

`Imi Hale

Native Hawaiian Cancer Network,
a program of *Papa Ola Lokahi*

Mele Kalikimaka 2007



Patient Navigation Training goes to Maui

By Jacqueline Nalani Perreira

Hui No Ke Ola Pono, the Native Hawaiian Health Care System on Maui would like to express its gratitude to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for its funding of the (cancer) Patient Navigation Training.

Mahalo a nui loa pu to `Imi Hale and Ka`ohimanu Dang for developing the (cancer) Patient Navigation curriculum and working with collaborating partners, who served as faculty and site coordinators.

Foundation, DOH Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program, American Cancer Society, Kapi`olani High Risk Breast Program, and National Cancer Institute. The final two days were

A total of 16 cancer care staff on Maui were trained to be Patient Navigators: **Hui No Ke Ola Pono** Nalani Perreira, Terry Poaipuni, Pua Jeremiah, Kaunoa Ho`opai, Angela Calhoun, Heidi Vaspra, and Janice Fernandez.

Pacific Cancer Foundation: Ciara Raymond, Barry Waits, Gian Tricomi. **ACS:** Sheila Kawahara, and David Derris.

Hospice: Nancy Davis, and Manuela Christener. **Family Matters:** Marita Somerville, and Audrey Quinn.

A special mahalo to the presenters, who were insightful and informative.

Although the training was primarily for staff from Hui No Ke Ola Pono it was open to other agencies involved in cancer care on Maui, i.e., Pacific Cancer Foundation, American Cancer Society, Hospice, and Family Matters.

The 6-day training involved four days of lectures and discussions with Maui Memorial Medical Center, a cancer survivor, Med-Quest, Pacific Cancer



Patient Navigators do site visit of the Queen's Medical Center.

spent visiting the Queen's Medical Center, Hawai'i Medical Center, Kapi`olani Women's Health Clinic, and Kapi`olani Women & Children's Hospital.

Inside this issue:

Clinical Trials	2
Safeway Foundation	2
QMC Cancer Center	3
Big Island Hosts PN Training (cont'd)	3
Tobacco Cessation for Hawaiians	4
Cigarette Prices, ...	4

Big Island Hosts Patient Navigation Training

By Victoria Leimomi Shearer

In November, Community Health Workers (CHWs) from Hui Malama Ola Na `Oiwī, the Hawai'i Island Native Hawaiian Health Care System, along with staff from Hawai'i Pacific Oncology Center and the Queen's Women's Center participated in four days of (cancer) Patient

Navigation Training.

The training was sponsored by *`Imi Hale* - Native Hawaiian Cancer Network, a program of Papa Ola Lokahi, and Hui Malama Ola Na `Oiwī, in

collaboration with American Cancer Society - (ACS) East Hawai'i Unit and Hospice of Hilo.

The Patient Navigation (cont'd page 3)

"This training provides CHWs with the confidence and tools to help clients with cancer navigate our complex health care system."

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NHHCS Learn the Importance of Advocating for Clinical Trials

By Amanda Allison

In November 2007, `Imi Hale conducted a two-day training on cancer clinical trials at the Queen's Conference Center in Honolulu. The training was designed for Community Outreach Staff (COS) and Cancer Patient Navigators from the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.

Margo Michaels, Executive Director and President of the Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials (ENACCT), crafted the training curriculum in consultation with `Imi Hale's Project Director, JoAnn Tsark and staff. The goal of the training was to "effectively prepare COS staff to better advocate for improved patients' access to cancer clinical trials."

During a fact finding exploration in July, Ms. Michaels found that the process of getting patients into cancer clinical trials in Hawaii was in disarray. One part of the solution was to help patients navigate the pathway to participation in clinical trials, especially trials that are taking place in Hawai'i. The COS staff were excellent candidates for

training due to their experience and role in linking clients to a multitude of community resources,



Margo Michaels of ENACCT

including medical resources. This training also added to their skill set in cancer patient navigation.

Fifteen participated in the training: 11 from the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems throughout the state (including two physicians), 1 from Cancer Information Service and 3 from `Imi Hale. Another three trainees were only able to attend one day.

Participant evaluations reported that the training met their expectations ("Well" to "Very Well"). Many commented that the training helped them understand a complicated and difficult topic. The supporting materials provided by ENACCT were helpful and tailored for Hawai'i.

Trainees left the training with an increased understanding about clinical trials--their importance and the advances in protections for the patient. As one of our neighbor island participants stated, "I wasn't sure if this training was going to be helpful to my clients, but now I see that each cancer patient should be given the choice to participate in an appropriate trial and have the guidance to make an informed decision about participating. Right now, most of our clients just don't know what's out there!"

One area of difficulty still remains: frustration with the cost to patients involved in clinical trials. The trainee group articulated the need for more clarification from policy makers and insurance companies to face this concern.

Safeway Foundation Supports Breast Cancer Awareness

On November 9th, `Imi Hale Principal Investigator Dr. Clayton Chong and Papa Ola Lokahi Executive Director, Hardy Spoehr were presented with a \$10,000 check from the Safeway Foundation at the grand opening of the Safeway Kapahulu store.

The grand opening ceremony kicked off `Imi Hale's latest public service announcement taken from the video *Breast Health, Shared Stories from Women in our Hawaiian Commu-*

nity. Narrated by Dr. Chong, the PSA calls attention to the impact of breast cancer on the kane (men) in the `ohana (family).

According to Dr. Chong, "More men are coming in with their women and contributing to health care decisions. It's important for the entire `ohana that we involve the men more."



