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PROSTATE

CANCER

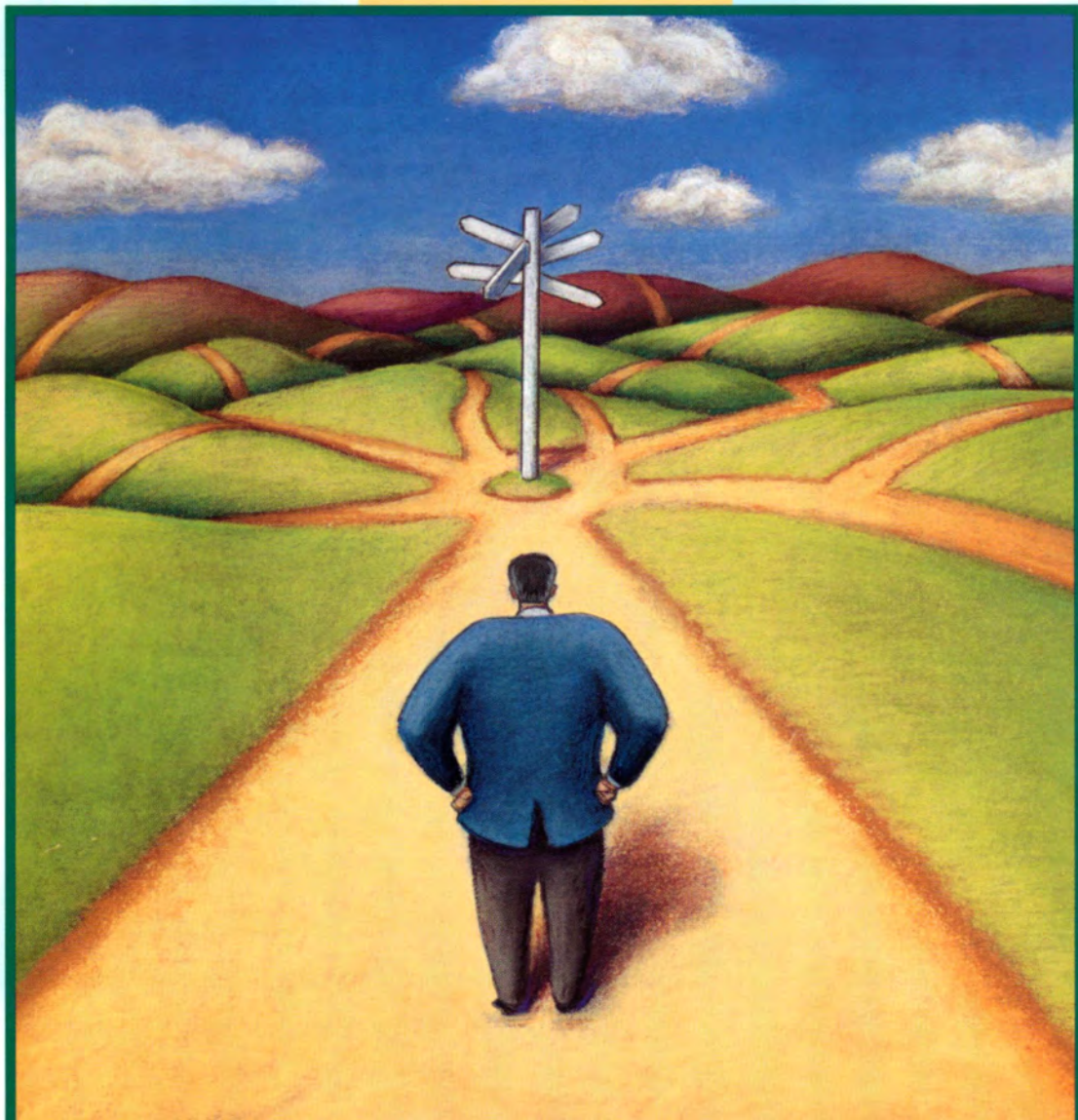
RESOURCE

GUIDE



1997 EDITION

1 file



file prostate cancer

National Prostate Cancer Coalition

Working Together to End Prostate Cancer as a Serious Health Concern for Men and Their Families

1156 15th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005

Date: January 13, 1998

To: Melanne Verveer

Fax: (202) 456-6244

From: Jay Hedlund

Phone: (202) 463-9455

Fax: (202) 463-9456

Number of Pages: 5
(Including Cover Sheet)

This is for your perusal. Please feel free to contact me or my assistant, Brian Moran, if you would like additional information.

Thank you



National Prostate Cancer Coalition

Working Together to End Prostate Cancer as a Serious Health Concern for Men and Their Families

MEMORANDUM

January 12, 1998

To: Chris Jennings
Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Health Policy Advisor
Domestic Policy Office

From: Jay Hedlund
President, National Prostate Cancer Coalition

Re: Why Prostate Cancer Needs to be a National Health Priority

As the President prepares his positions and remarks for the State of the Union address and his FY '99 Budget proposal, the following points on prostate cancer may be relevant regarding his views on increasing the federal commitment to bio-medical research.

