

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT
NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2**

A Welcome from our Director of Community Outreach



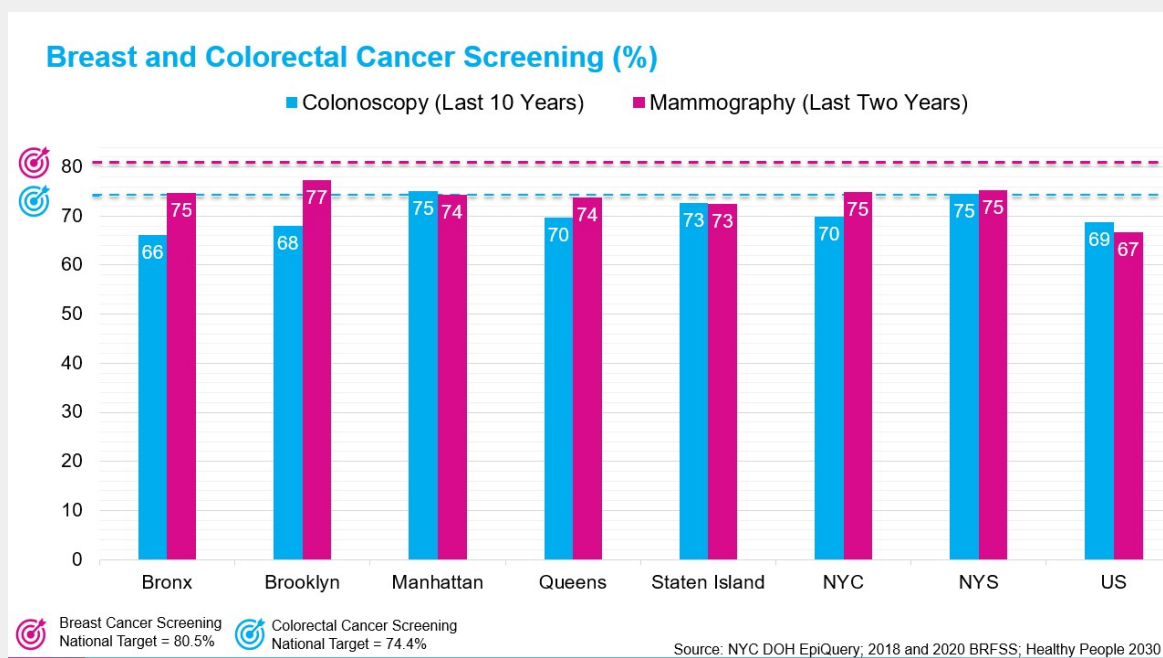
Lina Jandorf, MA

Welcome to our 2nd Newsletter! As we seek to fulfill our mission to address cancer disparities and reduce the hardships of cancer for patients,

families, caregivers and communities across the five boroughs of NYC, we actively work with our communities to bring in evidence-based education programs. With the strong efforts of our six health educators, we have developed culturally- and linguistically- targeted education programs related to cancer screening— focusing on breast, colorectal, lung, liver and prostate cancer.

