

Application for 2026 AHNS Cancer Prevention Community Service Award

Dear Members of the American Head and Neck Society Cancer Prevention Service,

The University of Michigan Department of Otolaryngology operates a mobile clinic that has previously been used for community hearing screening initiatives. We propose to repurpose this mobile clinic to deliver head and neck cancer prevention education and opportunistic screening to rural and underserved communities across Michigan, with consideration for outreach to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and other geographically distant regions with limited access to specialty care.

The targeted population includes rural communities, individuals with limited access to subspecialty evaluation, populations with higher tobacco and alcohol use prevalence, and communities with lower HPV vaccination uptake. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan, in particular, represents an area where access to otolaryngology services may require hours of travel. Geographic barriers often translate into delayed diagnosis and more advanced disease at presentation. By bringing prevention efforts directly to these communities, we aim to reduce those barriers.

The methods for this initiative are feasible with a \$1,000 award. With this funding, the mobile clinic could travel to these communities with staff to provide head and neck cancer screening. We plan to coordinate with local community centers, high schools, and clinics to promote the event in advance.

On site, we would plan to provide evidence-based educational materials outlining major risk factors for head and neck cancer, including tobacco use, alcohol exposure, and human papillomavirus (HPV). This would include information on HPV vaccination and provide guidance on how eligible individuals can access vaccination.

In addition to education, we will offer brief risk-factor counseling and focused visual head and neck examinations for participants who desire screening. Individuals with concerning findings will be counseled and referred to appropriate local providers or to the University of Michigan for further evaluation. Our department will provide supervising faculty, trainee participation, and clinical equipment as in-kind institutional support.

Our goal is to educate 100 to 200 individuals during these awareness events, depending on the number of mobile clinic stops and community turnout we are able to coordinate. With school participation, this number would be greater. Expected outcomes include increased awareness of head and neck cancer risk factors and early symptoms, improved understanding of HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancer, and reinforcement of tobacco cessation efforts. Even a small number of earlier detections or timely referrals would have meaningful implications.

The estimated costs are as follows:

- If able to coordinate a stop in the Upper Peninsula, a round trip from Ann Arbor to Marquette, Michigan, is approximately 900 miles. Assuming a fuel efficiency of 10 to 12

miles per gallon for the mobile clinic, the trip would require approximately 75 to 90 gallons of fuel. At an estimated average fuel cost of \$3.50 per gallon, total fuel expenses would range from approximately \$260 to \$315.

- Printing costs for 1,000 educational brochures covering HPV, tobacco risks, and early symptoms are estimated at approximately \$400.
- Posters, community flyers, and promotional materials are estimated at \$100.
- Laminated educational display boards and visual aids for the mobile clinic are estimated at \$75.
- Basic disposable supplies, including tongue depressors, gloves, handouts, and related materials, are estimated at \$150.
 - The total projected cost ranges from approximately \$900 to \$1,040.

The requested \$1,000 award would be used directly for travel and educational materials. Pending permissions and approvals, The University of Michigan Department of Otolaryngology would provide the mobile clinic vehicle, staffing, and clinical equipment as in-kind support. There has been no additional external funding secured at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

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