

# Rural Cancer Workgroup Update

Co-Chairs: Jan M. Eberth, PhD, University of South Carolina and  
Natoshia Askelson, MPH, PhD, University of Iowa



This website is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS (Cooperative Agreement Number U48 DP006400). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

# Workgroup Mission

- The CPCRN Rural Cancer Workgroup, first established in 2018, explores issues related to cancer prevention, control, and treatment in rural areas.
- Our objective is to leverage the resources, expertise, and relationships of the national CPCRN network to conduct impactful and innovative rural cancer research to improve outcomes for rural residents and capacity for rural health care providers/organizations.
- Includes representatives from 7 CPCRN sites, and affiliates from University of New Mexico, OHSU, and UKY.

# Rural Workgroup Members



University of South Carolina (left to right): Jan Eberth, Whitney Zahnd



Emory University:  
Kate Yeager



University of Iowa (left to right): Natoshia Askelson, Mary Charlton, Richard Hoffman, Mark Vander Weg, Aaron Seaman

# Rural Workgroup Members



University of North  
Carolina: Rachel Hirschey,  
Victoria Petermann,  
Catherine Rohweder



Colorado School of Public  
Health(left to right): Andrea  
Dwyer, Linda Overholser,  
Jamie Studts

# Rural Workgroup Members



University of Washington  
(left to right): Linda Ko, Alison Cole



University of Arizona:  
Purnima Madhivanan



CDC (left to right): Arica White, Sue Sabatino

# Rural Workgroup Members



Public Health  
System  
Consultants:  
Randy  
Schwartz



NCI: Robin  
Vanderpool



Oregon Health &  
Science  
University: Paige  
Farris



University of New  
Mexico: Prajakta  
Adsul

# Addressing NACRHHS recommendation

- “The Committee recommends the CDC require states, territories, and tribes or tribal organizations to assess rural-urban cancer mortality rates as part of their cancer control plans and, where appropriate, develop and implement rural-focused cancer control goals, objectives, or strategies, participation in areas with high rural cancer mortality rates.”
- Content analysis: To identify the inclusion of rural in current cancer plans (manuscript submission Feb 2021)
- Interviews with cancer program directors: To understand the inclusion and engagement of rural stakeholders in cancer plan development (interviews will begin Feb 2021)

# Secondary Data Analyses of Urban-Rural Disparities

- HINTS data: Explore 1) urban-rural differences in cancer-related risk factors across (stratified by) the Delta, Appalachia, and the rest of U.S., and 2) the impact of changing urban-rural definitions on health outcomes. Analysis ongoing.
- National Cancer Database: Examine differential treatment paths, timing, and/or quality in urban vs. rural cancer patients seen at CoC-accredited centers (analysis beginning).



# Racism and Equity Subcommittee

- This subcommittee has developed multiple lines of inquiry and potential actions. Items discussed include (priority areas for 2021 underlined):
  - Differences in access to and use of telehealth services across racial/ethnic groups in rural America
  - Incorporating more diverse external (academic and practice-based) stakeholders into workgroup activities, including paid consulting work
  - Invite expert(s) and community member(s) to discuss intersectionality of rural/racial minority status
  - Conduct qualitative studies/needs assessment with cancer centers in rural areas to identify their needs related to addressing disparities/providing care to all communities in their area

# Questions and Contact Info

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