

Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network



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Frank Chong Cancer Survivorship Champion Award

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum's *Voices 2009: Amplifying the Call for Healthy Communities* took place at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, Virginia on June 1 - 2, 2009. The Voices Conference brought together health advocates, researchers, and representatives from community-based organizations from across the country and the Pacific to raise the visibility of our collective leadership in promoting policies to eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity for all.

At the Voices Awards Reception, we had an opportunity to present the Frank Atherton Hua Peng Chong Cancer Survivorship Champion Award, which was one of the six awards given that evening. The late Reverend Frank Chong, who had nasopharyngeal cancer, was a co-founder of the APINCSN with Susan M. Shinagawa. In Honolulu, he was a minister of the United Church of Christ, former executive director of Waikiki Health Center, longtime American Cancer Society volunteer and the government and community relations manager of AlohaCare. This award honors an Asian American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander cancer survivor, family member or community cancer advocate who exemplifies Reverend Frank Chong's strength of compassion and hopefulness, and dedication of service to community.



Chris Pablo, Sandy Pablo, Nate Pablo and Amanda Andrews at Voices Awards Reception on June 1, 2009

The recipient of the award was Christopher Pablo, a chronic myelogenous leukemia survivor. Mr. Pablo has been instrumental in the fields of health, health care reform, cancer and policy advocacy nationally and in Hawai`i. He currently works at Goodsill, Anderson Quinn and Stifel, was the former Director of Public Affairs at Kaiser Permanente, and was a Special Assistance to the U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. He has coordinated efforts to fund breast and cervical cancer treatment for uninsured women, worked to pass legislation to ban indoor smoking, and assisted Hawai`i's organ donor community in developing legislation promoting anatomical gifts. He was a Steering Committee Member of the APIAHF's Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network for 11 years.

A Great CATCH: Participants Receive Advocacy & Leadership Training

by Anh Chu, Chronic Diseases Program Intern

From July 9 – 11, a 2 ½ day Community Advocacy & Training on Cancer & Health (CATCH) Leadership Training was held at the St. Joseph's Hospital – Center for Cancer Prevention & Treatment in Orange, CA. I had only been with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum for a brief three weeks as the Chronic Diseases Program Intern, when I was given the opportunity to attend this CATCH Leadership Training.

As a fresh college graduate, the mix of different public health-related professionals gave me an out of the classroom experience. The attendees were an eclectic group of community advocates and health professionals who share a common thread: the interest to learn more about cancer in the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) community and how to advocate for their organizations. It was good to see passion in its rawest form, in that these community members were ready to take action and find ways to make the chance they saw fit. Each with their own expertise and interests, the group of participants were able to network and make possible collaborations, and were given tools to take action through effective communication and strategic planning.



Southern California CATCH Leadership Training
Orange, CA from July 9-11, 2009

Day 1 began with an intensive Cancer 101 presentation from Susan Shinagawa, an 18-year breast cancer survivor and the co-founder and chair of the APINCSN. With cancer as a leading cause of death for Asian Americans, Ms. Shinagawa supplied not only meaningful statistics and personal stories, but she also brought forth the issues of cultural competency and cancer and health disparities in our AA and NHPI communities. Another module focused on what cancer support groups are, how to start one, and the importance of having them for cancer patients, survivors and their families. These two modules really brought the importance of cancer closer to a personal level. As someone who has also lost family to cancer, it's a constant reminder of how significant advocacy work in cancer disparities really are, whether it is access to care, quality of care, language access, improved screening rates, health promotion issues or others.

Other modules included communications, data and policy. Participants of the CATCH Leadership Training were given opportunities to practice their skills of these three areas through interactive activities. They learned how to control a conversation, how to use research data, and how to prepare for a meeting with a legislator. The art of sending out your message effectively and communicating with clear and significant data to governmental officials or media, can lead to successful advocacy. Participants enjoyed the interactive portions most, where they were eager and willing to perfect their skills.

