



**In this issue:**

Quick News & Links:.....1  
 US cancer death rate sees largest-ever single-year drop, report says .....1  
 Free Continuing Education: George Washington University Cancer Institute’s Cancer Survivorship E-Learning Series for Primary Care Providers.....2  
 JUUL Delivers Substantially More Nicotine than Previous Generation E-Cigs and Cigarettes .....2  
 MRI screening for women with extremely dense breast tissue reduces interval cancer .....3  
 2020 MCC Meetings.....4  
 Health Equity Corner.....4

**Quick News & Links:**

[The Michigan Department of Environments, Great Lakes, and Energy is declaring January Radon Action Month.](#)

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

[MCC Calendar of Events](#)

**US cancer death rate sees largest-ever single-year drop, report says**

*CNN Health, January 2020*

The rate of people dying from cancer in the United States continued to decline for the 26th year in a row, according to a new American Cancer Society report.

Overall cancer incidence rates are highest among non-Hispanic whites because of their high rate of lung and female breast cancer. However, the black-white disparity in overall cancer mortality among men and women combined has declined from a peak of 33% in 1993 to 13% in 2017. This progress is largely due to more rapid declines in deaths from smoking-related cancers among blacks because of the steep drop in smoking prevalence unique to black teens from the late 1970s to early 1990s. From 2016 to 2017, the United States saw its largest-ever single-year drop in overall cancer deaths, a 2.2% plunge spurred in part by a sharp decline in lung cancer deaths, according to the report, published Wednesday in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*.

"What is really driving that is the acceleration in the decline of mortality for lung cancer, and the reason that is encouraging is because lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, causing more deaths in the US than breast, colorectal cancer and prostate cancers combined," said Rebecca Siegel, first author of the report and scientific director of surveillance research at the American Cancer Society in Atlanta. "That's really important and reflects improvements in the treatment of lung cancer across the continuum from improvements in staging to advances in surgical techniques, improvements in radiotherapy, all of these things coming together."

The report includes data on cancer incidence, mortality and survival from sources like the National Center for Health Statistics, National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program, the National Program of Cancer Registries and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries.

Read more about the study at [ACS Journals](#).



## Free Continuing Education: George Washington University Cancer Institute's Cancer Survivorship E-Learning Series for Primary Care Providers

**Attention Providers!** Interested in obtaining FREE continuing education credits? If so, check out George Washington University Cancer Institute's Cancer Survivorship E-Learning Series for Primary Care Providers.

The E-Learning Series is a great opportunity for primary care professionals and any interested providers to learn about cancer survivorship care. The cancer survivor population in the United States is continuing to grow. These individuals may experience the effects of their cancer and its treatment for many years to come. It is important to have medical professionals available who understand the health care needs of survivors in the primary care setting.

The E-Learning Series is an online training module created in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, with funding through a 5-year cooperative agreement with the CDC. It contains 10 modules covering a range of topics including general survivorship care, late effects of cancer treatment, and clinical follow-up care guidelines for several different cancers. Each module in the E-Learning Series takes about 1 hour to complete and includes the following components:

- Cancer survivor case study examples
- Cancer survivor interviews
- Review of care guidelines
- Webinar presentations by clinicians and experts
- Additional resources

Continuing education credits are available for medical education, nursing and certified health education specialists.

For more information, or to start the E-Learning Series please visit: [Cancer Survivorship E-Learning Series for Primary Care Providers](#).

## JUUL Delivers Substantially More Nicotine than Previous Generation E-Cigs and Cigarettes

A new study published in *Tobacco Regulatory Science*, found that nicotine concentrations were five to eight times higher in rodents that were exposed to JUUL versus other tobacco products. The work also supports an earlier finding by the same researchers of harm to blood vessels from brief exposures to both direct and secondhand smoke from cigarettes, little cigars and combustible marijuana, and to aerosol from IQOS "heat-not-burn" tobacco products.

Read the study at [Tobacco Regulatory Science Online](#).



## **MRI screening for women with extremely dense breast tissue reduces interval cancer**

Women with extremely dense breast tissue have an increased risk of breast cancer, and their cancers are also less likely to be detected on mammography. Dense breast tissue appears white on a mammogram and makes it difficult for the radiologist to identify an abnormality. Getting an MRI in between regular mammogram checkups could be an effective way for women with extremely dense breast tissue to learn whether they have cancer according to a study published recently in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#).

About 1 in 10 women are considered to have extremely dense breast tissue. More than half of women over the age of 40 in the United States have what's considered dense breasts, according to the US Food and Drug Administration.

It's unclear why women have this kind of tissue. Often, it's inherited, but other factors can influence tissue density. Typically, women with extremely dense breasts tend to be fitter or have a lower BMI; they are often younger and may be taking hormone therapy to ease their menopause symptoms.

The study found that using supplemental MRI screening in this patient population with extremely dense breast tissue, and who had normal results with mammography, saw significantly fewer interval cancers than the women in the study who were assessed using mammography alone during a two-year screening period.

Interval cancers are the cancers detected within 12 months after a mammographic screening in which findings are considered normal, essentially in the interval between scheduled screenings. There was a 50% lower rate of interval cancers among the women in the MRI group. Among those who underwent a biopsy, 26% had breast cancer.

The interval-cancer rate was 2.5 per 1,000 screenings in the MRI group, compared to 5.0 per 1,000 screenings in the mammography-only group. The research was conducted among more than 40,000 women in the Netherlands who were between the ages of 50 and 75. They were randomly assigned to either a group that received standard screening or a group that received additional MRI screening.

Breast cancer is the second most-common cancer among American women, regardless of race or ethnicity, behind only skin cancer, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 260,000 women in the US were diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,920 women died from breast cancer in 2018.



## 2020 MCC Meetings

### 2020 Board Meetings:

Wednesday, March 18  
Wednesday, June 24  
Wednesday, September 23

For more information 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 Speakers Bureau Highlight



**Dr. Gail C. Christopher, DN**  
**Founder, Ntianu Center for Healing and Nature**

#### **Bio/Description of Expertise:**

Dr. Gail C. Christopher is an award winning social change agent and former Senior Advisor and Vice President of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), one of the world's largest philanthropies.

She is the architect of the WKKF led Truth Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) effort for America. TRHT is an adaptation of the globally recognized Truth and Reconciliation Commission model. TRHT evolved from the decade long WKKF America Healing, racial equity and racial healing initiative, designed and led by Dr. Christopher. Over the last ten years she has had responsibility for several other areas of foundation programming, which include, Food, Health and Well-Being, Leadership, Public Policy, Community Engagement and place-based funding in New Orleans and New Mexico.

In August of 2017, Dr. Christopher left her leadership position with WKKF to launch the Ntianu Center for Healing and Nature; and to devote more time to writing and speaking on issues of health, racial healing and human capacity for caring. She is currently Chair of the Board of the Trust for America's Health and a Fellow of The National Academy of Public Administration.

If you would like to be added to the MCC Speakers Bureau, please contact Beth Trierweiler at [Trierweilerb@michigan.gov](mailto:Trierweilerb@michigan.gov).