Editorial: Michigan Cancer Consortium Celebrates 20 Years

Lorena Disha MPH
Michigan Public Health Association

Tom Rich MPH
Michigan Cancer Consortium

Dana Zakalik MD
Michigan Cancer Consortium

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EDITORIAL

Michigan Cancer Consortium Celebrates 20 Years

The Michigan Journal of Public Health (MJPH) invites you to celebrate 20 years of the Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC) with this 2018 special issue.

Among the core principles and values of the Michigan Public Health Association are the beliefs that the effective principles and practice of public health professional disciplines are central to the health and well-being of Michigan's people and communities. MPHA believes that diversity within Michigan's populations, among various cultures, and between the professional health disciplines enhances and enriches the public's health. Lastly, we believe that inclusion of a variety of viewpoints, partnerships and teamwork involving broad representation of professionals and community members, and multidisciplinary interaction are essential to accomplishing significant improvements in the public's health.

In alignment with our core principles, the Michigan Public Health Association has dedicated this special issue to Michigan Cancer Consortium’s accomplishments over the past twenty years.

The MCC is a statewide partnership of 100 organizations working to reduce Michigan’s cancer burden. Its mission can best be defined by the words collaboration and partnership. This mission is important: cancer is the second leading cause of death in Michigan; approximately 144 people are diagnosed with cancer and 56 people die from the disease each day in our state.

At the time it was formally established in 1998, the MCC:

• Had 31 founding member organizations.
• Formed its first executive committee that year.
• Acted on priorities for cancer control in Michigan that were put into place.

Today, the MCC:

• Is nearly 100 members strong.
• Has a sustaining structure, including a board of directors, to facilitate collaboration and action around priority programs and other cancer prevention and control issues.
• Is accountable to an evidence-based cancer plan.
• Sponsors an annual meeting that regularly draws 200 attendees.
• Priorities for 2018-2019 include:
  o Prevention: Increase HPV vaccination rates
  o Early Detection: Increase the proportion of adults 50-75 years who are up-to-date on appropriate colorectal cancer screening
  o Diagnosis and Treatment: Increase the percentage of Michigan adults participating in cancer clinical trials
  o Quality of Life: Decrease the percent of Michigan adults diagnosed with cancer who report current physical pain due to cancer treatment.
MCC accomplishments and activities over the past 20 years include creating a dashboard as part of its website to track progress of MCC approved priorities, the MCC Annual Report, prostate cancer “Help After Treatment” guides for patients, tobacco dependence treatment partnership to help cancer patients, as well as receiving two national awards.

We thank the leadership of the MPHA for this special edition of the MJPH highlighting the work of MCC. We also thank the many MCC leaders and members who invested their expertise and time over the last 20 years. You have been difference makers. As past leaders and members have done, we also will continue to lay the groundwork for the MCC’s future success. Here’s to the next 20 years!

In health,

Lorena Disha, MPH  
President, MPHA

Tom Rich, MPH  
MCC Co-Chair

Dana Zakalik, MD  
MCC Co-Chair