



Where individuals and organizations concerned about cancer in Vermont collaborate, engage, and share resources.

SEPTEMBER 2016 UPDATE

VTAAC.ORG | Vermont Cancer Plan | Cancer Data | Like Us On Facebook

Welcome! This is the 40th edition of the VTAAC quarterly newsletter. This update is provided so that we can share VTAAC news and resources, including cancer plan updates, meeting dates, and project information. If you have any questions or would like to contribute, please contact VTAAC Coordinator, Jessica French, at Jessica.French@cancer.org or call 802-872-6303.

Daniel Fram Replaces Scott Perrapato as Co-Chair of VTAAC



We are excited to announce that Dr. Daniel Fram, Radiation Oncologist and Medical Director at the National Life Cancer Treatment Center, will be joining Ed DeMott as Co-Chair of VTAAC. Dan has been involved in the coalition for over five years, and joins our leadership following the extended term of Dr. Scott Perrapato.

Scott, we want to thank for your enthusiasm and efforts as part of the VTAAC leadership, and look forward to your continued participation in both the Executive and Steering Committees, as well as the Men's Health Taskforce, and other initiatives.

NEXT FRIDAY - Women's Health & Cancer Conference at UVM

On October 7th, the UVM Cancer Center will be holding its [19th Annual Women's Health & Cancer Conference](#) at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Center. The event will run from 8:30am-4:30pm with VTAAC resources and members available to answer questions all day in the Exhibit Hall.

Putting Knowledge Into Action is the focus of this year's conference, and participants are encouraged to use the knowledge gained to inform and empower their decision-making. For providers and other health professionals the conference also offers the chance to engage leaders in the field of cancer, while also giving physicians, nurses, physical therapists, radiology technologists, and social workers the opportunity to earn educational credits.

VTAAC members will be on hand throughout the event to speak with participants about the 2016-2020 Vermont Cancer Plan and the work of our collaborative to support the objectives of that plan.

VTAAC Members Take Part in Upcoming Women's Conference

We are also happy to share that besides our regular presence in the Exhibit Hall, many VTAAC coalition members will be speaking and/or supporting sessions throughout the Women's Health & Cancer Conference. Topics will cover diagnosis and treatment considerations, as well as quality of life and physical health topics.

During the first session of the day, Dr. Claire Verschraegen will speak on immunotherapies and treatments of the future. Educational credit will be available during this session, as well as many other sessions, including that of VTAAC member Dr. Sally Herschorn. In the afternoon, Dr. Herschorn will speak to patients and providers about breast dense tissue and what this means for the screening process, highlighting important considerations for this group of women.

Sessions also cover important topics in support and survivorship. Kathy McBeth, Co-Chair of VTAAC's Quality of Life Group, will discuss what it means to be a caregiver and the challenges faced when taking care of someone with cancer. She will address many of the conversations and choices that caregivers and patients face, and offer tips on how to find support during these difficult times. Survivorship NOW is also offering a number of sessions throughout the conference. Lynne Balman will teach participants about Zentangle, an activity that involves the creation of beautiful images from repetitive patterns, and promotes relaxation, focus, and creativity. SNOW Yoga instructors Jill Mason and Deb Malgeri will also be leading a 9am class for conference participants, providing information on the benefits of the practice and where to find local classes.

There will also be a "boys" section to the conference, with much of the cancer research presented applicable to all. Dr. Mark Plante, UVM Urology Chief and VTAAC Men's Health Taskforce member, will be presenting on lessening the impact of prostate cancer.

As these are not the only sessions VTAAC members will be involved in, we encourage you to check out the full agenda here:

<https://www.uvm.edu/medicine/vtbreastcancerconference/documents/WHCCBrochureFINAL.pdf>

To learn more about how to get involved with VTAAC at this event, contact Jessica French, VTAAC Coordinator, at 802-872-6303.

Lung Cancer Screening Taskforce Holds First Meeting and Determines Priorities and Initial Projects

On September 12th, the Lung Cancer Screening Taskforce held its first meeting at Copley

Hospital in Morrisville. Through this taskforce, the American Lung Association and VTAAC hope to draw attention to the important new screening guidelines recommended for this type of cancer only two years ago. Veronika Jedlovsky, MD (North Country, Copley, and Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital), welcomed the group and facilitated introductions. Present for the initial meeting were representatives of the American Lung Association, Vermont Department of Health, Rutland Regional Medical Center, American Cancer Society, UVM Medical Center, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Vermont Cancer Survivor Network, among others.

