

All,

We hope this email finds you well.

On behalf our program staff, we are delighted to share the second issue of our CDC CRCCP Project Newsletter. This newsletter will be distributed on a quarterly basis, and will highlight a variety of topics, including:

- Project updates
- CRC-focused research
- Webinars and registration links
- Program champion spotlights
- Advancements in CRC policy.

We hope you will enjoy the material. You are encouraged to cascade this newsletter to all members of staff in your respective clinics.

Please reach out with any questions or comments.

Thank you,

*Allison Rosen*

*Gabrielle Frachiseur*

# CDC CRCCP Newsletter

Issue 2 | June 2021

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## Program Contacts

**Program Lead Investigator:**  
Maria E. Fernandez, PhD

**Program Project Director:**

## Special Feature

### US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) has announced a new, lowered screening age for colorectal cancer screening. Now, starting at age 45, patients should be screened for colorectal cancer, decreasing the previous recommendations by 5 years. With colorectal cancer being the third leading cause of death for American men and women, and approximately 10.5% of new colorectal cancer diagnosis occurring in persons aged 50 years or younger, lowering the age to access screenings could save thousands of lives each year, once implemented into clinical practice.

In a June webinar, held by USPSTF, the task force outlined that clinics and health systems may not see a shift in the coverage of colorectal cancer screenings covered by insurance, until new fiscal years begin for healthcare insurance policies.

<b>Adults aged 50 to 75 years</b>	<b>The USPSTF recommends screening for colorectal cancer in all adults aged 50 to 75 years.</b>	<b>Grade A</b>
<b>Adults aged 45 to 49 years</b>	<b>The USPSTF recommends screening for colorectal cancer in all adults aged 45 to 49 years.</b>	<b>Grade B</b>
<b>Adults aged 76 to 85 years</b>	<b>The USPSTF recommends that clinicians selectively offer screening for colorectal cancer in adults aged 76 to 85 years. Evidence indicates that the net benefit of screening all persons in this age group is small. In determining whether this service is appropriate in individual cases, patients and clinicians should consider the patient's overall health, prior screening history, and preferences.</b>	<b>Grade C</b>

**Missed the presentation?** The webinar replay and slide deck are available in the [NCCRT Resource Center](#).

**Additional links featuring information discussed in the presentation:**

- [2021 USPSTF Recommendation for Colorectal Cancer Screening](#)
- [2018 American Cancer Society Recommendation for Colorectal Cancer Screening](#)
- [NCCRT 2019 Market Research on the Unscreened for CRC and 2-page Profile on Unscreened 45-49-year-olds](#)

## In the News

## Recommended for 2022 Medicaid Core Set

The Medicaid Child and Adult Core Set Annual Review Workgroup met to make recommendations for changes to the Child and Adult Core Sets for 2022 and voted unanimously to recommend adding colorectal cancer screening as a quality measure.

[READ MORE](#)

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## Medicaid: HHSC Encourages Colorectal Cancer Screenings, Announces At-Home Screening Test for Medicaid Clients

In an effort to increasing testing accessibility, the Texas Medicaid program recently added at-home colorectal cancer screening tests as a covered benefit for eligible clients.

“Regular screening is the first line of defense to prevent the spread of colorectal cancer in its early stages when it’s easier to treat,” said Dr. Ryan Van Ramshorst, chief medical director for Medicaid and CHIP Services.

[READ MORE](#)

## Unanimously to Ensure Access to Affordable Colorectal Cancer Screenings

Governor Abbott recently signed into law legislation that will increase access to colorectal cancer screening in Texas.

The legislation ensures access to colorectal cancer screening beginning at age 45 for average risk individuals and removes out-of-pocket costs for those needing a colonoscopy following a positive non-invasive screening test.

