado, also developed a community-academic partnership with Campesinos sin Fronteras, a non-profit organization that advocates for farmworker's wellbeing. UArizona co-developed a research project to explore the impact of neighborhood context and allostatic load on migrant/seasonal farmworker's risk for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).
- **UI** lowa has iniquities in cancer mortality and incidence rates in Black and rural communities. Dr. Askelson's work with ICC is around building relationship with Black communities in Black Hawk County to discuss cancer

data and identify interventions; Dr. Zahnd's work is examining the cancer registry data more closely to look at incidence, staging and mortality and she will also be interviewing cancer survivors to understand their treatment experience; Dr. Nash's work involves a community engaged approach to develop a survey to examine community members cancer priorities through interviews.

- UW The expected outcomes of many of UW's research activities are to improve the reach of cancer prevention
  and control to settings serving communities experiencing health disparities in cancer prevention and screening.
  Dr. Barrington continued to develop the Center for Anti-Racism and Community Health (ARCH) this year which
  serves as a community-driven academic hub focused on the critical interrogation and disruption of racism and
  racialization within systems. The Implementation Studio project led by Dr. Ko involves work with rural CBOs to
  select, adapt, and implement an evidence-based intervention to promote cancer screening.
- CSPH The focus of the Colorado Cancer Screening Program in the current cycle is to reduce the burden of colorectal cancer among medically underserved and vulnerable groups by partnering with community-based, safety net, and critical care access facilities throughout the state and supporting evidence-based implementation strategies including patient navigation. These activities are further extended in our partnership with a healthcare clinic system reaching underserved, Latina/o, and migrant populations in northern Colorado through the HRSA-funded 'Accelerating Cancer Screening Program', which supports partnerships between NCI-funded cancer centers and federally qualified health centers to reduce colorectal cancer disparities. The local project funded by the CPCRN SIP is intentionally inclusive of rural and marginalized populations through mini-grants, which include funding of projects to reach low income, rural and Medicaid populations throughout the state. The Center's activities include a strong focus on building and supporting the patient navigator workforce to reduce barriers to care.
- NYU-CUNY The NYC CPCRN core projects are focused on reducing cancer disparities among Asian American communities and include: a) the evaluation of implementation strategies of evidence-based interventions for infection-related cancers among Asian Americans and b) the development of a mental health intervention for Chinese American cancer patients and survivors. In Year 4, the NYC CPCRN in collaboration with the Comprehensive Cancer Center at NYU is examining the results of an extensive Cancer Community Needs and Resource Assessment (CHRNA) across NYU's catchment area, which was designed to better understand the cancer-related resources, challenges, and needs of diverse communities across NYC in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Urdu, Bangla, Haitian Creole, Chinese and Korean. These results will be shared back to communities, in culturally tailored reports to ensure equitable dissemination of results. The CHRNA survey also included an optional structural racism module, which captured measures of structural racism, discrimination, vicarious racism, individual-level racism and discrimination during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CHRNA findings enable the NYC CPCRN to integrate community perspectives into future work.
- UNC In Year 4, 4CNC investigators and students contributed to six health-equity focused manuscripts that were
  published in the CPCRN 20th anniversary supplement in Cancer Causes and Control. In addition, all 4CNC
  research projects and workgroup activities have either an implicit or explicit focus on reducing disparities and
  improving health equity.
- Emory The majority of Emory CPCRN work relates to equity with a primary focus on reducing cancer disparities among rural, minoritized and low-income communities. Our HPV vaccine Mini-grants program is situated in rural SW GA and has as its mission to increase vaccination in rural regions of our state. In these past years, we also worked with our Georgia Extension Agency to increase HPV vaccination and other cancer education to their agents and conducted focus groups to help plan for their future professional development. We have been actively involved in the Survivorship workgroup and HPV Roundtable for our state cancer plan, Georgia Cancer Control Consortium.

