

# Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network

## Summer Newsletter

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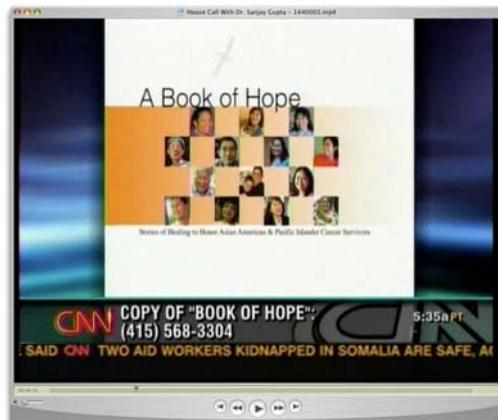


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### ***A Book of Hope Coverage on CNN's House Call***



Mai Tran on CNN's House Call with Dr. Sanjay Gupta



A Book of Hope Coverage on CNN's House Call

"*A Book of Hope: Stories of Healing from Asian American and Pacific Islander Cancer Survivors*", a publication created with the purpose of educating the AAPI community about cancer survivorship and to stir hope in patients and survivors about survivorship, was featured on CNN's House Call with Dr. Sanjay Gupta on Saturday, May 12, 2007. Xiem Mai Tran, a breast cancer survivor featured in the *A Book of Hope*, was a guest on the show to talk about the cultural reasons behind Asian Americans not getting cancer screenings and the impact of a cancer diagnosis. She discussed that in general, Asians didn't talk about cancer in the community, especially since they viewed it as a fatal disease and were afraid of the disease. Tran also mentioned that there was a lack of Asians

getting tested for cancer due to they had to work, were too busy, or that they were more accustomed to going to the doctor only when they were sick. She was able to emphasize the importance to detect a cancer diagnosis early to increase the chance of survival from cancer. She understood how scary the diagnosis can be and during treatment, but having support from family, friends, and the community can help through the process, especially attending a cancer support group to talk about their feelings. From this *Book of Hope* coverage, APIAHF staff received a response from public health departments, community based organizations, hospitals and cancer support groups throughout the nation to receive copies of *A Book of Hope*.

\* Contact: [rbautista@apiahf.org](mailto:rbautista@apiahf.org) for *A Book of Hope*.

## Mentorship Program Updates

The goal of the mentorship program, which provides one-time funding of up to \$10,000, is to provide community based-organizations, health clinics, social service organizations, and cancer survivors/advocates with the opportunity to develop local AAPI specific cancer support groups. Awardees are assigned mentor organizations or support groups to assist in the development of the activities and to provide peer-to-peer support in developing the support group.

For more information regarding the Cancer Support Group Mentorship Program, please contact Roxanna Bautista at [rbautista@apiahf.org](mailto:rbautista@apiahf.org) or 415-568-3304.



The Herald Cancer Association are conducting cancer support groups for the Chinese community in Fort Bend Country, Texas. Chinatown Public Health Center has played an integral role in providing technical assistance as their mentor organization from San Francisco, California. Sixteen cancer support group facilitators have been identified and trained to implement the support groups. HCS has been very successful in holding well attended (nearly 60 people have attended each one) cancer education seminars for Chinese cancer survivors, providers and caregivers. Before they begin their support group session, they start with a morning tai chi session.

On June 16, 2007, Lei-Chun Fung from the Chinatown Public Health Center visited Whey-May Shen at the Fort Bend Herald Cancer Support Group. While in Texas, Fung was invited to talk about cancer prevention and survivorship at a cancer forum. Diana Duke, a dietitian at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, was also present to discuss nutrition and cancer through a translator, Lily Wu. Duke discussed the importance of having a healthy diet, especially during cancer treatment. After cancer surgery, a patient may feel sick due to the side effects, but good nutrition helps in overcoming fatigue. It is important to eat more protein, such as beef, fish and beans, to help keep the energy up and to maintain their weight.



**Guam  
Communications  
Network**

Guam Communications Network (GCN) has been working diligently in the recruitment and training of cancer support group facilitators in Guam. Three staff from GCN and Rose Manglona, a Chamorro breast cancer survivor from San Diego, have traveled to Guam to promote the program and make contacts with survivors, care-givers, health providers and advocates. Pre-training workshops have been conducted in March and the support groups convened from April to June. In April, GCN staff flew to Guam to observe and monitor support group meetings, conduct additional training and conduct evaluation reviews with the newly trained facilitators.

