Award ID:
PP100214

Project Title:
Development, Implementation, and Evaluation of a Cancer Genomics
Training Program for Texas Health Educators

Award Mechanism:
Health Care Professional Education and Training

Principal Investigator:
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Entity:
Texas A&M University

Lay Summary:

Health Educators play a significant role in cancer prevention and control. According to the
Department of Labor, Health Educators work to encourage healthy lifestyles and wellness
through educating individuals about behaviors that can prevent diseases. By providing
cancer education programs to patients, Health Educators successfully improve patients'
health literacy, cancer screening rates, adherence to treatment and lifestyle changes,
and communication with clinicians. With the rapid progress in cancer genomics,
personalized health care services are becoming a trend in cancer control. Based on family
history risk assessments, patients can receive cancer prevention recommendations
tailored to their genomic profiles. Clinicians often struggle, however, to provide
personalized care due to time restrictions, lack of cancer genomic competencies, failure
to collect comprehensive family history information, and patients' low health literacy.
Given their large numbers, credential, and expertise in facilitating behavior change,
Health Educators are ideal candidates for providing fundamental personalized cancer
genomics education to patients. Nevertheless, Health Educators also lack adequate
cancer genomic competencies. As such, this project proposes the development of the
first cancer genomics training program for Texas Health Educators. This project
comprises a Website for professional interactions in a virtual community, a Web-based
curriculum, and three skills-building professional CEU workshops for Texas Health
Educators. Beyond a traditional approach focused on increasing trainees' knowledge, our
project addresses modifying professional behaviors and modifying theoretical mediators
which shape such behaviors. Success of this project will be measured by a summative
(impact) evaluation of Health Educators' behaviors (and their mediators) and by a
formative (process) evaluation of the program delivery. This project will impact the
provision of cancer control services by increasing Texans' cancer genomics health
literacy, their collection and utilization of cancer family history information, and
communication with clinicians regarding their needs for personalized cancer genomic
services.