

One Man's Battle Against Prostate Cancer: Rochester Davis



“When it was finally confirmed that I in fact did have prostate cancer, I admit I was taken a little aback,” said Rochester Davis, who in 2014 was diagnosed with the disease. “I wasn’t surprised though, not after dealing with an enlarged prostate that required four biopsies by the medical experts before my cancer was confirmed.”

Davis, 66, who receives treatment at Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) for his disease, became a patient after seeking out and receiving a second opinion. “The first local prostate cancer facility I went to simply were terrible to me,” said Davis. “They never fully explained my disease or such things as ‘Gleason scores’ with me...just what they wanted to do to treat it, which made me feel uneasy. After talking to a friend who himself is a prostate cancer survivor, he suggested I speak with Dr. Willie Underwood at Roswell Park, which thankfully I did. In my opinion, the toughest thing about prostate cancer is not having all the information needed to allow me to make an

informed decision about treatment that is best for me and my family.”

A retired 30-year City of Buffalo firefighter, Davis is now driven to inform all men at-risk for the disease the importance of knowing their risk factors for prostate cancer and talking to their primary physicians early before its too late. In 2015, after speaking with Richard Satterwhite, a patient navigator at RPCI who himself is a prostate cancer survivor, joined Men Allied for the Need to Understand Prostate Cancer (MANUP) Buffalo. MANUP Buffalo, a prostate advocacy group founded in 2008, is a volunteer organization that is comprised of a diverse group of men who agree with MANUP’s mission to help men and their families make informed decisions about prostate cancer detection and treatment through support, education and advocacy. Davis is also a proud member of Us TOO of WNY, a support group for men and their families living with prostate cancer. Davis credits his wife of 25 years, Beverly, for always being there supporting his ongoing battle against prostate cancer. “If it wasn’t for my significant other through all the ups and downs of this thing, I really don’t know where I’d be. She is my rock.”

Davis offered advice to any men recently diagnosed with the disease: Talk to other men who have gone or are going through this journey—support from others based on mutual experience goes a long way.

For more information about prostate cancer and Roswell Park’s prostate cancer high-risk clinic, call 1-877-ASK-RPCI (1-877-275-7724) or visit us online at www.roswellpark.org.

Community Connections

By the Numbers: OCHDR Community Outreach Programs Are A Success

A cancer health disparity is a significant difference in the occurrence, rate of deaths, and burden of cancer and related health outcomes that happen among specific population groups in the United States.

Cancer health disparities are complex and are caused by persistent societal problems that result in greater suffering and poorer health among racial, ethnic, and underserved groups. The most obvious factors are associated with a lack of health care coverage and low socioeconomic status. Roswell Park Cancer Institute, through its Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research (OCHDR), is dedicated to research aimed at understanding cancer health disparities and to developing community-based services and educational programs tailored to meet the needs of populations most at risk for cancer diagnosis and mortality.

The Buffalo/Niagara Witness Project teaches the importance of early cancer detection through stories told by breast and cervical cancer survivors, hosted in churches and community settings.

Esperanza y Vida is a bilingual program aimed at increasing breast and cervical cancer screening in Latinas living in both urban and rural areas, and helping to reduce barriers to cancer care.

MANUP (Men Allied for the Need to Understand Prostate Cancer) Buffalo provides information to help men of color especially make informed decisions about prostate cancer screening, treatment and survivorship.

From April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, the OCHDR was able to effectively reach out to 3,762 individuals representing various racial, ethnic, and underserved groups throughout the Western New York-region:

- ◆ OCHDR's programs and initiatives facilitated 233 community outreach activities (about 30 per month)
- ◆ Of the 3,762 individuals reached, 3,235 of them represented a minority group
- ◆ Of the 3,762 individuals reached, 1,598 were eligible to receive some type of early cancer screening
- ◆ Of the 1,598 individuals eligible to receive a cancer screening, 983 of them did receive a screening.