GCN applied for a grant through the Lance Armstrong Foundation to expand their Chamorro Cancer Survivors Network throughout California and in Guam. In Fall 2007, APIAHF and GCN staff will be flying to Guam to

**Page 2** conduct grant writing trainings for the village mayors.



**CPACS**

The Center for Pan Asian Community Services

The Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. (CPACS) has been conducting weekly cancer support groups in Atlanta, Georgia with the Korean community. The Wellness Community in Pasadena, California is serving as the mentor organization for CPACS in providing technical assistance for CPACS as they implement their support groups. To promote their program, they have placed ads in Korean newspapers. CPACS also intends in complementing their support groups services by creating community/family gatherings for the support group attendees. CPACS has been receiving many calls from people who are interested in joining their support groups.

On June 27, 2007, a cancer prevention and treatment forum took place for the Korean community. Guest speakers included two oncologists and a natural healer to talk about the importance of cancer prevention and detection, and services available to those diagnosed with cancer.

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## **Capacity Building Assistance & Trainings Available**

In an effort to build the skills and capacity in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and programs offering cancer prevention, education, survivor support resources to AAPIs, APIAHF offers capacity building assistance (CBA) in specific cancer control related areas.

APIAHF provides CBA in the following areas:

- Health information and data on AAPIs and cancer and other chronic diseases
- APIAHF developed materials and publications
- AAPI language materials and resources
- Program development assistance (program planning, implementation, evaluation, grant writing, how to work with AAPI communities)
- Presentation requests
- Linkages and referrals to community members and community based organizations
- Letters of support
- Collaboration on specific activities
- Training requests

Local or regional trainings in the following areas:

- Grant Writing
- Program Development
- Organizational Development
- Policy Advocacy
- Media Spokesperson/Media Advocacy
- Cultural Competency

APIAHF provides CBA around cancer to health departments, community based organizations (CBOs), cancer support groups, voluntary health organizations, community members, AAPI serving cancer programs, health centers, and medical centers. To request a specific type of capacity building assistance, please contact Roxanna Bautista at [rbautista@apiahf.org](mailto:rbautista@apiahf.org) or at 415-568-3304.

# Freshening Up on Health Policy: We're Looking Out for You

by Hemi Kim, Policy Analyst

When my mom was 14 years old, one of her chores was to do the weekly family grocery shopping. She would go to the *feira* – the equivalent of a farmer's market, from the days before supermarkets.

She would peel back the gills of fish, usually sardines, to check for freshness. Once, she opened the beak of a chicken for freshness. The merchant man watching her told her, "You do that with fish. That's not how you check to see if a chicken is fresh." At the time she was deeply embarrassed. Decades later, she laughs very hard at the memory.

You probably know what it's like to try new solutions (examining a chicken's beak) for your health needs (finding good food). People know what needs to get changed in the health care system, but making the change requires analysis and advocacy. Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) has boosted its ability to promote policy solutions on a national scale by adding staff and selecting priorities while still building on the APIAHF's longstanding goals to:

- ◆ Expand access to health care
- ◆ Improve quality of health care by promoting cultural and linguistic competence
- ◆ Ensure a diverse and culturally competent workforce
- ◆ Increase research and improve data collection
- ◆ Increase investment in community-based health promotion programs

Directed by Deeana Jang, the APIAHF policy staff advances state and federal government policies that benefit the health and well-being of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. "To advance policy" means to change the way we do things as a society, often through creating new laws or rules, or changing the ones that are currently in place. For example, the Chronic Disease program supported the development of local anti-tobacco policies as a way to change the norms of smoking, leading to better health outcomes. The policy staff complements the Chronic Disease Program's work in areas that cut across our organization's programs and communities served, such as data collection and language access.

Since April, the policy staff has established a health policy agenda which resonates with the goals above. We continually assess our strategies and tactics, which often include research, and educating legislators and administration officials. We also help other organizations to inform and engage in policy advocacy. Our current health policy activities include:

- ◆ Promoting health disparities legislation in order to ease access and increase enrollment in health care programs
- ◆ Supporting the reauthorization of and full funding for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act
- ◆ Developing a national research and data policy agenda for community-oriented researchers
- ◆ Advocating for Federal reimbursement for language assistance in public health care programs
- ◆ Producing a quantitative data brief on access to Bay Area community health centers by Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth and their families, supplemented with qualitative data from a survey of youth.

We hope you will be there as we peek into the right corners for fresh ideas. You are invited to join the APIAHF

HealthInfo listserv, which is linked at <http://www.apiahf.org/policy>. Check out our webpage for more information.

