About Us

The Health Disparities Research Center (HDRC) is designed to enhance collaboration with and among Cancer Consortium partners including Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (Fred Hutch), Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, University of Washington, and Seattle Children’s Hospital and create a forum that enables health disparities’ researchers to work together. The HDRC utilizes an integrative approach to explore barriers and find solutions to existing health disparities. Ultimately, the efforts of the HDRC will enhance the capacity of Consortium scientists and clinicians to develop and apply new knowledge to help individuals and communities reduce the incidence and mortality rates from cancer and other diseases.

Addressing Health Disparities

In Washington State and across the Nation, the unequal and unjust burden of cancer is evidenced by the fact that many individuals within diverse communities (African Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Hispanics, Pacific Islanders, immigrants such as Pakistanis/Indians and Russians, people of low socioeconomic status, rural populations, and lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender groups) are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage disease and/or die from preventable cancers that may have been detected with early screening. Reducing this burden requires a deliberate, comprehensive, and participatory approach to understanding and addressing cancer health disparities across the cancer control continuum from prevention to end-of-life care.

Recognizing the urgency and persistence of this issue, Fred Hutch has begun to meet this challenge through the development of the HDRC, aimed at combating the health disparities that exist in Washington State.

HDRC Goals

- Advance scientific research to better understand and improve cancer prevention and early detection in practice,
- Enhance delivery and access to cancer treatment and preventive services for patients, their families, and persons at risk, and
- Further cancer epidemiology and public health science research.

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