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**Quick News & Links:**

[Having an event? Send us the details to post on the MCC Calendar of Events page!](#)

[Proud of something that you or your organization has done? Let us know and we will put it under Members in Action on the MCC homepage!](#)

[MCC Calendar of Events](#)

**What Did My Doctor Say? Language Involved in Cancer Care is Complicated**

Cancer comes with a lot of information and a lot of emotion. That mix can make doctor visits tricky. Doctors try to be clear as they walk through recommended treatments, explaining the possible risks and side effects. But the language involved in cancer care is complicated. Patients are often stuck wondering what is a contraindication or an intervention?

“Most doctors are pretty good about explaining complex concepts. The word ‘doctor’ means teacher, and we take that seriously,” says Reshma Jagsi, M.D., D.Phil., Newman Family professor and deputy chair of radiation oncology at Michigan Medicine. “But as a whole, we are starting to realize we could do a much better job of providing forms and information that our patients can understand.”

Jagsi and colleagues recently published [a study that looked at the informed consent forms](#) patients are given to sign before beginning radiation treatment. The forms are intended to outline what patients can expect during treatment.

The researchers looked at 113 forms from cancer centers across the country. Only nine forms were at or below an eighth grade reading level, which is recommended. Some forms were equal to a 15th grade reading level, which implies about seven years of post-high school education.

The study was an eye-opener, Jagsi says, and the authors propose working with national organizations to make these documents easier to understand. It’s important because informed consent documents can be a helpful written reminder of a conversation with your doctor. But what do you do when the conversation feels no less complicated than the form?

In cancer treatment, and radiation in particular, patients are often scared and nervous before treatment and report afterward that it wasn’t as bad as they had expected. “We don’t want people to be unduly scared. We want to make the treatment as clear and transparent as possible,” Jagsi says.

For tips for patients on leaving their doctor’s office truly informed visit the [U of M Health Blog](#).



## Posters and Abstract Submissions Now Open for the MCC Annual Meeting

The MCC is encouraging members and partners to submit general posters as well as abstracts for review as part of its 2019 annual meeting.

All posters submitted will be on display as part of the Annual Meeting and there will be a dedicated time to view the posters and meet with the authors.

Posters can be research-based or can highlight a successful program or project related to the MCC's Mission and Vision. Posters can also be work that has been presented at conferences in the past.

In addition, the MCC will be publishing a journal of proceedings from the 2019 annual meeting. Included in the Journal will be peer-reviewed and approved abstracts. Abstracts will also be available to view as part of the poster presentation session. Abstracts must be original work that have not been presented at a conference previously.

[Posters and Abstracts for Review Submission](#)

## Michigan Cancer Burden Report Released!

The [Michigan Cancer Burden Report](#) highlights data related to several cancers in Michigan, as well as data related to cancer disparities. The Burden Report provides factsheets and easy-to-understand infographics related to each cancer in the report.

The report presents the most recently available data at the time of publication. Due to the data collection and validation process, there is a lag time from when data was collected to the publication date so data may appear a few years behind the current calendar year.

## Changes to MCC Board Member Webpage

In an attempt to streamline contact information listed and also reduce unnecessary and unwanted solicitations from outside sources, beginning July 2019, the [MCC Member Organization webpage](#) will no longer provide the email addresses or phone numbers of member representatives. If you need contact information for a member organization, please send an email to [info@michigancancer.org](mailto:info@michigancancer.org).



## 2019 MCC Meetings

**Board Meetings (12pm - 3pm):**  
Wednesday, September 25

**2019 Annual Meeting:**  
Thursday, October 24

*If you are interested in being a part of the Program Committee please contact Amy Stagg at [StaggA@michigan.gov](mailto:StaggA@michigan.gov).*

## MCC Website

Be sure to visit the [MCC website](#) to find provider and patient resources

## Health Equity Corner

### Health Equity Member Organization Highlight

#### **Karmanos Cancer Institute Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement**

In response to the National Cancer Institute's directive to implement a full service Community Outreach and Engagement arm as a requirement for the comprehensive core grant process, the Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI) has created the Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE), led by Hayley Thompson, PhD.

The OCHECE's aims are: to identify the cancer research issues in the KCI catchment area (46 counties), to engage catchment area populations in KCI research, to address challenging questions in cancer research, to develop processes for including underserved populations in research, and to implement health policy recommendations to decrease cancer incidence and mortality.

The OCHECE has established the Research and Advocacy Consortium (RAC), which is a network of community agencies with specific focus on supporting evidence based interventions to improve cancer outcomes, and informing diverse communities about clinical trials, cancer control, prevention, screening, treatment and research. RAC members also aid in the dissemination of and implementation of research discoveries and innovations and supporting the implementation of cancer-relevant health policy recommendations.

The OCHECE also hosts several Cancer Action Councils (CAC), which are groups of community stakeholders with an emphasis on cancer survivors, caregivers, and advocates. CAC members use their knowledge to engage in identifying critical needs along the cancer care continuum that can inform cancer research efforts and to identify research priorities. CAC members receive training in research principles to increase their understanding of the academic research process, familiarize them with research terminology and concepts, and increase their level of confidence engaging with academic researchers.

For more information visit the [OCHECE Website](#).