

Joining Forces to Fight Cancer

Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium

WCCCC Members Receive Wyoming Public Health Association Awards!

Two members of the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium received awards at this year’s annual Wyoming Public Health Association Education Conference held in Laramie, Wyoming on September 28-30th. The mission of the Wyoming Public Health Association (WPHA) is to bring together people interested in public health, to create a forum for discussion of health issues, to enhance health consciousness through leadership in public health activities, and to promote the professional growth of its members, thereby upgrading public health standards and advancing the physical, emotional, and social well being of the people of Wyoming.

Representative Ken Esquibel received the Outstanding Public Health Advocate award. This award was established by the WPHA to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to public health in the state of Wyoming. As members of the Consortium know, Representative Esquibel has been an outstanding leader in comprehensive cancer control, both as a state legislator since 2006 and as a co-chairperson for the WCCCC. He was a key player in ensuring passage of and funding for the 2007 Wyoming Cancer Control Act and worked to ensure continued funding for the Wyoming Cancer Resource Services projects that currently provide statewide cancer resources for Wyoming residents. He continues to propose and support legislation to strengthen statewide cancer prevention and control efforts.

Dr. Joe Grandpre received the Dr. Carl Blank Award. This award was established by the Wyoming Public Health Association in 2004 to honor those members who have distinguished themselves in the field of public health, and who have, through their membership, made a significant contribution to the Wyoming Public Health Association. Dr. Grandpre has been an active member of the WPHA for eight years and has served on the board for two years. He also holds memberships in the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, American Public Health Association, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the John Snow Society. Several of the programs under Dr. Grandpre’s leadership have been nationally recognized. He served on the Steering Committee that created the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and the successful Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium. Dr. Grandpre has a true passion for chronic disease prevention and control. As a self-admitted “data geek”, he has a skill for getting people excited about data. Wyoming’s chronic disease prevention efforts are stronger because of Dr. Grandpre’s passion, knowledge and leadership.

Congratulations to Representative Esquibel and Dr. Grandpre for being recognized by the Wyoming Public Health Association for their outstanding contributions toward “promoting a healthy Wyoming”!!

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Cancer Awareness Makes its Debut at Famers Market

By: Linda K. Hausner R.M. C.D.E.

Big Horn Clinic in Basin, Wyoming decided to host it's first ever Farmer's Market. Why you might say would a rural health care clinic choose to do such a thing? Well, the reasons were many and quite apparent to the brainchildren of the event: Kathi Cook, Clinic Director and Linda Hausner RN and Clinic Outreach Coordinator.



The Farmer's Market was successful on many levels: providing fresh homegrown produce to the area residents; providing a place for growers to sell produce and a variety of crafted items; a place for families and friends to gather to enjoy the market, entertainment, food and each other. We invited the local fire department who sold ice cream and fire dogs as a fund raiser. There was also games for the kids and an old time photography studio.

So how does cancer awareness play into this? Here you have it — part of our objective was to reach out to rural America with cancer awareness . I really wanted this to be fun, informative and fit the Farmer's Market theme so I suggested that we make the table look as such. The idea came to me to have information sheets, applications and little give-aways displayed in a canning jar. As you can see we embellished the jar with PINK, cute country print gingham and raffia. We didn't know how many to really plan for so I suggested fifty. They were gone, gone, gone! Jackie Gerds with Women's Wellness and Karen Johnston with Wyoming Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program manned the booth and indicated they could have given out one hundred additional jars!

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

Native American Women's Health Program Receives Award

By: Denise Padilla

The Native American Women's Health Program was recognized by the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council at the first annual Montana Wyoming Tribal Cancer Summit held in Great Falls, Montana, on September 8-9, 2010. The Program is a project of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program at the Wyoming Department of Health. The purpose of the project is to increase early detection of breast and cervical cancer through education, support, and screening services to American Indian women on the Wind River Reservation.



Pictured: Denise Padilla from the Wyoming Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program as she accepts the award from Dr. Folorunso Akintan, Senior Staff Epidemiologist and Acting Director of the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center

What Is An E-Cigarette?

By: Wyoming Through With Chew

In an attempt to create new and innovative ways to keep tobacco users addicted (and to be used where smoking is limited), several companies have come up with a battery-operated device—the “e-cigarette”—that’s designed to look and function much like a regular cigarette.

The e-cigarette is used in the same way as a conventional cigarette and delivers the addictive product nicotine in the form of a vapor. It contains various doses of nicotine in cartridges, which the user matches to his or her nicotine habit. A heated atomizer converts the contents in the cartridge into the vapor, which is then inhaled by the user.

