

In This Issue:

Cancer and the Power of Preventive Screening

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When an individual is diagnosed with cancer, not only is there an increased medical burden (e.g., tests, treatments, therapies), but also an economic burden. As cancer progresses, the costs associated with treatment and the burdens of the disease begin piling up, leading to both economic distress and increased time living with disability.

And that is just for one person with cancer.

Looking at the whole population, as we like to do in public health, shows cancer having a significant impact on health in the United States, and in Delaware. Not only the economic burdens due to lost wages and increased costs associated with treatment, but the increased years of life lost due to premature death, the decreased quality of life for cancer survivors, and the ongoing burden of disease, treatment, and remission.

Cancer also represents a continuum of opportunities to care for the patient and community: from bench research, to bedside care, to prevention and community outreach. In this issue of the Journal, we look at all these aspects of cancer, including the power of preventive screenings. By studying ways to improve cancer control programs, assessing the risks and benefits of screening to inform guidance on screening strategies, and implementing those strategies to prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat cancer earlier, we can have a significant impact on cancer incidence and prevalence in the first state.

We also wish to add a personal tribute to our guest co-editor Dr. Nick Petrelli. He has been a stalwart champion of the patient, first and foremost, for nearly a quarter century in his leadership role as the head of the Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at ChristianaCare in Delaware. He reprises his role as guest editor of this issue, as we also reflect on his legacy of patient care and advancing the health of populations.

Dr. Khan notes that,

Nick is a dear friend, and colleague, and with him you always know where you stand! His direct approach is matched only by his unparalleled dedication to our patients and community.

Dr. Nick Petrelli is a most valued colleague, scholar, physician and leader extraordinaire, and we are lucky to have benefited from his years of dedication.

As always, we welcome your feedback on this and any issue of the Journal.

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