

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

PHEN Expands National Educational Outreach with Its 2017 Prostate Health Symposiums



Thomas Farrington, founder of the Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN)

Quincy, MA — With twelve symposiums in nine states completed from April through June, and another 13 scheduled through November, the **Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN)** is taking its educational efforts to greater heights. The Fifth Annual Symposia is a series of partnerships between churches and PHEN throughout the country. “The symposiums are a cornerstone of our efforts to increase knowledge and awareness for black men who have the highest prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates of all men in the United States,” says Thomas A. Farrington, PHEN president and founder.

The symposiums are structured for healthy men at high risk for prostate cancer, prostate cancer survivors, caregivers, and family members. Educational topics include: screening and early detection, treatment options, managing treatment side effects, advanced prostate cancer, and the importance of faith when facing cancer, each symposium is free and open to the public and includes breakfast or lunch.

Feedback from attendees has been overwhelming positive. Ninety (90) percent of those who completed the symposium evaluation form said they were satisfied with the program topics, the physician faculty and the survivor and caregiver speakers who served as panelists.

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For the 2017 symposiums, PHEN includes a clinical trials educational segment to address the need to increase African American participation in prostate cancer clinical trials, and it is making a big impact. 94% of attendees completing evaluations said they better understood clinical trials following the presentation; 84 percent developed a better understanding of the potential benefits and risks; and 62% indicated that they would now consider participating in a clinical trial.

“The symposium’s gathering of physicians, survivors, the well-informed, the casually curious and those desperately seeking answers made for a rich exchange of knowledge, experience and feelings. For me, a powerful highlight was the candid witness of the survivors and their spouses,” said Rev. Ellis I. Washington, Pastor of St. Paul AME Church, Cambridge, MA.

“I was amazed at how the testimonials impacted the group. All the men spoke freely and openly about their journeys to recovery from the disease. I am thankful for the opportunity for so many to come to a new place in their understanding and make decisions to go to their doctors and get checked. One member had prostate cancer...and had done nothing about it nor told anyone...we were immediately able to start to put together some help for him. I can emphatically declare that the symposium saved his life!!” — Rev. Dr. W. Raymond Bryant, Pastor, Bethel AME Church, San Antonio, TX

Some comments from attendees:

“All the topics were helpful and understanding, very good symposium” — Raleigh, NC

“Very informative, the M.D. was very pleasant and patient.” – St. Augustine, FL

“The doctor presenting was very good, would like to have him again.” – Cambridge, MA.

The remaining symposiums in 2017 will be held in Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Charlotte, NC; Dallas, TX; Irvine, CA; Long Island, NY; Miami, FL; Milwaukee, WI; Nashville, TN; Newport News, VA; Oakland, CA; Queens, NY; and Rock Hill, SC.

For more information, visit www.prostatehealthed.org

About PHEN

The Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) is the leading prostate cancer patient education and advocacy organization addressing the needs of African Americans. PHEN initiatives include: Monthly Support Group Meetings and Webcasts, the Annual Father’s Day Rally, Annual Educational Symposia, Clinical Trials Rally and the Annual African American Prostate Cancer Disparity Summit hosted in Washington, DC. Founded in 2003 by Thomas A. Farrington, a prostate cancer survivor, PHEN is a 501©(3) organization based in Quincy, MA.

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