There are some significant concerns with the e-cigarette. Recently, the FDA issued warnings to five distributors of e-cigarettes for violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for unsubstantiated claims and poor manufacturing practices. The FDA conducted sample tests and found that e-cigarette use results in exposure to detectable levels of known carcinogens. The FDA also warned that e-cigarettes pose “acute health risks” from toxic chemicals like diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze. Amounts of nicotine in the cartridges varied

Flavored cartridges (such as chocolate, strawberry, and mint), pose another concern because of their appeal to young people. E-cigarettes are sold without any legal age restrictions. Use of e-cigarettes can lead to nicotine addiction and other tobacco use. Attorneys General in New Jersey and Virginia have filed lawsuits to stop the sale of these unregulated products until they meet FDA approval. They are currently being challenged in a class-action lawsuit. Other states are considering restricting the sale or use of these products, and some states and counties including Suffolk County, New York have banned the e-cigarettes in no-smoking areas. In Wyoming, the Attorney General’s office has stated that “like other states, we are continuing to develop an enforcement strategy for e-cigarettes.” There has been concern that these products will find their way into the hands of minors. The problem for most states, including Wyoming, is that the sales to minors statute defines tobacco products as “any substance containing tobacco leaf, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco or dipping tobacco.” Most states have a similar definition in their statutes. One possible course of action would be to work with the legislature to revise that definition. There are a few retailers in Wyoming selling the product, including malls in Cheyenne and Casper, and it has been observed being sold at events like Frontier Days and summer festivals. Those selling the product claim that it is a healthier alternative to smoking and it can be used for cessation.

There could be a few snags in assuming the cessation claims, as well as other problems: 1) It is not approved by the FDA and other governing bodies related to health concerns. FDA regulations state that “a company cannot claim that its drug can treat or mitigate a disease, such as nicotine addiction, unless the drug’s safety and effectiveness have been proven.” Yet the five distributors mentioned above claim without FDA review of relevant evidence that their products help users quit smoking cigarettes. 2) There is an inhalation process in the use of this product, so the lungs are still affected somewhat and the consumer is still inhaling SOMETHING. 3) There is an ingestion of nicotine, one of the most addictive and dangerous substances found in cigarettes. 4) The problem of continued consumption still exists. 5) Obtaining them—as well as the accessories (battery chargers, nicotine cartridges)—online with a credit card can be risky, as the companies might not be legal or reliable.

There is also the social influence to consider: do kids think e-cigarettes are cool? Youth who see adults using the e-cigarette may be curious and drawn in to the new technology and perceived “cool factor.” Coupled with the availability to youth in most states, this could be cause for concern. Kids who wouldn’t otherwise smoke may start with e-cigs, because they are cool gadgets and then move on to the real thing when they get hooked. The answer to all this may ultimately lie with the FDA taking further action in the way that Canada’s health agency has. They ordered that “persons importing, advertising or selling electronic cigarette products in Canada must stop doing so immediately” because they “may pose health risks and have not been fully evaluated for safety, quality and efficacy” by the agency.

For more information on e-cigarettes, please contact the FDA’s consumer inquiry hotline at 1-888-INFO-FDA.



Celebrating 14 Years of Providing Clinical Services for Wyoming Women in Partnership with the National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

By: Carol E. Peterson, MS, RN

The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) is celebrating 20 years of success meeting the need for early detection services of women in the United States. The national program was established through the federal Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act of 1990 to cover education and screening services. It was further expanded through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000 so that women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer could obtain life-saving treatment. Today, this Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded program supports breast and cervical cancer screening programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 12 American Indian and Alaskan Native tribes or tribal organizations, and five U.S. territories. Since 1991, over 3.7 million women have been served.

The Wyoming Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (WBCCEDP) also known as Women's Health Source, at the Wyoming Department of Health, has been a CDC funded entity in partnership with NBCCEDP since 1994. During the first two years of funding, the program focused on implementing an awareness and education campaign and developing program infrastructure. In 1996 Wyoming received it's a grant to provide early detection services and the first women were screened in 1997. Over the years, we have provided screening and diagnostic services to more than 6,000 Wyoming women and have provided health education for many thousands more women. In addition, since October 2001, 628 women have been provided access to cancer treatment: 195 with breast cancer, 21 with cervical cancer, and 410 with high-grade cervical pre-cancer.

The Wyoming Department of Health is pleased to have contributed to NBCCEDP's success these past years. The WBCCEDP has also had accomplishments recognized through an award from the NBCCEDP for Outstanding Program Performance in 2009 and in September of 2010 our Native American Women's Health Program was recognized by the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council at the first annual Montana-Wyoming Tribal Cancer Summit held in Great Falls.

The WBCCEDP is especially appreciative of the continual efforts of partners such as the American Cancer Society, Wyoming Komen For the Cure, the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Caring for Women program, the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Consortium, numerous community-based organizations, the five Regional Cancer Resource Services programs, Women's Wellness at Migrant Health, and the hundreds of Wyoming healthcare providers across our state who provide screening and diagnostic services for Wyoming women every day! Indeed, much has been accomplished through the national program the past 20 years and here in Wyoming over the past 14 years. This would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of the many organizations and individuals in our state who are passionate about promoting early detection.

We face many unique challenges here in Wyoming and, as a result, our state continues to have one of the poorest mammogram and Pap test screening rates in the nation. However, by working together more effectively we can maximize our efforts, reach more women with important education and outreach services and ensure that Wyoming women get screened!