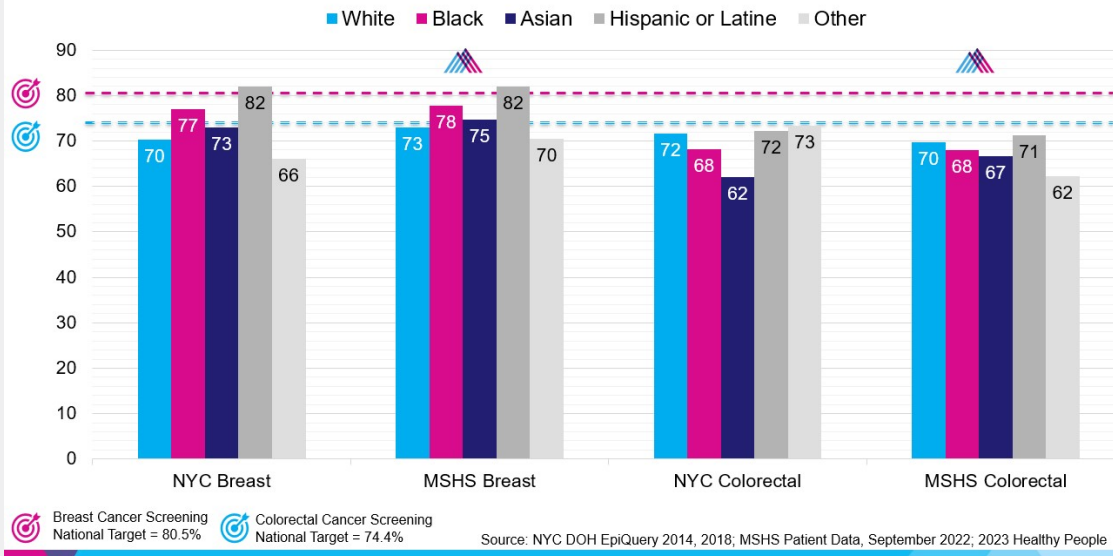
We continue to ask for your help in identifying important community needs across NYC to bridge the gap, such that knowledge can help facilitate cancer screening. You can learn more about the community outreach team further in this issue.

As this issue of our newsletter focuses on cancer screening, we have provided data on recent cancer screening rates within New York City (NYC), our health system, and beyond. Continue reading below!



The graph above shows breast cancer and colorectal cancer screening rates in each of the 5 NYC boroughs, as well as state and national screening rates. The pink and blue dotted lines represent the screening rate targets for breast cancer and colorectal cancer, respectively, set by Healthy People 2030.

Breast and Colorectal Cancer Screening Across NYC & MSHS (%)



The graph above shows breast cancer and colorectal cancer screening rates across New York City (NYC) and the Mount Sinai Health System (MSHS), broken down by race and ethnicity. The pink and blue dotted lines represent the screening rate targets for breast cancer and colorectal cancer, respectively, set by Healthy People 2030.

Community Partner Spotlight - BronxCare

The BronxCare Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Care facility is delivering world class care to the Bronx community. It encompasses more than 10,000 square feet of space for a multidisciplinary specialty oncology program. This state-of-the-art facility includes expanded treatment areas with dedicated chemotherapy and immunotherapy infusion suites, an onsite specialized oncology pharmacy, advanced radiation oncology care, and modern user-friendly registration and reception areas. Cancer care patients have available to them BronxCare's full scope of Surgical, Gynecological, and ENT specialties, along with Advanced Interventional, Diagnostic, Therapeutic Radiology Care, and equally important, access to Mount Sinai's renowned specialty oncology services.

The Cancer Care Facility is led by Dr. Kevin R. Jain, Chief, Medical Oncology and Hematology at BronxCare, and includes an expert team of oncologists,

certified oncology nurses, and experienced support staff. Board-Certified oncology pharmacists also prepare and dispense chemotherapy in partnership with the physicians.

The COE has partnered with BronxCare to do more outreach work in the Bronx community. Our team has provided cancer prevention information by tabling with the BronxCare mobile unit in the spring and summer and have created helpful and easy-to-understand brochures about breast cancer and colorectal cancer. In addition, the Mount Sinai Prostate Mobile Unit has been visiting the BronxCare facility to provide free prostate cancer screening services for community members.

For more information visit the facility's website at: <https://bronxcanccare.org/>



Dr. Kevin R. Jain, Director, BronxCare Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Care Facility/Chief, Hematology/Oncology, BronxCare (center), with Attending, Hematologists/Oncologists (L to R): Dr. Thanh-Ha Luong, Dr. Philip Rubin, Dr. Mary K. Reed, and Dr. Valentina Moirangthem.



Zelda Thompson, RN, Patient Care Manager (Center), with (L to R): Jelilatu Abu, RN, Ji Eun Song, RN, Samuel Lucas, RN, and Natasha Lopez, RN.

Meet Our Health Educators

At The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai, “Early Detection Saves Lives” is the guiding principle behind the creation of our Cancer Educational programs on breast, cervical, colorectal, liver, lung, and prostate cancer. To make relevant and significant impact in the community, our Health Educators provide culturally- and linguistically-targeted cancer educational programs aimed to reach Black and African American, Hispanic, Chinese, African Immigrant, and Russian communities throughout New York City. All programs include a free 30-minute presentation, access to a patient navigator who can assist in finding screenings, and additional resources.

