March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – Colon and Rectal Cancers Are Rising in Young People

Reprinted from the NY Times, February 28, 2017

Cancers of the colon and rectum have been declining in older adults in recent decades and have always been considered rare in young people. But scientists are reporting a sharp rise in colorectal cancers in adults as young as their 20s and 30s, an ominous trend. The vast majority of colorectal cancers are still found in older people, with nearly 90 percent of all cases diagnosed in people over 50.

But a new study from the American Cancer Society (ACS) that analyzed cancer incidence by birth year found that colorectal cancer rates, which had dropped steadily for people born between 1890 and 1950, have been increasing for every generation born since 1950. Experts aren’t sure why. Rectal cancers are rising particularly sharply, far faster than cancers in other parts of the large intestine or colon. [Note: Many cancers of both the anus and rectum are linked to Human Papillomavirus or HPV, and could potentially be prevented by increased uptake of the HPV vaccine.]

The ACS estimates about 13,500 new cases of colon and rectal cancers will be diagnosed in Americans under 50 this year, with more than 95,500 cases of colon cancer and nearly 40,000 cases of rectal cancer in all age groups.

“People born in 1990, like my son, have double the risk of colon cancer and quadruple the risk of rectal cancer” compared to the risk someone born in 1950 faced at a comparable age, said Rebecca Siegel, an epidemiologist with the ACS and the lead author of the new report, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute on Tuesday, February 28.

Despite Dramatic Drops in Overall Incidence and Mortality, Striking Disparities Remain

Despite dramatic reductions in overall colorectal cancer incidence and mortality, striking disparities by age, race, and tumor subsite remain. That’s according to the latest edition of Colorectal Cancer Statistics and its companion publication, Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures, published every three years by the American Cancer Society.

American Cancer Society Press Release, March 1, 2017
Selfmade Health Network – Member of CDC Consortium of National Networks

SelfMade Health Network (SMHN) is a national network of dedicated professionals, organizations and communities seeking to eliminate cancer and tobacco-related disparities among our nation’s most vulnerable, underserved and "high-risk" populations. SMHN is a member of the CDC’s Consortium of National Networks.

SMHN invites cancer prevention and control partners to join their national network. You’ll be kept up-to-date on current topics impacting the lives of vulnerable populations with low socioeconomic status (SES) characteristics. SMHN offers newsletters, press releases along with other resources (including webcast announcements and fact sheets) and information on new initiatives.

There are several other advantages to joining SMHN.

- Did you also know that as a national network, we strive to address emerging and relevant issues that impact organizations in frontier, rural and metropolitan regions?
- Did you know that based on your feedback as a member or partner; SMHN success stories, community champions and industry experts may be selected from your organization, community, city, town, county, state or region?
- Did you know that free SelfMade Health Network resources (including webcasts) are available throughout the year and there’s no membership fee involved?

Discover how the SMHN can help the mission of your organization, partners, state and communities. To learn more about membership opportunities, please visit the "Mobilize" section on our website. SMHN resources include the Determinants of Health Fact Sheets (series of eight) that feature information on lowering cancer rates and smoking use in vulnerable populations. They’re available online.

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Social Media Project

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and the American Cancer Society (ACS) is working with its partners, including members of the Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC) and other stakeholders, to raise awareness about colorectal cancer and promote screening.

All ACS partners are invited to tweet a total of four colorectal cancer awareness messages on their Twitter handles during March 2017. In return, ACS will retweet one of your tweets with a shout-out highlighting your commitment to prevent colorectal cancer. To participate, use any of the sample tweets provided (below) and be sure to use the hashtag #KOColonCancer in your tweets and posts.

Sample tweets include:
- Age 50+? It’s time to be screened for coloncancer. Simple take home tests are available. #KOColonCancer
- Ask friends and family ages 50 and older to get screened for colorectal cancer! #KOColonCancer #80by2018
- #ColonCancer is preventable, beatable, treatable. Learn about screening options & take home tests. #KOColonCancer
- Long-term survival for coloncancer found early is about 90%. If u r age 50 and up, get screened! #80by2018 #KOColonCancer
- Colon cancer = 2nd leading cause of cancer death BUT it’s preventable, treatable & beatable. Get screened! #KOColonCancer #80by2018
Michigan Cancer Genetics Alliance Corner

Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Updates and the Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendation
Submitted by the Michigan Cancer Genetics Alliance

Lynch syndrome (LS), the most common inherited susceptibility to cancer, increases a person’s risk for developing colorectal cancer (CRC) to 40-80%, compared to 6% in the general population. LS also increases the risks of developing cancers of the endometrium, ovaries, pancreas, urinary tract, skin and brain. Parents, siblings, and children of individuals with LS have a 50% chance of having the condition.