Genetics Home Reference

By: Jim Honour

If one of my parents or another close family member has cancer, does that mean I will eventually inherit that diagnosis too? That is a common question and to assist with answering that and many other questions about genetics and cancer, I recommend an excellent resource. Genetics Home Reference (GHR) <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov> is a free product created and managed by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (the world's largest medical library,) Bethesda, MD and is a consumer-friendly online resource to genetic conditions. The user may browse more than 500 genetic conditions, diseases and syndromes. They also may search in [Genes](#) by symbol, full name, group or classification in its databank of more than 700 genes. Information about the 23 pairs of [chromosomes](#) may be found and for each specific one they provide content to answer such questions as "What is that chromosome and how are changes in it related to health conditions; is there a standard way to diagram that chromosome?" They present a diagram beneath to illustrate. They also provide answers to questions such as "What is DNA; what is a chromosome; what is mitochondrial DNA and can changes in chromosomes affect health and development?"

Other features in GHR include a handbook with sections such as *Cells and DNA*, *How Genes Work*, *Gene Therapy* and many more. The [Glossary](#) contains an alphabetical directory of hundreds of definitions related to genetic conditions. In addition they feature a [Resource and Patient Support](#) web page that has general interest links to websites including genetics education, Human Genome Project, policy/ethics and health literacy. Health professionals may find links under *Resources* to the NCI's *PDQ: Cancer Genetics Overview*, *Gene Tests*, *Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM)*, *PubMed Medical Genetics Searches*, and much more. Patients and families may click on links to websites such as *Ask the Geneticist* and the Genetic Alliance's *Understanding Genetics: A Guide for Patients and Professionals*.

If one does a simple search of the alphabetical list under "Conditions" and click on "breast cancer," they will find a description of the disease, its frequency, specific genes related to the disease such as BRCA1, BRCA2, PTEN, STK11, [TP53](#) and others, with a direct link from each gene symbol to its web page with detailed information. They also provide information on breast cancer inheritance and links for web pages on the diagnosis, management or treatment of breast cancer. A simple search, in the search box at the top, on "cancer," brings up 695 results including condition summaries, specific genes, definitions, chromosome summaries, and gene summaries all related to cancers. Clicking on the "Genetic Conditions" tab at the top on the home page and then clicking on "[Cancers](#)" in their list of diseases by categories, results in a large list of genetic related cancers.

Patients, consumers and health professionals will all find this a rich resource for learning about genetic conditions. The National Library of Medicine has a wealth of databases and electronic resources (All Free!) for health professionals and the public: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases>. For questions about Genetics Home Reference (GHR) or NLM's other biomedical resources, contact Jim Honour, jhonour@uwyo.edu, Wyoming Liaison, National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) <http://nmlm.gov/mcr> and University of Wyoming Libraries <http://www-lib.uwyo.edu>.



6th Annual Celebration of Hope & WCCCC Meeting

Save the Date



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, in partnership with the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium, invites you to join us for A Celebration of Hope to raise awareness surrounding cancer prevention and control, to celebrate all survivors living in Wyoming today and to give hope and determination to those who are impacted by cancer. This year the celebration will be held in conjunction with the semi-annual WCCCC Meeting.

Please join us on January 27, 2010 as we unveil the final 2011-2015 Wyoming Cancer Control Plan, hold a Consortium meeting and celebrate cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, healthcare providers and others involved with cancer-related efforts in Wyoming. This year the theme for the Celebration will be breast cancer awareness.

The WCCCC will also be holding a legislative reception the evening of January 26, 2011. More information on this event will be sent out soon.

If you have any questions please contact Jessica Perez at 307.777.7362 or via email jessica.perez@health.wyo.gov

Dates:

Reception: The evening of January 26, 2011

WCCCC Meeting : January 27, 2011

Time: 9am-3pm,

Location: Wyoming State Capitol / Hathaway Building

News from the Wyoming Primary Care Association

By: Patrick Monahan

On behalf of the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium, we would like to thank Mrs. Kimberly Rogers for her six years of dedicated service and leadership. Given her work schedule, and changing role at the Wyoming Primary Care Association (WYPCA), she will no longer be the lead consortium representative for the WYPCA. Kimberly wanted to thank all of the consortium members, supporters, partners, and the Wyoming Legislature for their hard work and dedication in bringing increased attention, and most importantly funding, to cancer prevention and control which will ultimately reduce the impact of cancer on Wyoming people. As you know, as a cancer advocate and 10 year survivor, Kimberly's passion for the cause will likely ensure her continued commitment on cancer efforts as time permits.

Please take a moment to welcome Ms. Kelly Graham, Director of Member Services for the Wyoming Primary Care Association to the consortium. Prior to her current employment she worked for Solutions for Life, Douglas Wyoming from 1995 – April 2010; most recently as their Director of Human Resources. Kelly is very passionate about increased cancer education and early detection programs. Her mother Norma is a Breast Cancer survivor; sadly in March 2009 her brother Brad lost a valiant fight with a brain tumor. Her professional experiences and personal experiences are a welcome addition to the consortium. Kelly can be reached at kelly@wypca.org or by phone at 307-632-5743 ext. 13.