[READ MORE](#)

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## American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Urges Lawmakers to Increase Funding to State’s Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

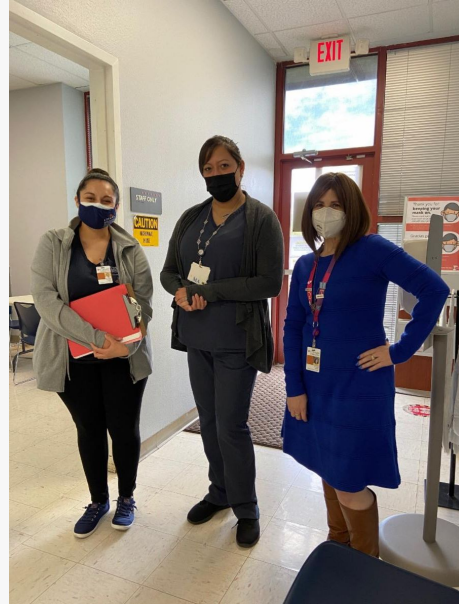
As lawmakers begin special session and continually look to address the long-term impacts of the pandemic, ACS CAN is advocating for a one-time \$250,000 increase to the state’s Colorectal Cancer Prevention Network (CCPN) program to address the massive backlog in preventive screenings as a result of delays and postponed appointments throughout the pandemic.

[READ MORE](#)

## Program Specific Updates

### Observations

Project staff members were able to complete workflow observations of Cohort 1 clinics. Project Director Allison Rosen, MS and Graduate Research Assistant Crystal Costa, MPH, are pictured below with Lupe Resendiz, Lead Medical Assistant of Coastal Health & Wellness.



Workflow observations were integrated to enrich the assessment phase of the project by providing an additional pathway of understanding CRCS related processes. The project staff is grateful for the opportunity to complete this component of the project.

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## SCAC

The second Stakeholder and Community Advisory (SCAC) Board meeting was held on April 28th. The meeting had a great turnout, and the dialogue focused on identifying barriers and facilitators to implementing, the four Evidence-Based Interventions (EBI's): provider reminders, patient reminders, provider assessment and feedback, and reducing structural barriers.

The next SCAC meeting will take place on July 28th, from 9-10 AM. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to [allison.rosen@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:allison.rosen@uth.tmc.edu) for more information.

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## Project ECHO: Facilitating Implementation Tactics in Colorectal Cancer Screening (FIT CRC) - Cohort 1

The inaugural FIT CRC ECHO session, titled "Getting Started" was held on May 20th. Participants learned about the mission and purpose of Project ECHO, what to expect in upcoming sessions, and viewed templates for case study presentation.

# What is Project ECHO

*Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)* is an innovative healthcare and movement, whose **mission** is to develop the capacity to leverage knowledge and amplify the capacity to provide best practice care for underserved people all over the world.



**Missed a session?** After ECHO sessions occur, eligible participants will be able to access recordings for up to one month.

FIT CRC ECHO sessions will include a didactic session led by a Subject Matter Expert, case study presentations from participating clinics, breakout sessions for discussion and peer learning opportunities, and most importantly, no-cost CMEs for eligible participants.

Learn more about [Project ECHO](#).

## All Aboard Cohort 2!

On boarding process for Cohort 2 has begun. East Texas Community Health Services and Avenue 360 are completing onboarding documents and are currently projected to begin the assessment phase of the project this summer. We will look forward to working with these clinics to improve CRCS rates.

Steps include:

1. The Clinic Readiness Assessment
2. Analysis of Assessment
3. Co-Develop the Implementation Plan
4. Evaluation

Until your cohort begins, keep involved with program updates, and reach out to your regional project coordinator with any questions you may have.



## Clinical Champion Spotlight

**Name:** Julio Garza, PA-C

**Role:** Physician Assistant

**Institution:** Coastal Health & Wellness

**Fun Fact:** I have an identical twin brother.

**Hobby:** Fishing, Movies, the Humane Society.

**What does increasing CRC screening rates mean to you?** Life-changing. Life can change in an instant; early detection is so important to better respond for this potential curveball.



Do you have a staff member that you would like to be featured in our Clinical Champion Spotlight? Email your nominee to [gabrielle.frachiseur@uthct.edu](mailto:gabrielle.frachiseur@uthct.edu).

## Webinars



### 2021 Southeastern Colorectal Cancer Consortium Virtual Meeting

Registration for the 2021 Southeastern Colorectal Cancer Consortium Virtual Meeting has opened. Please consider attending, to gain valuable insight from experts discussing current challenges in screening and prevention. Registration is FREE.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Replay Available: 2021 Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Webcast

Did you miss NCCRT's April 15 webinar: **Colorectal Cancer Screening & COVID-19 Update: A Look at the Current Landscape One Year into the Pandemic?** Now you can [watch the replay!](#) Watch the webinar replay to learn what progress we've made and what challenges remain for colorectal cancer screening in 2021.