Also, a special treat from the training was an unplanned, but interesting tour of the new and impressive St. Joseph's Center for Cancer Prevention and Treatment. The center was designed specifically with cancer patients in mind, with a very welcoming atmosphere and calm interior.

A Great CATCH (continued)

With those five modules, the training was brief, yet intense. As I listened to participants with their personal stories about their line of work, or their thoughts and concerns, I found that advocacy work in the cancer field requires patience, perseverance, courage and will power. At this time where the health care industry is faltering, with confusing talks on health care reform, it is easy to be discouraged when the task seems daunting, but as at the end of Shinagawa's presentation, she quoted one of my favorite quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." In our continually interconnected world and intertwined communities, the parts make the whole. By fighting for our AA and NHPI communities, we slowly begin to fight for all equality for all members of the community.

Health Equity and Justice Now: GAAPICC hosts 2nd Annual Cancer Summit by Zakiya Sloley, CPACS VISTA Intern

Asian Americans are the only group in the United States to have cancer as its leading cause of death; so in 2008 Georgia Asian Pacific Islander Community Coalition (GAAPICC) hosted the 1st Annual Asian American Cancer Summit to inform the community about cancer prevalence and disparity in care faced by Asian Americans. Many attendees felt informed after attending, but wanted to know more about what to do with the information. That is why it was important that the 2nd Annual Cancer Summit be a skill-based, advocacy building summit and themed "Health Equity and Justice Now".

The Summit came about through the hard work and dedication of the planning committee which included Soomy Sim, Lilia Hagler, Lindsay Romasanta, and Zakiya Sloley. It was held on June 6, 2009 and attended by over 100 guests and distinguished speakers. In the opening plenary, Deanna Jang, Policy Director of APIAHF, spoke of the blueprint for the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and the work taking place nationally to advocate for the health needs of AAs and NHPIs. The summit included four break-out sessions hosted by Ben de Guzman from the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity; Lloyd Asato of Asian Pacific Community in Action; Pam Ashman from the American Cancer Society; and Marianne Chung and Julia Lee of The Center for Pan Asian Community Services. The break-out sessions were geared toward informing participants about actual resources available, lessons learned, and ways to make social and political change happen.



GAAPICC Asian American Cancer Summit
Atlanta, GA from June 6, 2009

Dr. George Rust of Morehouse School of Medicine and Gordon Freymann, the State Director of the Health Planning and Assessment Unit, were awarded the first annual Asian Americans Coming Together (ACT) Award for champions and allies of the Asian American community.

From the GAAPICC advocacy efforts, Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue declared May 31, 2009 as the 2nd annual Asian-Pacific American Cancer Awareness Day.

Breast Cancer Awareness for Tongans Project

Tongans are the third largest Pacific Islander community in the United States. In fact, over 50% of Tongans live in the San Francisco Bay Area (U.S. Census 2000).

Even though, cancer is a health concern within the Tongan community, the majority of Tongan women has never had a breast or cervical cancer screening examination. Tongans face considerable barriers to care (i.e. lower insurance coverage and higher language barriers) with baseline screening rates of only 40% for women who had ever performed BSE, 26% who had received CBE, and 25% who had obtained a mammogram. Data for the California Cancer Registry indicate the most common cancer for Tongans is breast cancer at 25.5%.

Due to the lack of screening and education among the Tongan community, APIAHF applied for the Susan G. Komen For The Cure San Francisco Bay Area Affiliate to propose the Breast Cancer Awareness for Tongans (BCAT) Project. The BCAT Project goal is to increase breast cancer and breast health awareness through education and outreach to the Tongan communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. This project is a collaboration with Taulama for Tongans, Radio Tonga San Francisco, and California Health Collaborative Every Woman Counts Program. Taulama for Tongans is a non-profit community based organization formed to serve the health needs of the Tongan population living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Radio Tonga San Francisco is a community based radio service that serves the Tongan community of the San Francisco Bay Area on KEST 1450 AM. California Health Collaborative is the current contract holder of the Cancer Detection Section: Every Woman Counts — Bay Area Partnership Program that conducts breast and cervical cancer educational workshops.

