

# CA CONNections

Member Newsletter of The Connecticut Cancer Partnership



Fall 2017

## Screening Guidelines and Shared Decision-Making is the Focus of the 14th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017, 8AM - 1 PM  
Sheraton Hartford South, Rocky Hill  
FREE

### Screening Guidelines and Shared Decision Making Challenges, Controversy, Disparities

*The purpose of this conference is to enable participants to understand the science behind screening guidelines, including disparity-specific concerns, and to become familiar with the use of shared decision making tools to help, in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways, patients and family members recognize their choices and communicate their preferences about reasonable screening options.*

We have confirmed the speaker line-up for our Dec. 5 annual meeting. Our speakers include:

**Beth Jones**, PhD, MPH, Program Director, Assistant Director for Diversity and Health Equity, Yale Cancer Center, Research Scientists Yale School of Public Health

Dr. Jones is a cancer epidemiologist whose work and teaching focus is on health disparities. Her research is focused on **racial/ethnic differences in cancer screening and cancer outcomes**.

**Lynn Tanoue**, MD, Yale School of Medicine, Professor of Medicine (Pulmonary); Clinical Chief, Section of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine; Director, **Yale Lung Screening** and Nodule Program; Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs.

**Xavier Llor**, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Digestive Diseases), Yale School of Medicine; Medical Director, **Colorectal Cancer** Prevention Program; Co-Director, Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program. His research program focuses on two different aspects of colorectal cancer: hereditary and familial forms, and disparities in colorectal cancer. Some of his most recent work is providing important clues to the understanding of the biological differences that contribute to disparities in colorectal cancer.

**Liane Philpotts**, MD, Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, Yale School of Medicine; Chief, **Breast Imaging**. Her main interests

The Connecticut Cancer Partnership unites the members of our state's diverse cancer community—academic and clinical institutions, state and local government health agencies, industry and insurers, advocacy and community groups, and cancer survivors. Together, the coalition has developed and is now implementing a comprehensive plan to reduce the suffering and death due to cancer, and improve the quality of life of cancer survivors throughout Connecticut.

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**Register Now**

Dec. 5, 2017  
Connecticut  
Cancer  
Partnership 14th  
Annual Meeting

*Screening  
Guidelines and  
Shared Decision-  
Making*

[Click here to  
register](#)

have focused on breast interventional procedures and outcomes, screening breast ultrasound, and currently on breast tomosynthesis.

**Michael Leapman, MD**, Assistant Professor of Urology, Yale School of Medicine, He was recruited to join the faculty at the Yale University School of Medicine Smilow Cancer Center in 2016, specializing in urologic oncology with a joint appointment at the West Haven Veterans Affairs Medical Center. **Prostate Screening**

**Mary E. Barry, M.D., H.M.D.C.**

Dr. Barry completed her Internal Medicine residency at Brown University, RIH in 1984, and has been a primary care internist since then. With a special interest in developing oncology care for her patients and the Windham service area, she initiated and chaired the Cancer Committee at Windham Hospital for the past 20 years. With the support and integration with Hartford Healthcare Cancer Institute, Windham became one of the charter members of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance. Dr. Barry co-chairs the Network Cancer Committee comprised of the five regions of the HHC Cancer Institute.

**Keynote Speaker: Manish Mishra, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice is an Assistant Professor at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice and an Assistant Professor at Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth. His research roles include the development of **shared decision-making tools**, the creation of novel patient communication platforms in medical education, and studying the role of ACO models in health care reform.

Registration is open. [Click here to register](#)

## Connecticut's Cancer Plan Being Revised

The *Connecticut Cancer Plan, 2014- 2017* is being revised, with updates to the epidemiological data in the Burden of Cancer Section and new attention being given to the evolving area of cancer genomics.

We welcome your suggestions for additional areas to address. Please look at the [Connecticut Cancer Plan, 2014-2017](#) and [email us](#) your suggestions.

