

CANCER REGISTRY AWARDED \$1.2 MILLION TO ENHANCE DATA

Cranston, R.I. – March 8, 2011 –The Rhode Island Statewide Cancer Registry is one of ten selected to participate in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative to improve health outcomes by providing evidence to enhance patient and provider medical decisions. Rhode Island will receive more than \$1.2 million in funding to establish a specialized registry to expand and enhance data collection policies and procedures.

The Cancer Registry currently collects information on patient and tumor characteristics and first course of treatment. This dataset will be expanded to include biomarkers and systemic regimens/drugs. A standard data collection protocol for race and ethnicity data will be established to improve the quality of information available. In addition, the reporting of data will be extended to treatment facilities, physician practices and clinical laboratories. The enhanced information will enable researchers to improve health outcomes by developing evidence-based information about the effectiveness of different treatments.

“Rhode Island was selected to participate in this national effort because of the high-quality, accurate and complete data our registry provides. This is a testament to the dedicated and professional tumor registrars in our hospitals,” said David L. Rousseau, director of cancer information systems. “We look forward to developing policies and procedures to further enhance our data and raise the bar on cancer surveillance.”

The Rhode Island Statewide Cancer Registry is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Program of Cancer Registries, and has been operating under the auspices of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island since 1986. The registry collects data about occurrences of cancer diagnosed in Rhode Island residents. The data serve as a cornerstone to the state’s cancer surveillance and control efforts and aid cancer researchers. All hospitals in Rhode Island report to the Statewide Registry.

“The ability to collect and understand the data about cancer incidence in the state is critical,” said Interim Director of Health Michael Fine, MD. “These data help us to make informed decisions about screening, prevention, outreach and the expenditure of healthcare dollars. This grant will provide an opportunity to expand and enhance the state's current efforts.”

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Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, workforce shortages and decreasing reimbursement. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.