Statewide collaboration is key as part of the taskforce, and a large part of the initial work, will involve an assessment of the current state of lung cancer screening across Vermont and beyond. In order to raise awareness, reach the appropriate population, and improve screening, the taskforce aims to explore trends in screening and reporting. Additional taskforce efforts will focus on primary care practice education and outreach, as well as the development of a resource library for providers and patients.

The 2016-2020 Vermont Cancer Plan is the first plan in the state to include a targeted effort to address lung cancer. If you would like to get involved, please contact Jessica.French@cancer.org.

Delays in the Treatment of Breast Cancer in Vermont Women Explored in New Publication by Access to Care Taskforce

We are excited to announce the publication of an article collaboratively written by members of the VTAAC, UVM, Vermont Department of Health, UVM Medical Center, and UVM Cancer Center community. Released electronically in August of 2016 in the Journal of Oncology Practice, the article investigates what can delay time from diagnosis to first systemic treatment for women in Vermont with breast cancer.

Please take a moment to read about their research and findings here:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27577620> via PubMed. Full access to the article can be obtained from the journal under the "full text links" option in the top right corner of the PubMed page.

VTAAC Members Aid in Social Network Analysis of Cancer Coalition

As part of the VTAAC Evaluation Committee, a taskforce was developed to implement a survey aimed at analyzing the ability of key partner organizations to collaborate. The survey is a tool known as PARTNER or Program to Analyze, Record, and Track Networks to Enhance Relationships.

Launched on September 26th by VTAAC and the VDH, the 15 key partner organizations identified as major collaborators within the coalition, will be given until October 21st to complete the analysis. The survey will help measure the overall relationship of each organization to VTAAC and the other key partners involved.

Why is this important to VTAAC and our members? Our top priority as a coalition is to support the Vermont Cancer Plan, and we collaborate and report on the work we do in support of this plan. For many of us, the time and resources invested in VTAAC amounts to only a few hours a month, but our ability to be efficient and effective with that time lies in the ability of our partnerships to continue to work outside of our regularly scheduled meetings and events.

Respondents for the survey have been determined by the PARTNER Tool Taskforce and have been contacted regarding their possible participation. For additional information regarding the PARTNER Tool, read more about it here <http://partnertool.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/PARTNER-2-Page-Nov-2013.pdf> or on their website at <http://partnertool.net/>.

Vermont Cancer Survivor Network Hosts 4th Annual Survivor Summit

On Saturday, September 17th, the Vermont Cancer Survivor Network hosted its 4th Annual Kindred Connections Celebration/ Cancer Survivor Summit at UVMHC at Central Vermont. Thirty cancer survivors attended and participated in a discussion on what matters to cancer survivors, a presentation on the didgeridoo and an introduction to Belly Dancing. A potluck dessert buffet closed the day. Thank you to Kindred Connections members, Theresa Lever and Mary Ellen Simmons for organizing the event.

2017 will be the 10th anniversary for VCSN and the Kindred Connections program. We hope you join us for future celebrations.

VTAAC Workgroup and Taskforce Updates

The **Quality of Life (QoL) Workgroup**, chaired by David Cranmer (VCSN) and Kathy McBeth (UVMHC), met on September 9, 2016. Currently, members are working to develop a comprehensive resource page for cancer survivors. The page will include over 200 carefully reviewed sources. At this time, they are reaching out to social workers across the state for additional information. The page is not yet complete, but updates regarding development should be available later in the Fall.

Additionally, the QoL group is working with UVM and other partners to develop a training on Survivorship Care Plans (SCPs) this winter. For additional information on SCPs check the American Cancer Society website here: <http://www.cancer.org/treatment/survivorshipduringandaftertreatment/survivorshipcareplans/index>.

The **Prevention & Detection (P&D) Workgroup**, chaired by Nicole Lukas (VDH), met on September 13, 2016. Meeting attendees reviewed the previous workplan and discussed the role of taskforces, function of the workgroup meeting, and how best to track cancer plan objectives. Currently, members are working to update the workplan for 2016-2017.