It is estimated that up to 1 million people in the United States have LS, but many are unaware of it. Therefore, in October 2016, the Cancer Moonshot℠ Blue Ribbon Panel recommended a national demonstration project to identify those with LS by screening colorectal and endometrial cancers for specific markers. When the tumor test is abnormal, additional genetic testing and counseling is indicated to determine whether an individual has LS. This new initiative will bolster current national recommendations by the Evaluation of Genomics Applications in Practice and Prevention (EGAPP) Working Group, the HealthyPeople2020 (HP2020), and the Michigan (MI) state cancer plan objective to increase LS screening for all newly diagnosed cases of colorectal cancer.¹² Increased detection of LS in individuals with CRC may prevent the occurrence of LS-related cancers in their family members through cascade testing.

Individuals diagnosed with CRC before age 50 are at a higher risk of having a hereditary CRC condition such as LS. An analysis of MI Cancer Surveillance Program data shows an increase in early-onset CRC incidence from 4.9 cases/100,000 individuals in 1990 to 7.4 cases per 100,000 individuals in 2013, in comparison to overall CRC rates, which have decreased. Recent peer-reviewed publications also highlight the importance of CRC diagnosed under 50. More specifically,

- University of Michigan authors recently found that 1 in 7 newly diagnosed CRCs registered in the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Registry (SEER) from 1998 to 2011 were diagnosed under the age of 50.³
- A surgical oncology group from MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX projected that while CRC incidence rates will continue to decline amongst individuals over 50, colorectal cancer incidence rates will increase by 40% by 2020 and 90% by 2030 for those diagnosed between ages 20-34.⁴
- In an analysis of 450 CRC patients diagnosed under 50 in Ohio, 1 in 6 (16%) had clinically significant results in a variety of high- and moderate-risk hereditary cancer genes. Approximately half of these individuals were found to have LS gene mutations.⁵

A 5-year cooperative agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) aims to increase the proportion of newly diagnosed CRCs being screened for LS. MDHHS also led the development of the Lynch Syndrome Screening Network (LSSN), which is a collaborative network of 95 institutions that promote routine LS screening on all newly diagnosed CRCs. Learn more.

To increase public awareness of LS-associated cancers, a Governor’s Proclamation for Lynch Syndrome Awareness Week in Michigan has been requested for March 19-25, 2017. Learn more about hereditary cancers in Michigan.

(Continued on page 4)
MCGA - Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Updates... (continued from page 3)

About Michigan Cancer Genetics Alliance: MCGA strives to promote awareness and advance appropriate application of genomics to improve cancer prevention, detection and treatment throughout Michigan. Locate a cancer genetics clinic.

References

National HPV Vaccination Roundtable (HPV Roundtable)

The National HPV Vaccination Roundtable (HPV Roundtable) is a coalition of public, private, and voluntary organizations and experts dedicated to reducing incidence of, and mortality from, HPV-associated cancer in the United States.

Over 80 organizations have joined forces to increase awareness, educate providers and the public, and implement systems changes. Together, Roundtable members are collaborating and leveraging opportunities to prevent cancer through HPV vaccination.

The National HPV Roundtable has a SharePoint site. This site provides access to resources and information developed by the HPV Roundtable.

Reminder!
These are the 2016 Award Recipients – Champion and Inspiration
The award process will soon be announced for 2017 – who will you nominate?

2017 MCC Meetings
Board Meetings (12 pm – 3 pm):
Wed, Mar 29
Wed, June 28
Wed, Sept 27
Annual Meeting (Lansing):
Wed, Nov 8
For more information: 877-588-6224

MCC Website
Be sure to visit the MCC website to find provider and patient resources