Continue reading to learn more about each of our wonderful Health Educators and their work.



**Mikhalya
Brown, BA**

Mikhalya Brown is the Lead Health Educator on the Community Outreach and Engagement Team at Mount Sinai’s Tisch Cancer Institute. Supervising the continued outreach of over 100 community-based and faith-based partners, she works alongside the team of health educators and their Director, Lina Jandorf, to bring evidence-based, lay-friendly information on cancer screenings and risk reduction to these communities. Her community of focus is the Black/African American population through the Witness Project of Harlem, modeled after the National Witness Project, with the joint efforts of remarkable community volunteers. Mikhalya aspires to become a community-focused physician in the future.



**Mary
Norgan, BA**

Mary Norgan is a Health Educator focused on outreach in the Black/African American Community. She focuses primarily on prostate cancer education for the Mount Sinai Mobile Prostate Cancer Screening Unit, lung cancer education, LDCT screening. As a Health Educator, she most enjoys the opportunity to connect with people and explore the neighborhoods and cultures of New York City. Mary aspires to become a physician-scientist focused on fighting health disparities in Black and immigrant communities.



**Emma
Ghalili, BS**

Emma Ghalili is a Health Educator focused on the Russian community in Brighton Beach and Coney Island. Her favorite part of the job is being able to speak to community members in their shared language and listen to their questions. This fall, she will be attending St. George's University School of Medicine to pursue her M.D.



**Sabrina
Oliveros, MS**

Sabrina Oliveros works as a Health Educator for the Latine community. Most of her work is in the Bronx, where there is a serious need for health education in colorectal cancer. Compared to the other NYC boroughs, the Bronx has a significantly lower rate of regular colonoscopy screening. Her favorite part of the job is to listen to people's stories and help people advocate for their health. In the future, Sabrina would like to both continue her research career and study medicine.



**Lovely Joseph,
MD, MPH**

Lovely Joseph is a Health Educator dedicated to outreach in African immigrant communities. Her main focus is on hepatitis B and C testing. Lovely enjoys learning and sharing her knowledge. She is always happy to be out in the community to educate people about hepatitis B, C, and liver cancer prevention. Most of her outreach activities take place in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan. Lovely is studying for her US Medical Licensing Examination and looking to gain more experience in her research career.



**Joshua
Cheung, BS**

Joshua Cheung works as a Health Educator for the Chinese Community. He focuses primarily in areas with a big concentration of Chinese population such as Chinatown, Flushing, and the Sunset Park area. His favorite part of the job is being able to bring knowledge of breast, lung, colorectal, and liver cancer to local community members and listen to their unique stories and experiences. Joshua wishes to continue his effort on making an impact in the community and help improve health disparities in the Chinese population of NYC.

Community Scientist Program

Our Community Scientists continue to engage in various research and community relevant projects, including collaborating on research grants and disseminating information about cancer disparities. Continue reading below to learn more about our wonderful members!

If you are a community member/researcher and are interested in joining or learning about our Community Scientist program, contact Tatiana Ramirez at tatiana.ramirez@mountsinai.org or visit our website at <https://icahn.mssm.edu/research/tisch/community/programs/community-scientist-program>.



**Cynthia
Chmielewski**

Cynthia, a retired educator and myeloma survivor, uses her passion for education to teach a new group of "students" - myeloma patients and their caregivers. Cynthia loves being a Community Scientist because it allows her to be a liaison between the research and patient community. She shares the patient perspective with researchers and shares valuable research and clinical trial opportunities with patients.

Links:

- [@MyelomaTeacher](#)
- [MyelomaTeacher Facebook Page](#)
- [HealthTree University for Myeloma](#)



**Lavern
McDonald**

Lavern McDonald has spent decades working in higher education and secondary education as an administrator and classroom teacher. As a community scientist, Lavern intends to develop a curriculum for an elective course to explore cancer as chronic disease. She is currently organizing a literature review to support this effort. From this review, she also plans to identify a set of questions that lead to deeper inquiry into cancer. Lavern values her new role of community scientist as this will allow her to build new knowledge to expand understanding about cancer.