#### Significant Efforts to Address COVID-19

- UArizona The Nosotros team worked collaboratively with the El Rio Community Health Center to design and
  implement a community-based risk assessment for obesity-related diseases and facilitate COVID-19 vaccinations
  in community-based settings.
- *UI* Members of the lowa CPCRN have been working on cancer issues specific to the pandemic and have been involved in state and national data collections to better understand how the pandemic is impacting cancer prevention, screening, and treatment throughout this funding cycle. For instance, Dr. Askelson continues to serve as a consultant to COVID-19 message development for the lowa Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Askelson in January 2023 worked with ICC and other partners to publish a getting back on track letter addressed

to lowa Medical providers encouraging strong recommendation for vaccine and cancer screenings. A project entitled ""The Impact of COVID-19 and Social Distancing on Cancer-Related Behaviors"" is in concert with a core group of NCI-designated cancer centers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Iowa, Colorado, Ohio State and Wayne State. CPCRN researchers (Charlton, Askelson, and colleagues) collaborated to develop a core set of questions and modules that will apply to specific sub-populations in any given catchment area. The overall objective was to assess how differences in demographics impact engagement in cancer preventive behaviors and cancer management/survivorship behaviors in the context of COVID-19 environmental constraints (e.g., social distancing, employment, mental health, etc.) among the general adult populations, cancer patients, and cancer survivors in Iowa. A manuscript was published in the *Journal of Rural Health* on the initial survey.

- Zahnd WE, Silverman AF, Self S, Hung P, Natafgi N, Adams SA, Merrell MA, Owens OL, Crouch EL, Eberth JM. The COVID-19 pandemic impact on independent and provider-based rural health clinics' operations and cancer prevention and screening provision in the United States. J Rural Health. 2023 Sep;39(4):765-771.
- South Carolina One of the CPCRN supplement papers led by Dr. Karen Wickersham focused on Covid-19 and cancer survivorship.
  - Wickersham KE, Morrill KE, Lopez-Pentecost M, Heiney SP, King JJ, Madhivanan P, Hirschey R. Losing a part of life: experiences of cancer survivors accessing treatment and sheltering in place during the COVID-19 pandemic [published online ahead of print, 2023 Jun 28]. Cancer Causes Control. 2023;10.1007/s10552-023-01742-7. doi:10.1007/s10552-023-01742-7
- UW UW led or contributed to several projects related to cancer screening and COVID during the reporting period. Dr. Cole authored a publication measuring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health behaviors and health care utilization in rural and urban patients with cancer and cancer survivors. Dr. Hannon explored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employees' workplace health promotion preferences, and Dr. Shah examined ways to support partnerships with pharmacies for testing and vaccination. Dr. Ko led several research activities and publications related to COVID-19 testing and vaccination in underserved populations including Native Americans, Latinos and rural communities. Drs. Baquero and Barrington authored a publication that addressed the experience of hate incidents across racial and ethnic groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly the team (Dr. Hannon, Ms. Vu and Masud) continued to work with the CDC NBCCEDP Evaluation Team (led by Dr. DeGroff) to examine and understand how some NBCCEDP recipients and their partner clinics were able to maintain pre-COVID-19 screening volume despite high COVID-19 test percent positivity from July-December 2020; this is a CDC-led case study (Leads: Dr. DeGroff and Ms. Schlueter).
- NYU-CUNY COVID-19 has significantly impacted NYC communities and NYU-CUNY's work. The NYC CPCRN has addressed this through various aspects of current and new projects. They have incorporated questions related to COVID-19 and its impact into our questionnaire when interviewing key stakeholders as part of evaluation of implementation strategies of evidence-based interventions for infection-related cancers among Asian Americans and in case studies interviews from the Health Equity workgroup. Through this, they hope to better assess best practices used when pivoting interventions to accommodate COVID-19 related burdens. Additionally, COVID-related questions were included in cancer community health resources and needs assessment to better understand how COVID has impacted cancer screening, chronic disease prevention, and management, and social determinants of health. NYU received a second renewal award for Year 3 of the NIH Community Engagement Alliance to End COVID-19 Disparities (CEAL) grant to disseminate community-centered messages that promote trust in science and research and promote inclusion of racial and ethnic minoritized populations in biomedical research. NYCEAL utilizes a participatory approach that builds on community assets, trusted community, clinical leaders, and organizations by building research-community linkages, tailored evidence-based health communication and peer navigation throughout NYC. Teams have also been directly engaged with developing and delivering COVID-19 information webinars and trainings in language, hosting outreach events, and navigating people to vaccinations in partnership with our network of federally qualified health centers and municipal health agencies. As of October 31, 2023, NYCEAL has delivered over 248,070 vaccines and has provided navigation services to over 274,870 individuals. NYCEAL has also reached over 570,153 individuals through in-person and virtual events, over 4.5 million people via web and social media posts and delivered educational materials to over 1.3 million individuals. Finally, NYC CPCRN has also been examining the impact of COVID-19 on food, both in terms of access and changes to diet and shopping behaviors.
- UNC For the NC PICCS project (CRCCP project), UNC has continued to embed questions on COVID-related issues into their data collection instruments. For example, the baseline survey, annual survey, and focus group discussions in their CRCCP project continue to ask questions on the effects of COVID-19 on clinic workflows, EBI implementation, and outcomes such as FIT return and colorectal cancer screening rates. 4CNC MPI Rachel

