Reducing Cancer Disparities in Monterey County Through an Innovative Community-Academic Partnership to Advance Precision Medicine Access and Delivery

Samuel Gyurzhyan, BA*; Jeffrey G. Edwards, BA*; Ysabel Duron, BS; Dale O’Brien, MD MPH; Manali Patel MD MPH MS; Lisa Goldman Rosas, MPH PhD

Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA

*these authors contributed equally to this work

To inform our development of interventions in the context of COVID, and to embroider COVID related challenges into our investigation.

The pandemic forced us to remain nimble in our approach to cancer care interventions, and to adapt to changing circumstances.

We interviewed:

Themes from interviews with patients diagnosed with cancer

1) community members undergoing cancer prevention/screening
2) patients diagnosed with cancer
3) stakeholders including clinical staff/leadership
4) care providers

Themes from interview with 11 stakeholders from Monterey County

Need to collectively focus on ensuring insurance coverage for genetic testing and designing outreach programs
Need to use CHWs in these efforts

Themes from interviews with 12 care providers

Insufficient resources available to support Latino and non-English speaking populations
Significant language and financial barriers
Extensive coordination necessary to deliver high-quality cancer care
CHWs can assist with complexities of care including genetic and molecular testing

Outcomes / Lessons Learned

CHW’s pivotal role both in the field and in clinic

Were on the field sharing information and flyers in a variety of environment including grocery stores, school grounds, agricultural companies. Reached Latinos of all ages, mostly agricultural workers.

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Themes from interviews with community members undergoing prevention/screening

COVID-related burdens regarding financial insecurity, limited availability of screening visits, and barriers related to caregivers accompanying patients to appointments

Disbelief and fear regarding COVID, reservations regarding testing

Learned about COVID via Spanish TV and social media

Themes from interviews/surveys with community

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