

Project Title: The HPV Ripple Initiative — A Scalable, Low-Cost Education Model to Prevent HPV-Related Head & Neck Cancers

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of the Head and Neck Cancer Multidisciplinary group at Northwell health, I am pleased to submit our application for The HPV Ripple Initiative, a low-cost, high-impact project designed to expand HPV-related head and neck cancer prevention education using a volunteer-driven, tiered training model. By leveraging the expertise of head and neck cancer specialists at NY's largest health system, the enthusiasm of medical students at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, and the reach of community and high-school partners, this initiative creates a sustainable cascade of prevention messaging across Long Island and New York City.

Our project aims to deliver clear, developmentally appropriate HPV prevention education through a scalable “train-the-trainer” model. Our goal is to equip medical students with expert-developed content, empower college volunteers to co-teach simplified modules, and ultimately bring accurate HPV, HPV-related cancers with an emphasis on HPV-driven head and neck malignancies, and vaccine information directly into community colleges and public high schools’ settings. With minimal cost and strong volunteer engagement, we intend to build a durable education pipeline that strengthens early cancer-prevention awareness among youth across the region.

1. Targeted Population

Our model reaches three learner groups through a streamlined, low-cost structure:

- Medical Students at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell – trained directly by faculty experts.
- College & Community College Students –educated and trained by volunteer medical students and receive pre-created simplified modules for further dissemination.
- High School Students – educated on the school premises after obtaining permissions from appropriate authorities by volunteer medical and undergraduate college students using pre-created age-appropriate sessions delivered by student volunteers.

2. Methods to Be Used

The project maximizes impact through existing Northwell infrastructure:

- A. Faculty-Led Training of Medical Students. Faculty will also work on co-creating a curriculum and age-appropriate presentations for undergraduate college and high school levels. Medical Students Co-Create & Co-Teach with College Students. Volunteers Outreach to High Schools.
- B. Courses and webinars will be created for both in person and virtual platforms to ensure maximum reach.
- C. Deliverables include sessions, webinars, and reusable educational materials.

3. Expected Outcomes

- Train 10-20 medical students
- Engage 10-20 college volunteers
- Reach 200-500 high school and college students
- Improve HPV knowledge at all levels

- Establish a renewable volunteer pipeline for other community-related topics in head and neck cancer

4. Expected Impact on Community Health and Community Engagement: This model strengthens community health by promoting HPV vaccine awareness, addressing misconceptions, and delivering prevention education to populations with historically lower vaccination uptake. By engaging medical students, college volunteers, and high-school audiences, the initiative not only expands accurate HPV-related head and neck cancer prevention messaging but also cultivates meaningful interest in public health, cancer prevention, and community service. The project creates accessible, developmentally appropriate volunteer opportunities for students across multiple levels of training and institutions across the New York City and Long Island areas, fostering long-term commitment to outreach, advocacy, and health-promotion activities. Through its tiered structure, the HPV Ripple Initiative builds sustainable prevention-education capacity while deepening community engagement at every level.

5. Estimated Cost (Total Request: \$1,000)

- Printing brochures/posters (reusable at multiple events) – \$350
- Graphics – \$250
- Materials – \$150
- Refreshments – \$150
- Contingency – \$100

6. Additional Support

Northwell and/or hosting institutions will provide in-kind faculty time, webinar platforms, and AV support.

Conclusion

The HPV Ripple Initiative aligns with the AHNS mission by empowering future clinicians, engaging community volunteers, and delivering essential HPV prevention education. With a modest \$1,000 award, we can create durable, youth-friendly materials and reach students at the most critical ages.

Sincerely,

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