



CORICA

UCLA • Community Research in Cancer

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NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCING CORICA

We are pleased to introduce the UCLA **CO**mmunity **R**esearch **I**n **CA**ncer (CORICA) Network. CORICA is a five-year project (2004-2009) that is funded jointly by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute.

CORICA is part of a larger national network. There are eight Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (www.cpcrn.org) sites across the country that share the following common vision:

“Communities and researchers working together to reduce the burden of cancer, especially among those disproportionately affected, by developing local and national-level infrastructure to conduct cancer prevention and control research.”

The UCLA CORICA Network aims to:

1. Work together with the diverse communities of Los Angeles and surrounding areas to conduct community-based

research in order to help eliminate socioeconomic and racial/ethnic cancer disparities.

2. Strengthen ties with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to conduct cancer prevention and control research activities.
3. Strengthen and expand ties with community-based organizations that serve the underserved in order to conduct cancer prevention and control research activities.
4. Increase the capacity of community based organizations to conduct cancer prevention and control research activities.

The UCLA CORICA Network will focus on three major areas that affect cancer incidence and mortality:

1. Nutrition and physical activity
2. Tobacco use
3. Early detection of cancer through screening

Mini-grants will be offered for activities like

identifying cancer prevention resources in specific communities, conducting needs assessments, staff trainings on cancer prevention topics, and other projects. Grants will provide up to \$3,000 for one year.

Get involved! We encourage community members, community organizations, health providers, and academic researchers to participate in the UCLA CORICA Network. Call Ritesh Mistry, PhD, MPH at (310) 825-8848 for more information.

(Continued on page 2)

FIRST ANNUAL CORICA SYMPOSIUM HELD ON APRIL 20, 2005

On Wednesday April 20th, 2005 the UCLA CORICA Network held its first annual symposium in collaboration with the UCLA School of Public Health, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and AAN-CART-LA (Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness and Training-

(Continued on page 2)



Drs. Roshan Bastani (PI, top), Antronette Yancey (Co-PI, left) and Annette Maxwell (Co-PI, right)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Introducing CORICA (Continued) | 2 |
| First Annual CORICA Symposium (Continued) | 2 |
| South Asian Network Completes Needs Assessment | 3 |
| Community Partnership Profile: Community Health Councils, Inc. | 3 |
| Did you know that ... | 3 |
| Invitation | 4 |

INTRODUCING CORICA (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

If we work together, we can better understand cancer-related needs in Los Angeles communities and develop effective ways to address them. Taking part in this collaborative network will not only benefit your community, but what we learn may help other communities address their cancer-related needs.

The UCLA CORICA Network is lead by three nationally renowned cancer researchers: Roshan Bastani, PhD (Principal Investigator), Antronette Yancey, MD, MPH (Co-Principal Investigator) and Annette Maxwell, DrPH (Co-Principal Investigator). CORICA investigators also includes administrators from Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (Paul Simon, MD, MPH and Cynthia Harding, MPH) as well as from Community Health Councils, Inc. (Joyce Guinard, DC). Ritesh Mistry, PhD, MPH is the Project Director of the UCLA CORICA Network.



FIRST ANNUAL CORICA SYMPOSIUM (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

Los Angeles). The symposium took place in the mid-Wilshire area and was titled “The Avoidable Burden of Cancer in Diverse Populations.”

In attendance were over 150 representatives from more than 50 community-based organizations serving primarily Latino, African American and Asian American/Pacific Islander populations. The attendees represented a mix of community health activists, health care providers, researchers, students and members of the community.

The symposium featured a range of speakers that included UCLA cancer researchers and community members working in the area of cancer prevention and control.

In the morning the conference program included UCLA researchers who provided academic perspectives on cancer prevention and control research. The major themes included: ethnic disparities in obesity, tobacco use and cancer screening, the contribution of these disparities to cancer risk, and ways in which universities and communities can work together to reduce these avoidable cancer risks and disparities.

The afternoon was devoted to discussion of community-based collaborative projects. The discussion focused on specific community-based

cancer prevention research activities in diverse populations such as African Americans (physical activity promotion), Korean Americans (tobacco cessation comparing Western and Eastern medical approaches), and Latinos (decision-making about prostate cancer, and cancer prevention and control needs among farm workers).

The general reaction of the attendees was very positive with important suggestions for improvement for next year. These recommendations include presentation of more information on: Hepatitis B; colon cancer; ethnic specific topics; how to get research funding for community-university collaborations; and how to design and implement research projects/interventions. Some attendees also suggested working groups focusing on specific areas such as tobacco, obesity, and cancer screening.