The OCHDR Hosts Luncheon for Roswell Park Researchers to Inform About ROCK Star

In June, the OCHDR hosted a luncheon for Roswell Park researchers in order to present its new initiative— ROCK (Research, Oncology, Community and Knowledge) Star, and how pre-selected, qualified cancer survivors (ROCK Star advocates) might prove beneficial to researchers and their scientific work.

What are “ROCK” Star advocates? These are research advocates that:

- ◆ Help RPCI cancer researchers design, develop, implement and share cancer research projects and their results
- ◆ Speak to legislators about important cancer policies and pending laws
- ◆ Make a difference in the science that is helping to cure cancer.

“ROCK” Star advocates will receive training on most aspects related to clinical research. When a new funding application is being prepared, advocates will be paired with RPCI cancer research scientists who will be in need of advocates’ assistance.

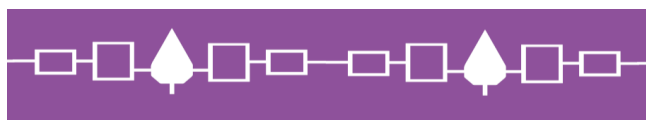
Beginning in March, the OCHDR took the first-step in assembling a “ROCK” Star advocates team comprised of people from the community to work with RPCI cancer researchers. If you are a researcher or a cancer survivor, this sounds intriguing to you, and you want to learn more, please call Christy Widman at (716) 845-5814, or email her at Christy.Widman@roswellpark.org.



(From left to right) Christy Widman, OCHDR Community Outreach Manager, and Dr. Elisa Rodriguez, OCHDR Community Engagement Director, facilitated the ROCK Star Luncheon for Roswell Park researchers

Community Connections

A Good Mind -Written by Paula Jones



Centuries ago, The Great Peacemaker came among a group of warring tribes and counseled peace. His name meant “Two River Currents Flowing Together,” and through his strength and spiritual leadership the Haudenosaunee, commonly known as the Iroquois Confederacy, unified. When he brought together the five tribes - Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk (the Tuscarora would join as the sixth Nation in the 18th century), - he gave them The Great Law of Peace. The Great Law is the founding constitution of the Haudenosaunee and its message is peace, unity and the power of the Good Mind. Peace is not just the absence of war but a state of mind. Each individual has a base spiritual power, which should continue to grow as they travel through life. That spiritual power fuels the Good Mind, and those with the Good Mind do their best to live in peace and strength and to be ever-mindful of the well-being of their community. That is the walk they strive to walk every day.

Rodney C. Haring, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor of Oncology, and enrolled member of the Seneca Nation, continues that tradition. A researcher in the Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Dr. Haring focuses on the health disparities prevalent within Native American societies, with a special focus on cancer and obesity. He also concentrates on Native Nations’-related health policy, research ethics and workplace interventions. Now he has found a new way to care for the well-being of his community by uniting with the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation to form the Native American Outreach Fund. The fund supports research initiatives at Roswell Park

that intersect with the health disparities specific to New York and southern Ontario’s Native American and First Nation populations. Some of these concerns include cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state alarmingly affect the Indigenous people of these regions.

“I met with the Alliance Foundation and learned about the goals of what they do,” he said. “We were in discussions for some time. We drafted the language and it was brought to our departmental meeting for feedback.”

“The goal is to fund health research for Natives and to offer opportunities for students. We also go to the communities and provide outreach materials and screening materials. They’re all related. Finding out what the community needs guides research. And getting students or interns from the community to come here to help with cancer research would be a great opportunity.”

Donations to the fund are managed by the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation and are specifically used to provide support for culturally sensitive research, promote workforce development through education, and provide community-based outreach and education for healthy communities. Donations may be made by phone (716-845-4444), mail (Elm & Carlton Streets, Buffalo, NY 14263), or on-line (roswellpark.org/giving). Checks should include Native American Outreach Fund in the memo line, and when donating online, include Native American Outreach Fund in the memo line. To learn more about the fund, call Dr. Haring at 716-845-4920.