## Legislative Priorities

APIAHF is at the forefront of advocating for legislation and state and federal government policies that benefit the health and well-being of Asians and Pacific Islanders. Listed below are federal bills that the APIAHF is supporting.

**Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act (H.R. 1078):** Introduced by Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and Tom Davis (R-VA). It is a significant step toward a cancer care system that coordinates all elements of care and enhances communication between cancer survivors and physicians. This bill will improve the care to cancer patients by establishing Medicare hospice care demonstration programs and grants programs for cancer palliative care and system management programs, provider education and related research. Thirty leading organizations representing cancer survivors, physicians, and researchers announced their support of this bill.

**Cancer Screening, Treatment, & Survivorship Act of 2007 (H.R. 2353 & S. 1415):** HR 2353 was introduced by Representative Janice Schakowsky (D-IL) and S. 1415 was introduced by Senate Tom Harkin (D-IA). The Cancer Screening, Treatment, & Survivorship Act will expand access to early detection and corresponding early treatment and survivorship services, reduce cancer mortality rates, improve quality of life and save healthcare costs.

**Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007 (H.R. 3014):** Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (D-CA) introduced the TriCaucus Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007, which will help reduce health disparities and achieve health equity for all communities of color. Developed by the Health Chairs of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Health Task Force, and Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, it will help eliminate the health disparities that leave millions of Americans in poor health. It will address health work force diversity, culturally and linguistically appropriate health care, access to health care, and data collection and analysis.

**Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) of 2007 (S. 764, H.R. 1308):** Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) introduced S. 764, while House Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL) introduced the companion bill, H.R. 1308. Under current law, legally present pregnant women and children who entered the U.S. since 1996 are barred from Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) benefits for five years. This five year bar prevents many children and pregnant women from obtaining essential health care and has led to increased racial and ethnic health disparities. If the Immigrant Children's Health Insurance Act (ICHIA) were enacted, the federal government would provide matching funds to states that opt to extend Medicaid or SCHIP coverage to immigrant children who are lawfully residing in the U.S. and who are otherwise eligible under the income standards of the State programs.

## Health Through Action by Suhaila Khan, Community Capacity Program Director

Health Through Action is an exciting national multi-year initiative for Asian Americans (AA), Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) funded by the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This initiative is designed to promote and support vibrant and active community collaboratives to conduct effective health programming, policy, and advocacy geared at reducing and eliminating health and healthcare disparities of AA-NHPIs.

Anticipated Health Through Action outcomes are: increased capacity of communities to meet local health needs, support cross learning by sharing expertise and knowledge, enhanced national capacity for advocacy-policy making, more visibility of AA-NHPI health, more data on AA-NHPI, and support a NHPI health agenda.

To achieve these outcomes multiple strategies are being adopted. As part of the capacity building strategy we anticipate awarding grants to 8-10 communities. As part of the strategy to fulfill the need for data the Health Braintrust has been created which is a convening of researchers, policymakers and community leaders who are currently developing activities geared towards better health data on AA-NHPI. As part of the strategy to develop an NHPI agenda ongoing discussions are taking place with community members and leaders, and Office of Minority Health representatives. Contact: [healththroughaction@apiahf.org](mailto:healththroughaction@apiahf.org).

## Food for Thought 2007

On May 18, 2007, Food For Thought, a benefit for the APIAHF took place at The Westin St. Francis in San Francisco. Approximately 500 philanthropists, government officials, business leaders, health professionals and community leaders attended the event.

The gala featured the largest gathering of Asian Pacific chefs in the Bay Area – with participation of 42 chefs. The roster of chefs included Khai Duong of Ana Mandara, Larry Chu of Chef Chu's, Barney Brown of Anzu, Tim Luyk of Poleng Lounge, Philip du Bose of Asia de Cuba, Dennis Wong of Le Soleil, Glen Wei of Koi Palace, Tetsuya Osaki of Chaya Brasserie and many more.

The annual gala supports APIAHF's mission to promote the health and well being of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities. This FFT event honored SF Police Chief Heather Fong and Family Violence Prevention Fund's Managing Director Debbie Lee for their leadership in inspiring public awareness to domestic violence, one of the programs of the APIAHF.



SF Mayor Gavin Newsom with chefs  
at Food for Thought 2007.



## APINCSN Online Cancer Resources Directory

The Asian and Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network (APINCSN) Online Cancer Resource Directory is a compilation of organizations that offer cancer services for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. The APINCSN Online Cancer Resource Directory provides detailed information about some of our network members, the AAPI communities they serve, and the types of cancer services they provide. Cancer patients, survivors, advocates, organizations and health care professionals have requested the development of this directory to assist in patient referrals to culturally and linguistically appropriate cancer services.

