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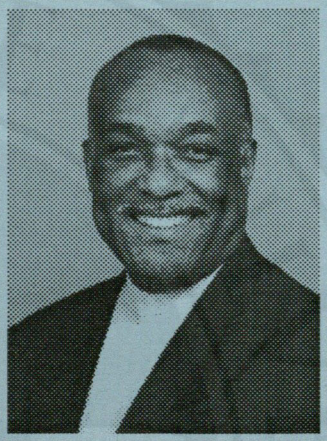
THE SCRIPPS STEVENS CANCER CENTER

prostate program

Stevens Cancer Center (SCC) is once again proving to be a role model in the San Diego health care arena with its Prostate Cancer Education and Early Detection Outreach Program. The program, which focuses on under-served African and African-American men, is now in its second year with long-range plans for a continued program.

According to cancer statistics, African-American men have a prostate cancer incidence of 1 in 5.5, which is the highest in the world. The most significant risk factor for all men is increased age, particularly after 50. This risk increases with a family history of prostate cancer. For African-American men, the risk begins at age 40. African-American men have a 30 to 50% greater risk of developing prostate cancer than Caucasian men. Regular screenings that include PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood testing and a digital rectal exam can lead to early detection which can result in a dramatically higher chance of survival.

The Cancer Center took the lead in prostate cancer prevention and early detection with a 1997 pilot program, developed by Scripps physician Dr. Phillip Wise. While developing the '97 pilot program, Dr. Wise discovered that little was known regarding how to effectively reach this target group of at-risk men. With the assistance of Reverend Ard of Christ Church of San Diego and Reverend Winters of the Bayview Baptist Church, Dr. Wise and a team of Scripps board-certified urologists provided PSA blood testing and confidential digital exams to over 100 African-American men. From those screenings, nine men who had abnormal findings were assisted to identify a physician for follow up care, or were referred to their own primary care physician.



Prostate cancer survivor Cecil Steppe

The second year of the Prostate Cancer Education and Early Detection Outreach Program began with the formation of a Community Advisory Committee. This committee has guided the SCC toward culturally sensitive and appropriate outreach. Dr. Richard Butcher, of Care View Medical Group and the Summit Health Coalition, chairs the 25-seat committee, comprised primarily of African-American business, health care, and church leaders, along with representatives from Stevens Cancer Center and Scripps. The advisory committee, with Dr. Butcher's leadership, is providing prostate health education for the community and local primary care physicians. In addition, prostate health screenings will again be conducted.

Other board members include Rev. Robert C. Ard, Christ Church of San Diego; James Ford, California Black Health Network; Fran Gooden, National Black Leadership On Cancer; Wendy Harmon, City Councilman Juan Vargas' office; Rev. Amos Johnson, Jr., Jackie Robinson YMCA; Walter Lam, Alliance for African Assistance; Clarence McCoy, Neighborhood House Association; Jimma McWilson and Maurice Wilson, San Diego Urban League; Johnnie Miller of Councilman Stevens' office; Wendy Newman, Women First Healthcare; Carole Norman, Black Nurses Association; Carol Rocha, Haute Inspirations; Karl Rundles, California Black Health Network; Dr. Robert Ross, Health & Human Services; Walter Sanford, County Supervisor Ron Roberts' office; Cecil Steppe, Social Services of San Diego; John Warren, Voice & Viewpoint; Rev. Annie Watson, Paul E. Kidd A.M.E. Church; Dr. Wilma Wooten; and Dr. Phillip Wise.

Scripps Stevens Cancer Center representatives include Dr. John Trombold, Kathleen Burns, and Lisa Nicholson. Scripps Community Relations is represented by Peter Mabrey.