**Dolores
Moorehead**

Dolores Moorehead is the Community Engagement Director and Client Support Clinician for the Women's Cancer Resource Center, a non-profit organization in Berkeley, California dedicated to assisting women with cancer navigate the complex health care system and improve their quality of life through education and supportive services. She appreciates the opportunity to be a Community Scientist because it allows her to share her lived experiences and to increase personal knowledge about research. She is able to assist researchers in understanding the importance of bringing the community into research from the beginning.

Link: [Women's Cancer Resource Center](#)



Jean Claude Noel

French born and a United States citizen living in New York since 1991, Jean Claude Noel has been a volunteer at Mount Sinai Hospital Rutenberg Treatment Center since 2007. As a Community Scientist, he works with Dr. Nihal Mohamed, Associate Professor and Director Health Disparity Research Department of Urology, on the psychosocial aspects of men's cancers with the objective of reducing disparities in access to cancer care. His current activities include research on active surveillance and decision-making, as well as other grants at various stages of development.



Karen Peterson

Founder and Chief Patient Advocate of Karen's Club, Karen Peterson's very own medical journey inspired her to help other patients of color understand the complex and sometimes skeptical world of clinical trials. A five-year, Stage IV Triple Negative Breast cancer survivor, her life was saved via a Phase I, immunotherapy only based clinical study. Karen's interest in the Community Scientist Program comes from her curiosity of innovative clinical research and how she can use the information to educate her community. Link: [Karen's Club](#)



Colette Smith

Colette Smith is Community Scientist for the Community Outreach and Engagement program. As a 7-year lung cancer survivor, she is excited to share her perspectives and assist with creating cancer care awareness in her community. Colette wants to become a Community Scientist because she wants to advocate for underserved populations while assisting them with finding the medical care they deserve.



Travis Thomas

Travis Thomas is the Founder/President of S.A.V.E.D 4 Life Cancer Corporation (S4LCC) and S4LCC Cancer ReSource Stations, a Certified Holistic Cancer/Life Coach and a Cancer Patient Navigator. She is interested in being a Community Scientist to gain more knowledge and help educate underserved communities about the importance of research and options before being diagnosed with late stages of cancer. As a Community Scientist, she is able to help her communities have access to information and learn more about clinical trials before it becomes a last resort. Link: [S.A.V.E.D 4 Life Cancer Corporation](#)

Community Scientist Institute

The Community Scientist Institute at The City College of New York is a six-week course designed to introduce the concepts and skills to individuals who are interested in developing community-relevant research and engaging community members in addressing the cancer burden in New York City. Please visit the following link to learn more information about this program or register for the course:

[Community Scientist Institute | The City College of New York \(cuny.edu\)](https://www.cuny.edu/community-science/).

LUCENT: Lung Cancer Screening Talks



LUCENT

The LUCENT study aims to understand the individual, socio-demographic, and patient-clinician relationship factors that might influence lung cancer screening decisions. **Lung cancer screening**, consisting of an annual low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scan, is currently recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force to smokers who are at high risk of developing lung cancer, and is set to substantially reduce lung cancer deaths. Alarming, emerging national data demonstrates that **only 3% of black eligible smokers received screening compared to 12% of white smokers in 2017**. Prior research on cancer disparities fails to address issues

that are specific to lung cancer (stigma, high mortality, and fatalism) and LDCT screening (the relative newness of the test and increased radiation exposure), greatly limiting the generalizability of the findings from these studies to lung cancer screening. In this study, investigators will recruit 250 lung cancer screening-eligible smokers and their primary care providers from the Mount Sinai Health System. They plan to measure patient's beliefs about lung cancer and LDCT screening, stigma, and medical mistrust, as well as measure physicians' practice demographics and communication style associations with lung cancer screening referral and completion. The results of the study will directly guide the development of targeted strategies to improve lung cancer screening rates among minorities.



