P20 PILOT PROJECT:
Disparities of Health Literacy in the Context of Kidney Cancer and Smoking
Project team

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• Cancer genomics

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• Social-behavioral scientist
• Population health disparities
Kidney Cancer Basics

Among the 10 most common cancers in both men and women

- Lifetime risk of approximately 1 in 63 (1.6%)

2015 American Cancer Society estimates:

- 61,560 new cases of kidney cancer in the United States
- 14,080 people (9,070 men and 5,010 women) deaths from the disease

Average age at diagnosis = 64 years

Known risk factors:

- Smoking
- Obesity
- Rare genetic syndromes
Kidney Cancer: Regional perspective


Published in:
Kidney Cancer: Sociobehavioral perspective

Relationships among social & behavioral risk factors have not been adequately examined

• With regards to kidney cancer
• With regards to urban/rural disparities
Filters set to “human” and “English”; retrieved November 19, 2015
Specific aims & research approach

Survey a total of 300 patients (ages 40+) from 5 urology and primary care clinics

By geographic region (urban vs. rural):

1) Examine health literacy and cancer literacy
2) Investigate knowledge of the relationship between smoking and kidney cancer
3) Compare threshold for bother caused by general urologic symptoms
How did we get here?

• SIU team, led by Dr. McVary, responded to the initial RFA
• Reviewed list of potential Washington University collaborators & found a good fit in Dr. Kim Kaphingst
• Pilot project was accepted and submitted with the P20 proposal
• Made changes to the project team following reviewers’ comments & staffing changes
Why collaborate in the first place?

- Stronger transdisciplinary approach
- More diverse patient populations
- Opportunities for cross-site mentorship
Questions & Comments