Kehau Matsumoto is surrounded by the kane in her `ohana.

The PSA was shown during the UH-Fresno State game by KHNL/KFVE.

Other PSAs from the video are currently being aired through sponsorship from HMSA.

Queen's Opens its New Cancer Center

By Andrea Wilburn

The Queen's Cancer Center opened in Fall 2007, bringing residents of Hawai'i comprehensive, multidisciplinary cancer treatment and research.

This patient-centered facility, located on the grounds of the Queen's Medical Center, physically brings together virtually every aspect of cancer diagnosis and treatment, so as to minimize the need for patients and caregivers to make multiple visits to otherwise scattered medical providers.

Partnering with medical, radiation, and surgical oncologists, along with several departments throughout the hospital, Queen's Cancer Center ensures the highest level of care for its patients- from TomoTherapy (precision radiation technology) and the *da Vinci* surgical robot, to an on-site physical therapist for massage therapy and genetic counseling.

A Blue Ribbon Panel on Cancer Care convened in 1999 by former Governor Ben Cayetano with cancer survivors and health professionals recommended such a facility. The Queen's Medical Center employees pledged over \$40,000 towards the development of this Center.

The Queen's Cancer Center is also proud to introduce the Patient Navigation Program which is now available for cancer patients and their caregivers. Patient Navigators welcome patients to the Center and immediately provide them a point of contact during treatment and into after-care.

Navigators are available to assist patients with support services such as transportation, financial assistance, educational materials, appointment coordination and more. Patients visiting the Center

from the neighbor islands now have someone to assist them with travel arrangements, ground transportation, and lodging. Navigators help patients and their families get answers to their questions and provide them support throughout their cancer journey.



(l-r) Dr. Diane Thompson, Cancer Center director, Dr. Clayton Chong, head of the Oncology Dept., and Darlena Chadwick, vice-president of patient care in the lobby area.

(continued) Big Island Hosts Patient Navigation Training

curriculum and training *Ho'okele I Ke Ola*, provided participants with an overview of cancer and the role of the patient navigator.

Presenters included ACS, Kap'iolani Hospital's High-Risk Breast Cancer Program, and the Breast & Cervical Cancer Control programs of Bay Clinic, Inc., and Hamakua Health Center. Hands-on training "Accessing Web Resources" was provided by Cancer Information Service. Participants were also provided with an overview of Med-Quest and insurance issues, as well as information on Palliative Care, End of Life, and the role Hospice of Hilo. Cancer survivors shared powerful

stories of strength and determination.

Dr. Kevin Wilcox, radiation oncologist,



from Hawai'i Pacific Oncology Center provided information on Pain Management, and the Patient, the Navigator and the System.

Ho'okele I Ke Ola was developed by 'Imi Hale to provide CHWs from the

NHHCS with the tools necessary to assist them when working with Native Hawaiians challenged with cancer.

The goal of the training is to enable CHWs to empower its clients with information for an informed decision in their cancer care. "This training provides CHWs with the confidence and tools to help clients with cancer navigate our complex health care system," stated Hui Malama Ola Na 'Oiwi Cancer Program Coordinator Leimomi Shearer.

'Imi Hale is currently offering an on-line course in Patient Navigation through Maui Community College.

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A Community's Response to Cancer Prevention and Control



Halehiki circa 1940

Imi Hale
Native Hawaiian Cancer Network
A Program of Papa Ola Lokahi

www.imihale.org

Tobacco Cessation for Hawaiians, by Hawaiians, with Hawaiians

Each of the 5 Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems offers a comprehensive tobacco cessation intervention with culturally targeted materials and tools. For more information contact:

Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i 246-3511 Kaua`i

Ke Ola Mamo 848-8000 O`ahu

Na Pu`uwai 560-3388 Moloka`i/Lana`i

Hui No Ke Ola Pono 244-4647 Maui

Hui Malama Ola Na `Oiwi 969-9220 Hawai`i

Free local service is also available through the Hawaii Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)



Cigarette Prices, Smoking and the Low-Income

This is a synopsis of an article that appeared in the American Journal of Public Health authored by Peter Franks, MD et al. Comments by Dr. Josephine Herman of the Pasifika Medical Association are included with the article reference and on-line link.

Summary:

This study investigated the impact of cigarette prices on smoking rates among various income groups in the US.

Data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) surveys conducted between 1984 and 2004 were used.

As cigarette prices increased over time, there was a marked drop in the number of smokers in the higher income group (the top 3 income

quartiles) but not in the lower income group (the lowest quartile).

Cigarette price elasticity (change in the percentage of people smoking for every 1% change in cigarette pack price) was greater in the lower than the higher income group before the Master Settlement Agreement, but not after it.

It was concluded that increasing cigarette prices may no longer be an effective deterrent to smoking, and may in fact place a disproportionate burden on low-income smokers.

Comment:

In terms of being able to interpret and apply this information to the Pacific setting – one needs to acknowledge the country and population differences in base and disposable income as well as the unit price

of cigarette packs being \$2–\$3 (before federal and state cigarette tax, distributor and retailer mark ups, and state sales tax) in the US, yet much higher in New Zealand and the Pacific region.

Reference: Am J Public Health 2007; 97(10):1873-1877

<http://dx.doi.org/DOI:10.2105/AJPH.2006.090134>

Papa Ola Lokahi, Imi Hale and the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems are addressing this unequal burden on low-income Hawaiian smokers by offering comprehensive tobacco cessation services that incorporate tailored materials and approaches appealing to Hawaiians.