

Georgia Colorectal Cancer Round Table (GCCRT) Report



The Georgia Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (GCCRT), an initiative of the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium (GC3), is a statewide multi-organizational collaborative comprised of leading organizations working towards the common goal of decreasing the burden of colorectal cancer in Georgia. Created in 2015, the group develops strategic blueprints and organized approaches to reach 80% of adults, aged 45 and older, being regularly screened for colorectal cancer in every community and addressing continuity of care in Georgia. Modeled after the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT), the GCCRT serves as the logistical vehicle to improve colorectal cancer outcomes through strong collaborative projects and leadership.

The American Cancer Society has been instrumental to the success of GCCRT by providing leadership, support, and resources to the organization.

One driving initiative of the GCCRT was the advocacy of closing the loophole involving receipt of a colonoscopy following a positive stool test. The Department of Labor (DOL), Health & Human Services (HHS) and the Treasury clarified that colonoscopies following a positive stool or other test will now be fully covered by any health plan. Since DOL oversees ERISA Plans, this includes ALL health plans. This is great news!

FAQS ABOUT AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION PART 51, FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT AND CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT IMPLEMENTATION January 10, 2022.

Link to the FAQ: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/EBSA/about-ebsa/our-activities/resource-center/faqs/aca-part-51.pdf>

COVID-19 Impact

The engagement activities of the GCCRT were greatly impacted following the onset and first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Health system members were laser focused on their response to the pandemic. Although issues related to CRC screening remained a priority of the group, circumstances of the pandemic necessitated a reimagined approach.

Following our March 2020 Forum, the State of Georgia was shut down as a response to the emergence of COVID-19. After the initial 6-month phase of COVID-19, GCCRT examined opportunities to keep the members engaged at high levels in hopes of a strong reemergence post pandemic.

Georgia Cancer Summit

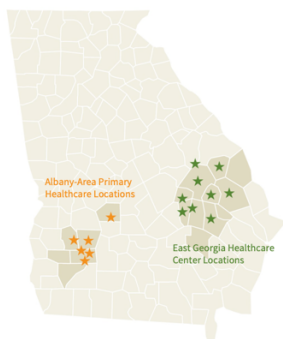
The Georgia Cancer Summit was held on January 21, 2022, to bring together public health professionals, health care providers, health advocates, researchers, and community organizations involved in community-engaged cancer research, prevention, and control efforts across the state. The one-day virtual conference, whose theme was *From Equity to Excellence – Charting Our Course to Reduce the Burden of Cancer in Georgia*, was free to attend and open to all. James Hotz MD, Chair of GCCRT, was a speaker at the summit.

Successful grant and collaborative effort

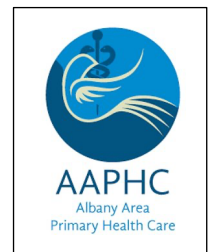
**STAY
AHEAD**
of Colon Cancer
GET SCREENED TODAY!

The **Georgia Colorectal Cancer Control Program (GCRCCP)** is a CDC-funded initiative bringing free colorectal cancer screenings to those Georgians who need it the most. Though the average screening rate for eligible patients in Georgia is 70%, the rate in Southwest (SW) Georgia is only 53% and in Southeast (SE) Georgia, the rate is only 33%.

THE REACH: Currently the program is being implemented in 15 healthcare clinics within the boundaries of two Federally Qualified Health Centers. These clinics are precisely in the areas with lower CRC screening rates.



Partnership Council Member Organizations



THE IMPACT: Less than half-way through the five-year funded program, GCRCCP has:

- Assembled multidisciplinary partnership with five key organizations
- Completed a Technical Assistance Plan for successful implementation of Evidenced Based Interventions that include client/provider reminders, provider assessment/feedback & reducing structural barriers
- Leveraged CDC-funded colonoscopies with donated colonoscopies by Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital for patients in SW Georgia and a signed agreement with Emanuel Medical Center in Swainsboro to provide for patients who qualify in SE Georgia partner clinics
- Implemented a CRC TeleECHO monthly program through Augusta University serving all partners
- Developed a virtual training platform for staff in the 15 clinics that includes an extensive navigation training component

Re-organization of the GCCRT plan

It is the intent of GCCRT to review the Georgia Cancer Plan and tie into GCCRT's 2022-2023 strategic plan. To support these efforts:

- The GCCRT moved from one chair to co-chairs with an intentional focus on succession. James Hotz MD and Saurabh Chawla MD will lead the steering committee.
- Workgroups realigned to support Georgia's newly released Comprehensive Control Plan. Workgroups have tri-chair leadership and a managing agency.
 - Health Systems and Public Education tri-chairs:
 - Sheryl Gabram MD, Georgia CORE
 - Troy Kimsey MD, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
 - Marie (Marti) Russell MD, Emory Winship Cancer Institute

- Georgia CORE managing agency
- Provider Education tri-chairs:
 - Theresa Jacobs MD, Georgia Association of Primary Health Care
 - Koosh Desai MD, Augusta University
 - Doug Patten MD, Augusta University
 - Augusta University managing agency
- Access to Care tri-chairs:
 - Crystal Owens MD, Community Health Care Systems
 - Saurabh Chawla MD, Emory Healthcare/Georgia Gastroenterological and Endoscopic Society
 - Minesh Mehta MD, Athens Digestive Healthcare Associates
 - Georgia Primary Care Associates (Duane Kavka) managing agency
- The Policy workgroup will be managed by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will appoint a policy task group as needed.

Learning Community: Colorectal Cancer

The Learning Community started in May 2022 and will run through November 2022. It provides opportunities for health system peers to collaborate as they focus on improving screening rates. Calls allow time for peer discussions, presentations from the field, and best practice sharing. The learning community has monthly one hour zoom platform webinars to support work, collaboration on challenges, and learning opportunities about successes for best outcomes.



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