LUCENT Study Principal Investigators: Cardinale Smith, MD, PhD (left) and Minal Kale, MD (right)

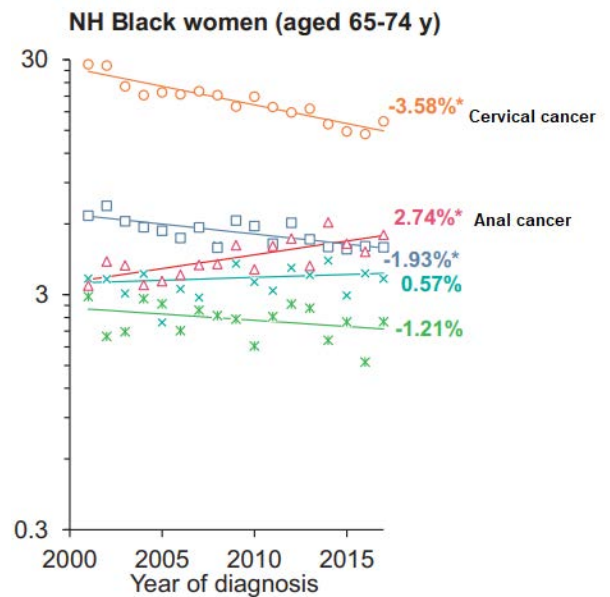
If you are interested in learning more about this study, please contact Ashley Feng at (212) 824-7980 or Ashley.Feng@mountsinai.org or Hillary Ramos-Espinoza at (212) 824-7456 or Hillary.RamosEspinoza@mountsinai.org.

If you are primarily Spanish speaking, please contact: Hillary Ramos-Espinoza at Hillary.RamosEspinoza@mountsinai.org.

Anal Cancer Prevention and the SWAN Study

Like cervical cancer, anal cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). Our research group has found that while cervical cancer rates are decreasing, anal cancer rates are increasing. Part of this trend may be associated with a lack of screening and prevention for anal cancer among women. To address this, we have begun enrolling for the “Screening Women with Prior HPV for Anal Neoplasia” (SWAN) study, a study of anal cancer screening for women with known HPV-associated precancers, as this group is at the highest risk for anal cancer. As part of the study, women will receive comprehensive anal cancer screening and testing for HPV infection. We plan to enroll women in the New York metropolitan area at our Mount Sinai site. The results of this study will help us understand the role of anal cancer screening for women and provide important information on the performance of anal cancer screening tests in this group.

If you are interested in learning more about this study or participating, please contact Dr. Keith Sigel at keith.sigel@mssm.edu. You can also visit the study's website at: <https://www.swan-study.org/>.



Data on cancer rates in US women from 2000-2015. Pictured are rates of cancers for Black women aged 65-74; there are marked decreases in cervical cancer with substantial increases in anal cancer during the same time period. Image adapted from Oxford University Press



SWAN Study Principal Investigator, Keith Sigel, MD, PhD, MPH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cancer Prevention in the Chinese-American Community - New York City Cancer Collaborative

In recognition of National Cancer Prevention Month, please join us for this virtual event addressing cancer prevention in the Chinese-American Community.

What is cancer? How does cancer impact people's lives? How can we take care of ourselves and prevent cancer in our day-to-day life?

This workshop will be held in Mandarin.

Featuring:

- Baoqing Li, MD, PhD: Clinical Director Department of Radiation Oncology New York-Presbyterian Queens/ Weill Cornell Medicine
- Kuanyu Chen, RD: Nutrition Consultant on Healthy Eating in the Chinese Community NYU Langone Health
- Wenhua Lu, PhD: Assistant Medical Professor Community Health and Social Medicine Department CUNY School of Medicine

Event Details:

- Date and Time: February 27th, 2023, 6pm-7pm
- Location: Zoom
 - Meeting ID: 81614892077
 - Passcode: 092207
 - Join by phone: Dial +19294362866, Webinar ID 81614892077, press #. Press # again and enter passcode 092207 followed by another # sign.

For more information, please contact Mi (Emma) Zhou, LCSW at 212-604-6095 or mi.zhou@mountsinai.org.



The Tisch Cancer Institute

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