

get the
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minority cancer awareness

rpoci tipsheet

Life expectancy for those diagnosed with cancer has improved in recent years, however, not everyone in Western New York has benefited. African-Americans and Hispanics, for example, are more often diagnosed with cancer in the later stages when cure is less likely.

The Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research (OCHDR) at Roswell Park is dedicated to research that advances the understanding of these disparities, and to developing and offering integrated community-based services and educational programs tailored to meet the needs of these populations.

Science to the Sidewalks

The Office of Cancer Health Disparities offers "Science to the Sidewalks," a community forum designed to present cancer information in easy-to-understand terms to community organizations, block clubs and churches. This program brings the science of Roswell Park into the community with scientists and doctors sharing their passion and information about their work to minority and under-served communities. To schedule a program for your event or organization, call

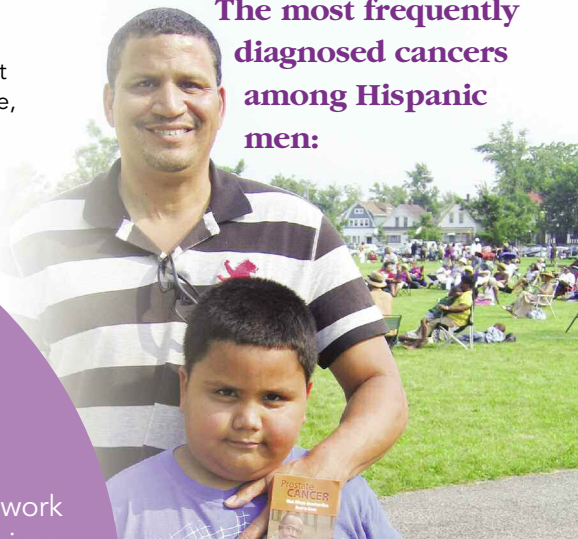
1-716-845-4557

The Witness Project (WP) is a screening and prevention program for African-American women. The WP, is managed in collaboration with Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, the Sheehan Health Network in Buffalo, New York, and several local African-American churches. Funded in part by the WNY affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the Avon Foundation, the WP provides educational information about early cancer detection through stories told by breast and cervical cancer survivors in churches and community settings. The program also provides cancer risk assessments and assists women in accessing cancer services.



**THE
WITNESS
PROJECT®**

The most frequently diagnosed cancers among Hispanic men:



- prostate
- lung
- colon and rectum
- bladder
- stomach



Esperanza y Vida (Hope and Life), a study on Latina cancer screening, is funded in part by the American Cancer Society, the John R. Oishei Foundation and the WNY Susan G. Komen for the cure. The aim of the study is to evaluate methods to increase breast and cervical cancer screening in Hispanic women living in rural and urban areas, and to investigate barriers to cancer care. The study is designed to reach out to the Hispanic community in churches and community centers across Western New York.



(above from left to right)

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Patient Navigation

The Roswell Park Patient Navigation Program assists patients diagnosed with cancer. Patient navigators are trained, culturally competent health care workers who guide patients, family and physicians through the health care system to ensure that their needs are being met. Navigators provide access to community resources for transportation and housing and support services at Roswell Park. The program offers special navigation assistance for Hispanic patients including Spanish-language interpretation. Currently, Roswell Park navigators are serving patients diagnosed with breast, upper and lower gastrointestinal and prostate cancers.

Meet the Team

The Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research is staffed by a team of highly specialized professionals dedicated to providing coordinated health care services and assisting minority and medically underserved patients.

In **2008**,
31% of patients who came to Roswell Park
for treatment from
the City of Buffalo
were African-American.



In **2008**,
6% of patients
who came to Roswell Park for treatment
from the City of Buffalo were Hispanic/Latino.