

Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness and Zero – The End of Prostate Cancer.

Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness (VPCa) www.vetsprostate.org and ZERO – the End of Prostate Cancer (ZERO) www.zerocancer.org are teaming up to address the startling prevalence of prostate cancer in the Veteran population. While the cause of this increase in cancer incidence is unknown its a theory that exposure to various occupational hazards are the culprit. The long term exposure to radar radiation, chemicals on the flight decks and flight lines, handling of depleted uranium, and combat stress are all suspects. As it will take decades to determine a “cause” it’s important to make all personnel aware of the importance of early and consistent screening for prostate cancer and other disease states. The mission of VPCa is to raise awareness of prostate cancer while helping educate the nations Veteran population about prostate cancer in general. ZERO is the leading patient advocacy organization in the US with an expertise unmatched in education and raising awareness about the disease. The new partnership is a natural combination of talents and resources focused on the support of the Veteran community.

This past week the Prostate Cancer Foundation and the VHA Joint Precision Oncology program just released data that continues to bring attention to the significant number of prostate cancer diagnosis among the Veteran Population. In the past year the United States Preventative Services Task Force updated its screening guidelines to a slightly more aggressive position that needs to be better communicated among physicians and veterans. While the VHA is taking steps to address this disease as well as men’s health concerns we strongly believe a more aggressive education campaign should be introduced. I am a firm believer the VHA can effect change in this disease space and take a global leadership role in setting screening policy, advancing treatment options, and coordinate the research activities within the VHA and the rest the healthcare industry. With the coordination of patient advocacy organizations and military associations like yours, the accomplishments made within the VHA should be celebrated and we intend to carry their message throughout the entire Veteran Population. We are inviting you to join us in this mission to educate every Veteran on the importance of prostate cancer screening, proper risk stratification so the appropriate treatment can be offered and to help the

VHA with its education outreach. The summary of the data released this past weekend follows:

The Veteran population in the USA exceeds 20 million individuals with over 9 million receiving healthcare from the Veterans Healthcare Administration.

Within the 9 million receiving care, over 7 million are males over the age of 40, which are right in the heart of the prostate cancer screening recommended age range.

Specific to Prostate Cancer:

488,000 Veterans in the VHA system with Prostate cancer TODAY

16,000 Metastatic cases in the VHA TODAY

SEER data shows a 7% Metastatic diagnosis on first detection, the VHA has a rate of 14% on first diagnosis. *(bottom line we need to screen earlier and better).

Economics – an informal study was conducted to estimate the TOTAL cost of care for a metastatic prostate cancer patient. It was determined that a conservative estimate of \$200,000 annual cost of care for a metastatic prostate cancer patient is a VERY conservative number. ($\$200,000 \times 16,000 = \3.2 Billion A YEAR in just PCa Care). In this simple example if we simply reduce the rate of metastatic cancer diagnosis to the general population, we can save the tax payers approximately \$1.6 Billion.