There are three components of the BCAT Project.

1. The BCAT Project will develop at least two new and translate existing Susan G. Komen for the Cure breast health education materials into culturally and linguistically appropriate Tongan breast cancer educational materials.
2. The BCAT Project will also develop eight breast health education programs targeting Tongan communities over the Radio Tonga San Francisco air waves to highlight breast cancer survivorship, breast health and screenings. Also Radio Tonga San Francisco will assist to promote the Every Woman Counts Program and the church-based breast cancer educational workshops.
3. Lastly, the BCAT Project Partners will have between 3-5 breast health workshops at San Mateo County Tongan churches which will be identified by Taulama for Tongans. During these workshops California Health Collaborative will promote breast cancer education, screening and resources available to the community. There is a strong faith-based network among the Tongan community that have taken on addressing health issues to positively impact health education and promote health screenings.

With collaboration with Taulama for Tongans, Radio Tonga San Francisco and Tongan interns, they will ensure that the materials, radio promotion and educational programs, and workshops are culturally and linguistically tailored for the Tongan community. This funding will provide much needed customized materials and workshops that the Tongan community can understand and utilize. This project will be completed in May 2010.

If you would like more information, please contact cdprogram@apiahf.org.

APIAHF has a New Website

During the month of May, APIAHF launched their new website and unveiled the Health Information Network. This new website continues to provide information regarding each of the APIAHF's programs: Chronic Diseases, API Institute on Domestic Violence, HIV, Health Through Action, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Affairs, and Policy. This attractive website highlights upcoming APIAHF events and new publications, along with current public health emergency information, such as this past year's issues on the peanut recall and H1N1 (swine) flu. APIAHF is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, the National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) to make announcements and urgent information available in Asian and Pacific Islander languages.



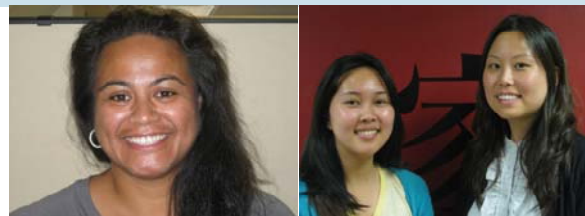
New to the website are:

- **Calendar**, which lists past and future APIAHF events, along with other health conferences that are relevant to our health issues within our communities.
- **Press Room**, which includes articles about us in the media, press releases, photos and videos, newsletters, and other important documents highlighting our work.
- **Health Information Network**, which provides Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders a place to find valuable information on health organizations, health publications, and tools, such as census data and resources, to communicate with advocates, policymakers, community leaders, health departments and health organizations.
- **Take Action**. This tab provides a way to take action and contact your senator or representative on specific bills and health issues that are a concern for our Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.

If you were wondering where the Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network is go to www.apincsn.org or www.apiahf.org/cd. The APINCSN Organizational Directory is located at www.apiahf.org/healthinfo and then click on the Health Information Network tab. To find specific cancer organizations in the directory, type 'cancer' in the description line.

Program Interns Spotlight

During this Summer 2009, APIAHF's Chronic Diseases Program was lucky to have three remarkable interns helping with the development of AA and NHPI and cancer health briefs, state health briefs, CATCH Leadership Trainings and cancer educational brochures.



Patricia Finau, Anh Chu, and Eunice Lee
Chronic Disease Program Interns

- Anh Chu has worked and volunteered her time to raising awareness on various health issues, such as cancer, lupus and Hepatitis B. She is currently enrolled at San Diego State University's Master's in Public Health program.
- Eunice Lee, who is a young cancer survivor, has worked at media publications, including AsianWeek. She currently volunteers with the AsianWeek Foundation's San Francisco HepB Free Speakers Bureau.
- Patricia Finau, who worked in the corporate world for 12 years, has been a community activist after hearing about the issues among the Pacific Islander communities. She coordinated a Peace March Rally and Youth Summit in East Palo Alto.

