November is Gastric Cancer Awareness Month. Gastric cancer (GC), also known as stomach cancer, occurs when cancer cells form in the lining of the stomach.

**OVERVIEW**
- Age, diet, and family history of stomach disease can affect the risk of developing gastric cancer.

**HIGH RISK GROUPS**
- Korean
- Japanese
- Vietnamese
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Non-Hispanic Blacks
- American Indians/Alaskan Natives
- Hispanics
- Immigrants from a high incidence region (Eastern Europe, East Asia, or South America)
- Smokers
- Individuals with a family history of gastric cancer
- Patients with active or prior Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) infection

**PREVENTION**
- *H. pylori* bacteria are the primary cause of stomach ulcers and gastric cancer
- *H. pylori* treatment reduces GC incidence by about 50%
- Tests that examine the stomach and esophagus are used to diagnose gastric cancer

**STATISTICS**
- Global: 1.2 million persons per year are diagnosed with gastric cancer and more than 800,000 deaths per year
- Global: 3rd leading cause of cancer death
- Global: 6th most common cancer worldwide
- USA: There are about 27,000 new cases of stomach cancer per year

**RESOURCES**
- Cancer.gov
- Stanford CARE (med.stanford.edu/care.html)