

African-American Men: Caught in Prostate Cancer Controversy

By **Chiledum A. Ahaghotu, M.D., F.A.C.S.,** Chief of Urology at Howard University Hospital, adviser to Men's Health Network

Prostate cancer is the leading type of cancer in men in the United States, with over 240,000 men diagnosed and 30,000 thousand dying from it each year. Also, for reasons that are not completely under-

stood, African-American men have the highest rates of prostate cancer in the U.S, as 1 in 5 will get prostate cancer in their lifetime. African-Americans are also 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 2.5 times likely to die of the disease. When caught early, prostate cancer can be treated, usually successfully. But, because many men experience no symptoms, it is often identified only by

an abnormal result on a basic prostate cancer screening called the PSA test. The PSA test is a blood test that measures prostate-specific antigen (PSA), a protein produced by the prostate gland. An increase in the PSA level is often the only sign of early prostate cancer. The PSA test is also valuable in monitoring patients after treatment. In May 2012, despite tremendous opposition from prostate cancer experts, leg-

islators, healthcare advocates and cancer survivors across the country, a US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) Committee announced a recommendation that PSA testing should no longer be performed routinely on men in the United States. The task force came to this decision based on studies performed in the United States and Europe suggesting that prostate cancer screening does not appear to improve

survival in patients with this disease.

One of the major concerns raised by opponents of the recommendation is the fact that the studies that were cited lacked representation by African-American participants. Thus, their results may not be applicable to that group of men. The USPSTF committee also failed to acknowledge the impact of screening on declining cancer death rates. Opponents of this recom-

mendation felt that the bottom line is that fewer men are dying of prostate cancer and it is very likely that early detection has played a role in this outcome. Despite the decrease in death rates, African-American men continue to carry a disproportionately higher death rate and, among men under the age of 60, are 4 times more likely to have metastatic disease at diagnosis.

There is currently ongoing research to find better screening strategies than the PSA test. However, until these tests have been confirmed, the PSA test continues to be important part of early detection and should not be blatantly discarded, especially as it applies to high risk populations such as African-American men.

Any man that is over 40 years of age should have meaningful dialogue with his healthcare provider to understand the details of the PSA test, its value, and possible shortcomings. Prostate cancer screenings are not provided under the Affordable Care Act, so make sure you choose a health insurance policy that covers PSA screenings. However, regular prostate cancer screenings are provided by Medicare, so if you are retired, take advantage of this benefit. If you are diagnosed with prostate cancer, also consider all options for treatment before making a decision or, if the cancer is not aggressive, talk to your doctor about active surveillance. For information call 303-313-4685/Toll free: 1-866-4-PROST-8.

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It is our primary goal as a labor union to better the lives of all people working in the building trades through advocacy, civil demonstration, and the long-held belief that workers deserve a "family wage" - fair pay for an honest day's work.

A family wage, and the benefits that go with it, not only strengthens families, but also allows our communities to become stronger, more cohesive, and more responsive to their citizens' needs.

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Tacoma Housing Authority Office Equipment Liquidation Sale

Date: Friday, August 24, 2012
Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Where: South 10th and L St.

Fenced parking lot adjacent to the Admin Bldg (902 South L)

Signs will be posted

First come, first served. **CASH ONLY. NO CHECKS ACCEPTED!!**

- *Office Furniture
- *Office desk supplies
- *File Cabinets
- *1940s DeWalt Sander
- *1940s table saw
- *Computers (no hard drive)

For questions contact: Yvonne Gnoauls
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E-mail: ygnouls@tacomahousing.org

All sales are FINAL

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

Lease Crutcher Lewis is requesting sub bids for the following project:

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Bid Due: 8/29/2012 – 10:00am PT

Project Description: Renovate the Cascade Beaver Marsh Aviary and Africa Lagoon exhibits.

Scope of work includes:

- upgraded filtrations system. (See Alternates on Drawings)
- Remodel of two rooms in the existing structure for the purpose of flamingo holding
- Construction of a second, new structure for bird holding

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8-22-12



Two Public Housing Priorities That May Allow You to Apply Even When Waiting Lists Are Closed

Home Forward is pleased to announce a new Public Housing priority for households that require accessible features that accommodate a wheelchair. Families and individuals who qualify for this priority can apply at any time, even when waitlists are closed. This priority does not apply to the Section 8 program.

Households must verify their need for this priority by having a physician or other licensed professional complete a Priority Verification Requiring Unit with Accessible Features form from Home Forward.

The second priority is for households that have a member who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness with a life expectancy of 12 months or less. This priority can be used to apply for Public Housing and Section 8, even when waitlists are closed. Households must verify their need for this priority by having a physician complete a Priority Verification Due to Health form.

To request the Priority Verification form for either of these priorities for Public Housing please call 503-802-8405.

To request the Priority Verification Due to Health form only for Section 8 please call 503-802-8333, option 7.

Applications will be provided after households have submitted this form and verified that they qualify for the priority.

Applications will be accepted for both of these priorities indefinitely or until further notice from Home Forward. Waiting lists currently remain closed to households that don't qualify for these priorities.

22-8-12