“The symposium featured a range of speakers that included UCLA cancer researchers and community members”



Zul Surani of the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service chats with a conference attendee



Dr. Marjorie Kagawa-Singer (left) and Ms. Marina Alvarez (right) at the CORICA Symposium

SOUTH ASIAN NETWORK PARTNERS WITH UCLA TO COMPLETE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

South Asian Network (SAN), a community-based organization located in Artesia, CA, recently completed a study designed to understand the health problems that affect South Asians living in Los Angeles (LA).

The project was conducted through a collaboration between Zul Surani from SAN and UCLA School of Public Health researchers Drs. Roshan Bastani and Beth Glenn. It was funded by a grant from UCLA in LA: Partnerships for a Greater LA.

Interviews assessed a variety of health topics including use of health care services, cancer screening, tobacco use, cardiovascular disease risk factors and awareness of domestic violence and hate crimes. Individuals were recruited from the community and trained to conduct interviews in English and five South Asian languages.

Interviews were conducted with 350 men and women. Almost 40% of those interviewed had never received a cholesterol test, a troubling finding given the high rates of cardiovascular disease among South Asians. Cancer screening rates were also very low, especially for colorectal cancer. Only 20% of the sample had ever gotten a colorectal cancer screening test. Tobacco use emerged as an important

“Cancer screening rates were very low, especially for colorectal cancer. Only 20% of the sample had ever gotten a colorectal cancer screening test.”

health problem: 49% of men and 21% of women said they use cigarettes or South Asian tobacco products. Domestic violence and hate crimes were also identified as important social issues with 25% of the sample reporting they knew a victim of domestic violence and 47% reporting they knew a victim of a hate crime.

The findings of this needs assessment will be used for planning programs and applying for additional funds.

UCLA remains invested in working closely with Los Angeles communities to conduct projects aimed at addressing important health and social problems.

CORICA PARTNERSHIP PROFILE: COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS, INC.

The UCLA CORICA Network will partner with various community-based organizations in Los Angeles.

For example, CORICA is developing a partnership with the Community Health Councils, Inc. (CHC), which was established in 1992 through the LA County Board of Supervisors. CHC is a local health planning organization whose mission is to strengthen community participation in defining policy that impacts healthcare access and quality to uninsured, economically disadvantaged and underserved populations.

CHC is a grantee of the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) 2010 Initiative of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. It coordinates African Americans Building a Legacy of Health coalition and an Economic Parity Advisory Committee.

CORICA will partner with CHC to reach out to the

African American community. There will be sharing of resources and expertise regarding community-based health promotion and research.

We encourage community organizations to contact CORICA to develop partnerships.

“We encourage community organizations to contact CORICA to develop partnerships.”



DID YOU KNOW THAT IN CALIFORNIA:

1. Cancer is a leading cause of death.
2. For all cancers combined, there is at least a threefold difference between the highest rate of cancer mortality (Blacks) and lowest (South Asians).
3. Prostate cancer is most common cancer among men of all races/ethnicities except Koreans (stomach most common) and Vietnamese (lung most common).
4. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women of all race/ethnicities except Koreans (lung most common).
5. Colorectal cancer rates are declining for Blacks and Latinos, but increasing among Asians.

Source: California Cancer Registry



NEWSLETTER

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To weave together diverse perspectives to
reduce cancer disparities.

We're on the Web:

www.jccf.mednet.ucla.edu/corica/index.htm

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN CORICA ACTIVITIES

Join the CORICA Network

CORICA is working to build a network of organizations and individuals who are interested in reducing cancer disparities.

We invite you to contact us (our contact information is listed above) to begin a dialogue about becoming part of the network, and developing partnerships for cancer prevention and control research activities in your community.

Help plan CORICA's annual symposium

The annual symposium is devised to not only provide a forum for education and discussion about cancer prevention and control issues, but

also to bring together community organizations and academic researchers to develop partnerships.

We anticipate more community involvement in the planning of future annual symposia. We invite you to join the CORICA Symposium Planning Committee. This committee will meet in the fall to begin planning the next symposium in 2006. Involvement of community members and organizations will be critical to making future annual symposia a success.

Contribute to the CORICA newsletter

This newsletter will provide updates about CORICA ac-

tivities, information on cancer, and a venue to share information about cancer prevention and control work being done by various community organizations.

The CORICA Newsletter Committee is seeking representatives from the community to help develop this newsletter. The committee will be responsible for the content of the newsletter as well as its distribution.

Please contact Dr. Ritesh Mistry at (310) 825-8848 to participate in CORICA activities and for more information.

*Join the UCLA
CORICA Network.*

*Together we can work
to increase awareness
about cancer prevention
and control in Los
Angeles.*

*Together we can reduce
the avoidable burden
of cancer.*

