Prostate Cancer Networking Group



The **Prostate Cancer Networking Group** believes in Awareness, Education, Research and Screenings to fight the battle against prostate cancer. On behalf of The Prostate Cancer Networking Group, we would like to give the following reasons why we need PSA screenings in the fight against prostate cancer:

- 1) Since the PSA test was founded back in the late 80's, deaths from prostate cancer have declined from over 80,000 to approximately 30,000 annually.

 2) USPSTF is one of three major organizations focused on prostate cancer.....the other two organizations are the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the American Urological Association (AUA). We feel it is safe to say, the ASC and the AUA are more of an expert on prostate cancer than the USPSTF is since they do have Urologists and Oncologists on their staffs...... and the USPSTF does not have a Urologist or an Oncologist on its staff. We feel the USPSTF should consider the ASC and AUA recommendation that PSA screening is important and is recommended to detect prostate cancer in its early stages. Also, we believe all urologists are continuing to use PSA screenings.
- 3) We feel the medical industry has taken steps, today, to not over-treat patients for prostate cancer. New procedures have been approved to help doctors make better decisions on how to treat prostate cancer patients. Genomic Testing and PSA specific MRI's are allowing patients to make more informed decisions on whether to have surgery/radiation or to just follow "active surveillance".
- 4) The PSA test is the first step in early detection of prostate cancer and we cannot eliminate this important step. We need to use all possible means to help save lives from a cancer that affects 1 out of every 7 men.....a disease that (along with Lung, Breast and Colorectal cancer) represents over half the cancer deaths.
- 5) We believe every man has an inherent right to know if he has cancer or not and the PSA test result is one way for him to learn of prostate cancer should he contract it. The medical profession does not have the right to decide whether or not a man should be allowed to have knowledge of a condition like Prostate Cancer. PSA testing is the key for a man to know about his prostate health.

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We can all agree that the PSA test is not 100% accurate......but it is all we have to help detect prostate cancer in its early stages. We know there is research going on that will give us a screening tool that will be more accurate and more effective than the PSA test, but until that new screening tool becomes available, we need to continue using the PSA test in our fight against prostate cancer.

We, the undersigned Board of Directors of the Prostate Cancer Networking Group, with our signatures affixed, do hereby heartily endorse the above points of interest. We sign on behalf of our entire group.

Steve Hentzen, Chairman

Caesar Blevins, Vice-Chairman

Charley Vogt, Treasurer

Mike Mulcahy, Secretary