

**1993 Minority Health Conference
Welcome for session on Cancer Control
Vic Schoenbach**

Good morning and welcome to the second day of the 15th Annual School of Public Health Minority Health Conference. This morning's session is presented by the UNC Minority Cancer Control Research Program. Cancer control does not generate as much publicity as many other issues affecting the Black community. But it is a very important concern that deserves our attention.

Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in the United States. It is responsible for over half a million deaths per year - over one in five of all deaths. About 57,000 African Americans and 16,000 other minority Americans died from cancer in 1991, and the number is rising.

Before the mid-1950's, cancer mortality rates for Black Americans were below those for white Americans. Now, however, Black Americans have higher cancer mortality rates than white Americans. And for Black males the gap continues to rise. In fact, as of 10 years ago, Blacks had the highest cancer mortality rates of all racial/ethnic groups in the U.S.

The UNC Minority Cancer Control Research Program is a program of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, in cooperation with the Schools of Public Health and Medicine. Funding for the Program comes from the Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Program of the National Cancer Institute.

**The Minority Cancer Control Research Program:
conducts pilot studies that build toward major minority cancer control research projects**

carries out minority-oriented enhancements to existing cancer control studies.

To date we have or are conducting research in the areas of:

- breast cancer screening with mammograms
- smoking cessation through self-help methods
- dietary factors in prostate cancer
- ways to encourage lower income Black people to eat more dietary fiber

We are interested in new research projects and in attracting investigators to the field of minority cancer control research.

Let me now turn the podium over to Ms. Dawn Howard, who will moderate this morning's session.

One item of housekeeping - pls turn in eval forms