JOIN APINCSN!

Please join us in growing this national network of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) cancer survivors, family members, caregivers, health care providers, researchers, advocates, and community members and organizations to move forward in the comprehensive cancer control movement. **APINCSN is a network of cancer survivors, their family members, health care providers, researchers and community members and organizations who are concerned about the issue of cancer and survivorship in the AA and NHPI communities.** We are striving to break the isolation that many cancer survivors feel when they are first diagnosed and going through treatment. We are a national advocacy coalition, working with others to educate and advocate on the issue of cancer through speaking events, online networking, coordinating AA and NHPI survivorship resources, and promoting cancer survivors into national policymaking and research committees.

Network Membership Benefits:

- Connection to a network of experts
- Collaboration on various cancer-related projects
- Opportunities to network through meetings and teleconferences
- Access to AA and NHPI specific cancer information, resources and materials
- Use of APIAHF's advocacy resources
- Obtain capacity building assistance and training, such as data and language materials and policy advocacy training
- Opportunities to provide feedback and determine cancer priorities
- Communication of national health policy and advocacy action alerts
- Receive APINCSN Newsletters
- Subscription to AA and NHPI cancer listserv: apicancer
- Involvement in APINCSN workgroups, CATCH Leadership Trainings, and Speakers Bureau

To become a member of APINCSN, please contact Roxanna Bautista at rbautista@apiahf.org or at (415) 568-3304.

CATCH Us in Philadelphia!

Join us at our Community Advocacy & Training on Cancer & Health (CATCH) Leadership Training. Our next stop...Philadelphia at American Cancer Society (1626 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-6305). Our CATCH Leadership Training is for 2.5 days from November 5 thru November 7, 2009.

Thursday, Nov 5: 8:30am — 4:30pm

Friday, Nov 6: 8:30am — 4:30pm

Saturday, Nov 7: 8:30am — 12:00 noon



This training will provide information on:

1. Introduction to Cancer 101 in AA and NHPI Communities
2. Communications on Cancer and AA and NHPI Communities
3. Data Advocacy
4. Policy & Legislative Advocacy
5. Establishing Ethnic-Specific and Language-Specific AA and NHPI Cancer Support Groups

Space is limited, so please RSVP by contacting Mavis at (415) 568-3311 or cdprogram@apiahf.org. **The deadline to RSVP is October 23, 2009.**

Calendar: June – December 2009

JUNE:

June 7: National Cancer Survivors Day
National Men's Health Week: *June 8-14*
June 15: Men's Health / Cancer Awareness

JULY:

UV Safety Month

SEPTEMBER:

Childhood Cancer Month
Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month
Health Literacy Month
Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month
National Ovarian Cancer Month
National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
Prostate Cancer Awareness Week: Sept 10-16

OCTOBER:

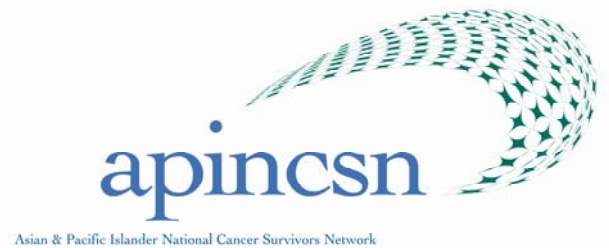
Liver Awareness Month
National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
National Mammography Day: *Oct 16*

NOVEMBER:

Lung Cancer Awareness Month
National Family Caregivers Month
National Marrow Awareness Month
Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
Great American Smokeout: *Nov 19*



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



The mission of the Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network (APINCSN) is to minimize the burden of cancer and improve the quality of life of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders by dispelling myths, reducing disparities and providing hope, with the ultimate vision of having empowered, cancer-free Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities.

For more information about how to become a member of the Network, go to www.apincsn.org.

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