This online directory is comprised of a listing of network members and organizations who expressed interest in promoting their resources to the community through a listing in this guide. Each organizational listing includes the following information: contact information; cancer services; cancer/site served; language services; ethnicities served; regions covered; and fees for services.

This online directory is searchable by type of service, location, and languages spoken. If you find any errors in or would like to update your entry for the APINCSN Online Cancer Resource Directory, please contact us. We are open to suggestions to improve the usability of the online directory to best meet your needs.

Visit our website to access the APINCSN Online Cancer Resources Directory at <http://www.apiahf.com/devsearch/data.asp>. If you would like to be included in the online directory in addition to becoming an APINCSN member, please contact Roxanna Bautista at 415-568-3304 or [rbautista@apiahf.org](mailto:rbautista@apiahf.org).

## Research Study

# Breast Cancer in South Asian Women

Drs. Beth Glenn and Roshan Bastani of the UCLA Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research, and Mr. Zul Surani of Saath South Asian Cancer Foundation are conducting a research study to assess the unique needs of South Asian women diagnosed with breast cancer.

We are interested in talking to South Asian women (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, Nepali, Maldivian, Bengali and Bhutanese), over the age of 18 that have been diagnosed (recently or in the past) with breast cancer, to obtain information about the needs of South Asian women who have experienced breast cancer from the time of diagnosis, during treatment, and as survivors.

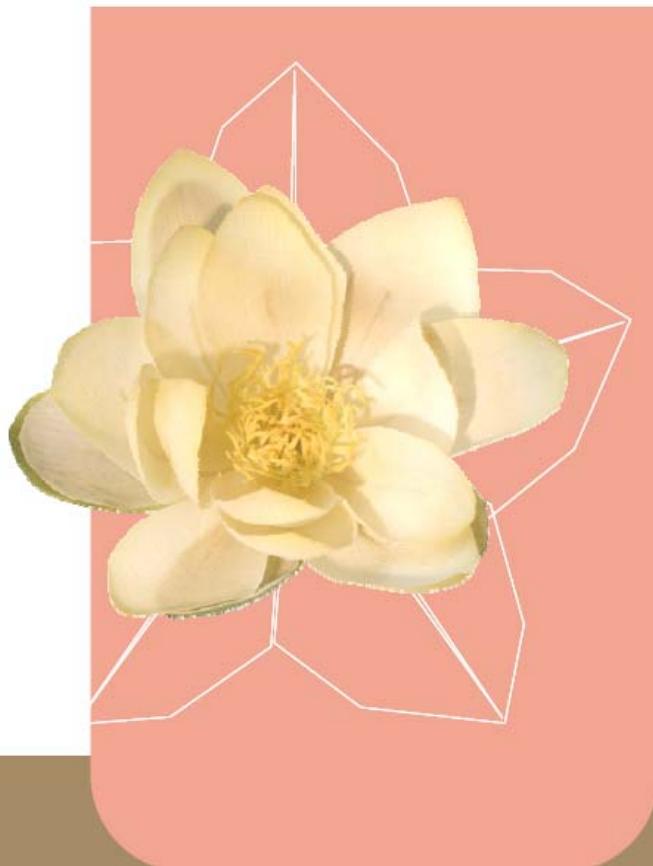
The one-on-one individual interview will be conducted in English, Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu, Sinhalese and Bengali.

Please contact

**1-866-459-8474**

if you are interested in participating.

You will be offered \$30 after completing the one-on-one interview.



### **"The Basics to Grant Writing" Training**

"The Basics to Grant Writing" training offers Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, community members, and health advocates the opportunity to learn how to:

- Develop effective grant proposals related to health issues of concern for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (cancer, HIV, diabetes, obesity, and more)
- Conduct basic program planning and development
- Write goals and objectives
- Develop evaluation plans

**Date: September 2007**

**Time: 10am–2pm**

**Location: San Diego, CA  
(exact date & location TBD)**

Space is limited, so please RSVP by contacting Roxanna Bautista at 415-568-3304 or by email at [rbautista@apiahf.org](mailto:rbautista@apiahf.org)

The Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum is a national advocacy organization dedicated to promoting policy, program, and research efforts to improve the health and well-being of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Founded in 1986, the Health Forum approaches activities with the philosophy of coalition-building and developing capacity within local AAPI communities. We advocate on health issues of significance to AAPI communities, conduct community-based technical assistance and training, provide health and U.S. Census data analysis and information dissemination, and convene regional and national conferences on AAPI health.



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