## Survivors of Breast Cancer Differ on Who Should Manage Follow-Up Care

As reported in NCI's Cancer Currents Blog, a new study affirms the concerns and confusion that some cancer survivors have voiced about which health care providers should be directing their long-term care. In the study, which involved a survey of a large group of breast cancer survivors, there was substantial variability in survivors' preferences for who they would like to manage their health care after the completion of active cancer treatment: their oncologist or primary care doctor. Although most women in the study preferred that their primary care doctor deliver general preventive care and ongoing treatment for conditions other than cancer, a large minority wanted this type of care to come from their oncologist. And almost all women wanted their oncologists to handle follow-up mammography as well as screening tests for other cancers, aspects of care that are traditionally overseen by primary care physicians. [Read the article](#)

## New Emerging Issues Brief:

Refusing Cancer Medications to Avoid Delirium and Maintain Autonomy

Shared decision-making is the focus of the Partnership's upcoming Annual Meeting. Individual's choices must balance the need for pain control and ability to be involved in decision making. [Read more here.](#)

## History of Partnership Available on our Website

Since its establishment in 2002, the Connecticut Cancer Partnership has grown from a core group of five organizations to a broad and diverse coalition more than 300 strong, representing elements of the cancer community from across Connecticut. Read highlights of the Partnership's history [here.](#)

## ACS CAN Presents Connecticut Policy Forum on The Future of Cancer Treatment:

**Ensuring Access and Affordability**  
Friday, Nov. 17, 2017 -  
8:00 - 10:00am  
YG Club Level at  
Dunkin' Donuts Park  
1214 Main Street

## Hospice care is short, starts later than needed

From Yale News, Sept. 12, 2017

Older adults are admitted to hospice for short duration despite experiencing symptoms months prior to the end of life, according to a Yale-led study. The finding highlights the need for earlier hospice admission or other strategies to address increasing symptoms and disability at the end of life, the researchers said.

The study was published on September 12 in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

The researchers examined information from a study of 562 people, aged 70 and older, who were not disabled when the study began but died over the following 16 years. Of these individuals, 244 (43.4 percent) were admitted to hospice during the last year of life. They were slightly older and more likely to have cognitive impairments (problems thinking and making decisions) than older adults who weren't admitted to hospice.

The researchers found that cancer and advanced dementia were the conditions that most often resulted in hospice admission. Older adults who were frail were least likely to be admitted to hospice.

[Read the article](#)

## Preliminary Study in Mice Uncovers Previously Unrecognized Effect of Chemotherapy

In a report released on Aug. 15 in NCI's Cancer Currents Blog, a new study conducted primarily in mice suggests that chemotherapy given before surgery for breast cancer can cause changes in cells in and around the tumor that are tied to an increased risk of the cancer spreading to other areas of the body. However, the study also identifies an experimental therapy that could potentially reduce this risk. Working with mouse models of breast cancer, researchers showed that several chemotherapy drugs commonly used to treat localized and advanced breast cancer increased the number of microscopic structures in breast tumors called tumor microenvironment of metastasis (TMEM), as well as the number of tumor cells circulating in the blood.

[Effects of chemotherapy](#)

## Partnership News

### Changes--Advisory Committee and Staff

Lucinda Hogarty is retiring after serving 9 years as Partnership Director. Transition planning is underway.

The American Cancer Society representative to the Partnership's Advisory Committee will be filled by the new Connecticut Health Systems Manager. Ed Angeli started at ACS on Aug. 28, filling the position held by Amanda Sadlon who left to pursue another opportunity last winter. Ed holds master's degrees in public health and human nutrition. Most recently, Ed served as a health promotions specialist at Connecticare where he worked with state and local government benefit plan administrators to plan and deliver population health. Ed's experience includes working with Cigna, Aetna, and the Cornell Scott Hill Health Center, a FQHC in New Haven.

Ed will be working on Partnership projects such as the HPV workgroup and the colorectal cancer screening initiative. He started his work with ACS by traveling to Atlanta for the colorectal cancer screening training forum Sept. 6- 8. This training, entitled *Increasing*

Hartford, CT 06103

ACS CAN will use this event to help illustrate and explore:

What are patient expectations for access and affordability? What will the impact of new drugs, emerging therapies, information technology, and EMRs? How does geography impact access and delivery of care and how can disparities be addressed moving forward? How can we improve communication and decision making? What will be the impact of national health care reform efforts on cancer patients?

[register here](#)

## Submissions

Please submit articles and/or suggestions to:

[CaCONNections](#)

CA CONNections is produced by the Connecticut Cancer Partnership

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*Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates through Enhanced Partnerships between Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalitions and Federally Qualified Health Centers*, was attended by a Connecticut team representing CT DPH, Fair Haven Community Health Center, Hartford Health and Human Services, and UConn Health Center, as well as Ed representing ACS.

Welcome Ed! We look forward to continuing the very productive relationship between the ACS and the Connecticut Cancer Partnership.



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