**Fight Colorectal Cancer** is hosting the **2021 Rally on Research**, an interactive two-day event on **June 24-25, 2021**, inspired and co-hosted by Dr. José Perea of Madrid, Spain. Engage with other researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates to build a path toward a cure for early-age onset colorectal cancer. Learn more and register.

## Publications



The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) published an updated [NCCN Clinical Practice Guideline in Oncology \(NCCN Guidelines\) for colorectal cancer screening](#) on March 25 that lowers the recommended age to start colorectal cancer screening in average risk adults to age 45.

[“Estimated Projection of US Cancer Incidence and Death to 2040,”](#) published in JAMA Network Open on April 7, includes the following sobering prediction: “In the group aged 20 to 49 years, colorectal cancer was estimated to become the leading cause of cancer-related deaths by 2030.”

Two recent publications estimate COVID-19 pandemic impacts to utilization of stool-based colorectal cancer screening tests:

- [“Model-Based Estimation of Colorectal Cancer Screening and Outcomes During the COVID-19 Pandemic,”](#) published in JAMA Network Open on April 12.
- [“Non-invasive Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests Help Close Screening Gaps during COVID-19 Pandemic,”](#) published in Gastroenterology on April 15, with [commentary published in Reuters](#) on April 30.

Candace Henley, founder of the Blue Hat Foundation and NCCRT Steering Committee member, shared the story of her experience as a Black woman navigating the healthcare system leading up to her colon cancer diagnosis at age 35 on KCM (Katie Couric Media) on April 26: [Navigating the Healthcare Gap: One Woman’s Story of Survival.](#)

Ibram X. Kendi, an American author, professor, anti-racist activist, and historian of race, shared his experience as a colon cancer survivor and highlighted the disproportionate impacts of the disease on Blacks and African Americans in GQ on April 22: [Scar Stories: The Toll of Colon Cancer.](#)

## Word Search

# Wordsearch

G	N	I	R	O	T	N	E	M	E	L	E	T	P
O	L	T	N	T	B	A	R	R	I	E	R	S	E
N	I	T	C	O	L	O	N	O	S	C	O	P	Y
F	A	C	S	R	O	G	N	I	N	I	A	R	T
I	N	T	E	R	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	S	R
U	S	M	S	F	T	A	C	T	T	T	C	T	G
D	A	T	A	E	C	P	R	I	T	T	B	N	E
Y	N	S	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	O	N
U	S	P	S	T	F	E	U	L	B	D	S	F	F
F	O	R	T	Y	F	I	V	E	Y	U	D	F	K
E	I	A	D	V	O	C	A	C	Y	E	C	H	O
I	M	P	L	E	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N
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S	P	Y	L	O	P	R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H

- ACT
- INTERVENTIONS
- FORTYFIVE
- TELEMENTORING
- IMPLEMENTATION
- TRAINING
- BLUE
- ECHO
- EBI
- COLONOSCOPY
- BARRIERS
- KNOWLEDGE
- CPRIT
- ADVOCACY
- USPSTF
- POLYPS
- ATTITUDES
- RESEARCH
- USMSFT
- FOBT
- DATA
- FIT
- ACS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2492787/>

## Let's Be Social!

### Institution and Staff

Visit the links below to keep in the loop with key players of our project.

**UTHealth Houston**



**UTHealth Houston: Center for Health Prevention and Promotion Research**



**UTHealth Houston: School of Public Health**

### Partner Organizations

Follow our partner institutions on social media.

**MD Anderson Cancer Center**



**UTHealth Science Center at Tyler**



**American Cancer Society (ACS)**





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**Program Lead Investigator:**  
Maria E. Fernandez, PhD



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**Project Director: Allison Rosen, MS**



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**Project ECHO**



## CRC Fast Facts

**45:** The age the USPSTF recommends for colorectal cancer screenings to begin.

**149,500:** Estimated new cases of CRC in 2021.

**7.9%** of all cancer cases.

**52,980** CRC-related deaths in 2021 (estimated)

**8.7%** of All Cancer Death in 2021 (estimated)

**33%** of adults over 50 have not been screened for CRCS

Screening saves lives!

Statistics from [NIH National Cancer Institute](#).

