



70x2020 Announcements: #22 (May, 2017)

Prevent Colon Cancer - Get Screened!

Mississippi's ENTIRE congressional delegation has co-sponsored the "Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2017"

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Dr. Stephen T. Amann

In April 2017 Dr. Stephen T. Amann, the American College of Gastroenterology Governor of Mississippi, flew to Washington, DC. Dr. Amann, along with 50 other ACG Governors, held over 300 meetings with members of the United States House of Representatives and Senate to ask them to support the "Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2017 (S479, HR1017). This bill removes the cost sharing during a colonoscopy when a screening exam becomes a therapeutic one (i.e. a polyp is encountered and removed, for example). Dr. Amann met with health care liaisons of each member and met personally with Rep Gregg Harper. Representative Harper was a joy to meet with and Dr. Amann greatly appreciated his time and true interest in this issue. All were very encouraging and supportive of these efforts especially when this comes to the people of Mississippi. In each of his meetings, Dr. Amann discussed in detail the poor screening rates for colon cancer in the state and the implications this has on the GI health of Mississippians.

UPDATE: Before Dr. Amann visited Washington, D.C., only half of Mississippi's congressional delegation had signed on as co-sponsors of the identical Senate and House versions of this bill. In a very positive turn of events, the remaining Mississippi Congressmen signed as co-sponsors after Dr. Amann returned to Mississippi. As of this writing, only Mississippi and Rhode Island have unanimous co-sponsorship in support of this bill. HR1017 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Health by the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It must now pass through committee before it can be presented to the full House for a vote. However, no Mississippi Congressman serves on the Health Subcommittee of

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Changes coming to 70x2020 Website

A revised version of 70x2020 website will launch in July 2017. The UMMC Cancer Institute website, which generously hosts the 70x2020 website, is undergoing a major redesign. The 70x2020 website is changing so that our site will seamlessly integrate into the new design.

As a consequence of the streamlining process, 70x2020 documents and other content, including video and photo galleries, will migrate to other platforms. Please follow the 70x2020 FaceBook, Twitter and YouTube social media sites. Also,

either Committee. To get full details on the Senate version (Senator Roger Wicker was one of the 4 original authors of this bill), click on the "READ MORE" link below.

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EDITORIAL: Sustaining momentum through uncertain times

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RJD

Dr. Amann's article reminds us of the value of persistence, and the importance of group effort. In March of this year, Dr. Sam Pace and I traveled to Washington, D.C. to ask our congressional delegation to co-sponsor S479/HR1017 and we met with some success. But it wasn't until Dr. Amann and his ACG colleagues visited them again in April, and perhaps after some of you contacted them personally, that the ENTIRE Mississippi delegation co-sponsored these identical bills.

While this is a great accomplishment, worthy of pride in our state leadership, it is also an incomplete task. The bill has not yet become law.

In fact, the bill has not yet moved through committee. If no further action happens, it will die in committee just as it did last year.

This brings me to recollect the laws of Newtonian physics which we all studied in high school. Objects in motion will come to a halt due to the forces of resistance. An object at rest tends to stay at rest until sufficient force is applied to overcome inertia.

If we want to eliminate colorectal cancer deaths in Mississippi, if we want to reach 70%, 80% or 100% colorectal cancer screening compliance in our state, then we must be the force to push our initiative through. Without our collective force, the 70x2020 Initiative will stall. In fact, if we are pushing the 70x2020 Initiative uphill and we stop pushing, then we shouldn't be the least bit surprised if all the progress we've made rolls right back down to the bottom of the hill where we started years ago. If you don't believe me, just talk to Sir Isaac Newton.

Every day, at least 4 Mississippians are diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Every day, nearly 2 of our fellow Mississippians die from colorectal cancer. Day

the 70x2020 website will no longer contain the complete archive of newsletters, so partners are asked to archive their newsletters as they arrive. Hopefully, none of the electronic work produced by the 70x2020 Partnership will be lost during the streamlining process.

Colorectal cancer patient advocate to lead next series of Community Engagement Meetings in the Delta

Ms. Yasmeem Watson, a prominent national advocate for patient-centered colorectal cancer research, will be the featured speaker at the upcoming series of PCORI-sponsored Community Engagement Meetings. Under the topic of "Your Voice Matters, Patient Centered Research", Ms. Watson will share some of her experiences with the audience. These include her experiences as a colorectal cancer survivor, an advisory board member for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), a consumer reviewer for the Department of Defense, a patient advocate committee member for the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, a research advocate for Fight CRC, and an advocate for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Ms. Watson will help the audience navigate the range of opportunities for cancer survivors and caregivers to become personally involved with the patient-centered outcomes research experience.

The meetings will be held from June 15 - 17, 2017 in Greenville, Cleveland and Greenwood, MS. Please contact Ms. Latania Dodd (662-704-0899 or latania.dodd1@gmail.com) for further details.

by day, these seem like such small numbers that some people simply ignore them. By relentlessly pushing year after year, colorectal cancer exerts a force that will eventually hurt you. It will hurt someone you love. It already hurts our state's healthcare system with a massive and devastating impact.

Do nothing, and colorectal cancer WILL win. Do something, and we ALL win.

Be the force for good. Help us implement the 70x2020 Strategic Plan. There's plenty of work for everyone.

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