Hirschey worked with the Striving to Hold Accountability in Research Equity (SHARE) community advisory board to plan a health fair and administer COVID-19 vaccines at the Jeffries Cross Baptist church in Burlington, NC.

#### **CPCRN Coordinating Center & Steering Committee**

With leadership from the Coordinating Center and Co-Chairs, Drs. Alison Brenner, *UNC PI*, and Chau Trinh-Shevrin, *NYU-CUNY PI*, the Steering Committee met monthly to discuss Network strategic planning, scientific direction and productivity, completion of Workgroup research projects, and dissemination of Network products. During Year 4 of CPCRN5, the Coordinating Center continued to develop and improve processes and structures to support Network activities by:

- Orienting new CPCRN staff and members to the Network and helping them integrate into the Network
- Hosting a virtual CPCRN Winter Meeting in February 2023 and a hybrid, in-person Spring Meeting in May 2023
- Facilitating Network participation in the Conference on the Science of D&I in Health (December 2022)
- Developing a 21-article CPCRN 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal Supplement for Cancer Causes & Control (continued from Year 3). (https://link.springer.com/journal/10552/updates/26495148)
- Facilitating the development of one new interest group.
- Publishing a paper titled "The Special Sauce of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network: 20 years
  of Lessons Learned in Developing the Evidence Base, Building Community
  (https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10552-023-01691-1)
- Creating opportunities for relationship-building among Network investigators and Affiliate Members
- Providing support for Workgroup/Interest Group activities, including:
  - o Funded participant incentives, transcription, and travel for an OTIS Workgroup project.
  - Funded travel for 6 CPCRN Scholars/ Scholar Alumni, 2 affiliate members, and 2 community partners to attend the CPCRN Spring Meeting in-person.
  - o Contributed funds for the 21-article CPCRN 20th anniversary supplement in Cancer Causes & Control
  - o Provided funding and project management support for CHAI to create a new CPCRN Scholars webpage.
  - Developed a webpage for the CPCRN Health Equity Principles toolkit tilted, "Equitable Research
    Collaborations: A toolkit based on the CPCRN principles for health equity" (https://cpcrn.org/resources-cancer-equity).
- Developing Center-specific CPCRN logos for each Collaborating Center.
- Implementing the Network communications and dissemination strategy via adaptations, additions, and revisions to the CPCRN website, as well as regular dissemination through our quarterly newsletter, social media accounts including a new YouTube channel, Network listsery, and scientific publications.

#### Conclusion

CPCRN has made substantial impact in cancer prevention and control and implementation science across its history dating back to 2002. The Network continues to grow, with new members added this year in a wide range of capacities, including serving as Principal and co-investigators, affiliate members, Federal Agency Partners, CPCRN Scholars, community and clinical partners, staff, and students. Network members continue to innovate, develop, implement, and evaluate evidence-based approaches to cancer prevention and control with their local, state, and national partners, influencing everything from local clinic practices to state cancer plans to national organizations' practices and policies.

The Network's extensive history of producing more than 2,600 publications, over 2,400 presentations and trainings, and funded grants totaling over \$937 million in research dollars since 2004 demonstrate just a few of many ways the Network and its members' expertise have significant impact on the nation's dissemination and implementation of evidence-based cancer prevention and control research.