

To Whom This May Concern,

Please accept this as an application for the American Head and Neck Society's Community Service Award and the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance/AHNS International Outreach Cancer Prevention Award.

The Thomas Jefferson University Department of Otolaryngology and the Division of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology is dedicated to community outreach. Over the past two years we have aimed to formalize our local efforts with quarterly community cancer screening events. This is now supported by our institution's cancer center with the collaboration and use of their mobile screening van which allows us to increase access to our community.

In the past two years we have hosted 14 head and neck cancer screening events in collaboration with 12 different community partners, screening 430 individuals and providing 15 referrals for head and neck cancer follow up. Upcoming events in the spring and summer include head and neck cancer screenings at community fairs in West and Northern Philadelphia neighborhoods as well as at the Dietz and Watson factory warehouse for an annual employee screening. These events have proven to be valuable opportunities to provide education about the risk factors for head and neck cancer, preventative measures, HPV vaccinations, and awareness of signs and symptoms. All patients are counseled on risk factors of developing head and neck cancer and any tobacco users will be offered assistance with smoking cessation.

Our cancer screenings are free events and open to the general public. It is advertised in local media print in an effort not only to increase participation, but also to increase awareness of head and neck cancer risk factors with the advertisement itself. It is also advertised throughout Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in an effort to raise awareness of the warning signs and symptoms of head and neck cancer amongst other clinicians. Resident physicians and nurse practitioners are relieved of clinical duties to participate in the screening to provide an educational experience and to emphasize the importance of public outreach and early prevention. Medical students well known to our department are encouraged to participate and have even taken on leadership roles in coordinating events and identifying opportunities for department involvement. Physicians from the radiation oncology and oral-maxillofacial surgery departments are also invited to participate. This enhances the collegial atmosphere at our institution and helps to further improve the multidisciplinary care of patients with head and neck cancer.

Average expenses for each screening are approximately \$1500. This includes design and printing costs for flyers and local media advertisements, day of van operations, supplies (tongue blades, gloves, otoscope speculums, etc.) and lunch for the participating attendings, residents and staff. All organizational and screening efforts are strictly voluntary.

We would be honored if the American Head and Neck Society would support our efforts. We thank you in advance for considering our application. Please, do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,



Arielle Thal, MD
Assistant Professor

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