- ◆ Prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed non-skin cancer in America and the second-leading cause of cancer death of American men (behind lung cancer). Prostate cancer represents more than 30 percent of all cancers in men.
- ◆ Prostate cancer accounts for approximately 20 percent of all new non-skin cancers, but receives less than 4 percent of federal cancer research funding.
- ◆ 209,000 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997 and 41,800 men died of the disease. About 20 percent of prostate cancers are now occurring in men between the ages of 40 and 60.
- ◆ Prostate cancer has a particularly devastating impact in the African-American community. African-American men have the highest prostate cancer incidence rates in the world. The mortality rate from prostate cancer for African-American men is more than twice that of white American men.
- ◆ In 1996, approximately the same number of lives were lost due to prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS. Deaths due to prostate cancer continued to rise in 1997. Deaths due to breast cancer and AIDS declined.
- ◆ In 1997, the federal commitment to breast cancer research was about 6 times that for prostate cancer research and for AIDS more than 16 times the allocation for prostate cancer.
- ◆ More money was spent to make the movie *Titanic* (more than \$200 million) than spent by the federal government for prostate cancer research in 1997 (approximately \$120 million).

- ◆ Research works. In the 1950's when the country was shaken by the polio epidemic, research found a cure. In the 1980's the country made a national commitment to AIDS research – and that research has paid off in dramatic breakthroughs that have led to significant drops in AIDS deaths, improved quality of life and real prospects of a cure. While we need to continue the major commitment to AIDS research, we need that same kind of national commitment to research that will lead to cures for prostate cancer and breast cancer and other deadly diseases.
- ◆ Of special interest for Buddy, the First Dog: only two species in the animal kingdom have a prostate – humans and dogs. Dogs can develop prostate cancer if fed a heavy diet of food that humans consume.

CC: Ron Klain, Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice-President
Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff, Office of the First Lady
Barbara Wooley, Public Liaison Office

By the Numbers

Prostate Cancer in America

209,000

The number of American men who were diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997.

41,800

The number of American men who died of prostate cancer in 1997.

20%

The percentage of all non-skin cancer cases that are of the prostate.

3.6%

The percentage of all federal cancer research funding dedicated to prostate cancer research.

\$250 million

The amount of promising prostate cancer research that was *not* conducted in 1997 due to lack of funding.



The National Prostate Cancer Coalition

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National Prostate Cancer Coalition

Working Together to End Prostate Cancer as a Serious Health Concern for Men and Their Families

Testimonials of Prostate Cancer Survivors & Spouses

➤ H. Norman Schwarzkopf, U.S. Army general, retired

"The PSA test is important, but by itself it is not enough (my number was 1.2, which led me to believe I didn't have cancer). The digital-rectal examination is absolutely necessary and the patient should challenge the doctor to take as much time as necessary for a thorough examination. Screening and early detection allowed me to undergo a complete cure, and today I am cancer-free."

➤ Robert Dole, Former U.S. Senator

"If I have one message about prostate cancer it is this: There is no doubt that early detection and research save lives. So my advice to every man is to get tested regularly and voice your support of increased funding for prostate cancer research."

➤ Richard Shelby, U.S. Senator

"Prostate cancer is a disease that has a similar incidence and death rate to breast cancer yet receives one-fourth as much research money. This is a serious oversight that we should correct to increase the pace of research and develop conclusive evidence on what really works and does not work in treating prostate cancer."

➤ Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator

"An annual prostate checkup meant much for me. My physician found signs of change in my prostate during my yearly visit in 1990. After follow-up tests, the diagnosis was cancer – before it had spread. Surgery took care of my problem; annual exams continue to confirm complete recovery."

➤ Jesse Helms, U.S. Senator

"The dangerous reality of prostate cancer has struck a number of us here on Capital Hill. Fortunately for me, surgery was not necessary – I underwent radiation therapy every morning for 39 days. It goes without saying that I am thankful for early detection and am convinced that it was the key to my recovered health."

➤ Rep. James A. Leach, U.S. Congressman

"I encourage all people reading this to contact your representatives. A little phone call could make the difference in prostate cancer funding. If we can increase research dollars then I believe we can get that much closer to finding a cure."

➤ Betty Gallo, wife of the late Dean Gallo, retired U.S. Congressman. Board member of NPCC.

- *"On Feb. 10, 1992, my whole life changed. Dean informed me that he had prostate cancer and that his PSA was over 800. When he told me this, the first thing I did was pray."*
- *"In August 1994, while fighting prostate cancer, Dean decided to retire from Congress. He was in tremendous pain."*
- *"President Bush came to New Jersey for an event honoring Dean's retirement from Congress. Unfortunately, Dean could not attend. The President came to the hospital and saw Dean before the event."*
- *"A few days later, Dean passed away, and the last thing Dean said was, Jesus, please take me now."*
- *"Dean and I fought prostate cancer with faith and love, and now I am a dedicated, active participant in the fight against prostate cancer."*

➤ Robert J. Samuels, retired banker. Chairman of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition.

- *"In October 1994, a urologist friend of mine ordered a series of tests for me because of my high PSA level. While lying on the doctor's table, results to my second biopsy came back within 20 minutes indicating positive."*
- *"My initial reaction was shock, confusion, fear, anger, depression, self pity"*
- *"I realized that this disease would not only affect me, but all the people who love and care about me."*
- *"There needs to be more federal research funding for prostate cancer, and we need to target and build awareness with the African American community."*