Community Showcase: Celebrating its 8th Year with the Roswell Park Farmers' Market

Enjoy Western New York's bounty from the Spring planting season through the Fall harvest at Roswell Park's annual Farmers' Market in Kaminski Park (the green space located right next to the hospital on Carlton Street). Fruits, vegetables, jam, salsa, annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, cut flowers and potted plants—all local and fresh—will be available.

Beginning Wednesday, June 1, until Wednesday, September 28, the Farmers' Market will be open every Wednesday, from 11 am until 2 pm.

Gloria Quarles, a long-time member of the OCHDR's premier advisory group, the Cancer Control Advisory Board (CCAB), will again facilitate *Community Showcase* for the eighth year. *Community Showcase* highlights local community gardeners, artists, and organizations and businesses that promote healthy eating and overall wellness at the Farmers' Market each week. "On behalf of the community, I again would like to thank Roswell Park for providing free space at its market to showcase the best our communities have to offer," said Quarles. As part of this year's *Community Showcase* activities, Quarles will sponsor a series of contests and other events to encourage both Roswell Park employee and community participation:

◆ **Container Garden Contest**

-June 15, 11 am-2 pm

-June 22, 11 am-2 pm

-June 29, 11 am-2 pm

◆ **Summer Fruit & Veggie Contest**

-July 13, 11 am-2 pm

-July 20, 11 am-2 pm

-July 27, 11 am-2 pm

◆ **Tomato and Pepper Contest**

-August 17, 11 am-2 pm

-August 24, 11 am-2 pm

◆ **Eva M. Noles Scholarship Book Fair**

-August 31, 11 am-2 pm

For more information, contact Terry Alford at 716-845-4557, or email at Terry.Alford@roswellpark.org.



Gloria Quarles (sitting in center) with two Master Gardeners judging tomatoes and peppers at last year's Community Showcase Tomato and Pepper Contest

Community Connections

Upcoming Events:



NOW U KNOW

Colorectal Cancer Awareness & Healthy Eating Health Activity

Collaboration between Roswell Park & First Centennial Missionary Baptist Church

Saturday, June 9, 10 am-1 pm

at

First Centennial Missionary Baptist Church
273 High St., Buffalo, NY 14204

- ◆ Learn about Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Get gardening tips
- ◆ Free fruits and vegetables
- ◆ Raffle for gift basket and other goodies
- ◆ Qualify for a FREE Tops Supermarkets gift card while supplies last

For more information, call (716) 936-3442 or email to Leatrice.Bennett@roswellpark.org

MANUP Buffalo Informational Sharing

“Celebration of Hope” at the
UB North Campus, Friday, June 24,
4 pm-8:30 pm

The National African-American Male Wellness
5K Walk/Run,
The Niagara Arts & Cultural Center,
Saturday, July 16, 2016, 7 am– 5 pm

Pine Grill Jazz Festival
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Buffalo,
Sunday, August 7th and Sunday, August 14,
3 pm—Dusk

Puerto Rican Day Parade and Festival Niagara
Street from City Hall to LaSalle Park,
Saturday, August 20, 1 pm sharp—Dusk

For more information about MANUP Buffalo,
call (716) 845-4557



Upcoming Events:

Buffalo/Niagara Witness Project Outreach

Community Outreach with the NFTA-Utica Station
Thursday, June 23 and Thursday, June 30,
8:30 am-5 pm

Health Fair at Refuge Temple
943 Jefferson Ave., Saturday, June 25,
10 am-2 pm



Community Showcase at the RPCI Farmers' Market

Summer Fruit & Veggie Contest

- July 13, 11 am-2 pm
- July 20, 11 am-2 pm
- July 27, 11 am-2 pm

Tomato and Pepper Contest

- August 17, 11 am-2 pm
- August 24, 11 am-2 pm

Eva M. Noles Scholarship Book Fair

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Roswell Park Cancer Institute
The Carlton House, Room 308-A
Elm & Carlton Streets
Buffalo, New York 14263

Phone: 716-845-4557
Fax: 716-845-8487
E-mail: Terry.Alford@roswellpark.org

Want to catch up on past editions of the Community Connections
newsletter? Visit:

www.roswellpark.edu/prevention/cancer-health-disparities