At the September 15, 2016 **Skin Cancer Taskforce** meeting, members discussed the impact of the six-month media campaign (February-July 2016) supported by Fox44, ABC22, Four Seasons Dermatology and the Vermont Department of Health. The public service announcements (PSA) promoting skin cancer prevention and early detection were aired on Vermont television over 700 times during the six-month campaign. New data was also shared around the use of sunscreen and prevalence of sunburns among Vermont youth as measured through the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). In addition, meeting attendees discussed the next steps for the group. The workplan includes proposed activities with Vermont ski areas to increase awareness of the high risk of skin cancer in Vermont and to promote sun-safe behaviors.

Members of the **Colorectal Cancer Taskforce** have been involved in a number of projects this summer. At a June meeting of Blueprint Practice Facilitators, the 80% by 2018 team spoke about

the importance of colorectal cancer screening, current options, and evidence based guidelines for increasing screening. The Rutland DO is also conducting an AIM project with the Rutland FQHC. This will include an assessment of current providers knowledge of colorectal cancer screening, a provider training, and an evaluation of changes in understanding of colorectal cancer screening among providers. The Rutland project will be featured in an NACCHO webinar as part of a national interest in local health offices working to improve colorectal cancer screening. Mental health was also identified as an important area to focus on screening. Justin Pentenrieder, Chair of the Colorectal Taskforce, and other VTAAC members spoke to Washington County workers during a training on guidelines and prevention. Interest was expressed that these trainings continue around the state.

Current guidelines can be found here, from the US Preventive Services Taskforce:
<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/colorectal-cancer-screening2>.

Chair of the **HPV Taskforce**, Chris Finley, provided a number of updates regarding their work ahead of the most recent Steering Committee meeting on September 9th. Firstly, on 8/27 the National Immunization Survey - Teen was reported in MMWR. Vermont showed an overall increase in all HPV rates, and statistically significant increases in HPV vaccination rates for males for 1 and 2 doses. Secondly, through the National Improvement Partnership, quality improvement efforts are being made to increase HPV vaccination rates, and they're working with a VT cohort of primary care practices to help them recognize missed opportunities to recommend the HPV vaccine. Chris presented a poster on this issue at the National Immunization Conference in mid-September. Additionally, Vermont Department of Health Immunization Designees are conducting general quality improvement visits (known as AFIX) to provider offices focusing on vaccines, including HPV, and pre/post assessment HPV vaccination rates are increasing.

The **Joint Payer Taskforce** held it's most recent meeting on September 29. Members discussed Gap in Care reports and how to evaluate their usefulness for practices. Outreach to providers, including these reports, and mass mailings were the top methods to raise awareness about screenings. However, it is hard to determine which is having the most impact on improving screenings. Current challenges also include delivering provider and/or specific screening rates and many noted wanting to provide more comprehensive yearly reports for practices.

The **Access to Care Taskforce** completed its work with the publication of "Access to Care in Vermont: Factors Linked With Time to Chemotherapy for Women With Breast Cancer - A Retrospective Cohort Study" in the Journal of Oncology Practice.

Chair of the **Men's Health Taskforce**, Dr. Scott Perrapato, provided several updates. The UVM Medical School had it's first Community Medical School series at the beginning of September. Scott spoke on Prostate Cancer and the lecture went well and should be available on line for the next year: [UVM Community Medical School](#). The lectures from the June Men's Health & Cancer Conference are also available: [Men's Health & Cancer Conference Presentations](#).

Additionally, November is BROVEMBER, a time for people to grow their facial to raise money for Men's Health and Prostate Cancer Research. It is the third year at UVM. For those of us able to take part, enjoy!

Save the Date

October

10.13.16 - Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day

10.15.16 - World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

10.16.16 - ACS Making Strides Against Breast Cancer - Chittenden County

10.21.16 - National Mammography Day

10.23.16 - ACS Making Strides Against Breast Cancer - Rutland County

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Liver Cancer Awareness Month

November

"Brovember" - Grow out your facial hair for men's health & cancer

11.17.16 - Great American Smokeout (3rd Thursday of November)

10.31.16 - 11.3.16 - World Cancer Congress

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

National Family Caregivers Month

National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

National Marrow Awareness Month

National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month

December

*No commemorative dates for December

Every Vermonter Can Take Action Against Cancer!

Avoid all tobacco products and second hand smoke

Eat a nutritious and balanced diet and maintain a healthy weight

Increase your daily physical activity

Have your home checked for radon gas

Talk to your health care provider about appropriate cancer screenings

Reduce exposure to the sun and avoid indoor tanning

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Thanks for checking out our latest update. Let us know if you have any questions/comments

VTAAC | info@vtaac.org | <http://www.vtaac.org>

