

NARAP Implementation Study

By Gary Vastola, NARAP Chief Marketing Officer



In February, NARAP launched a new multi-center study, called the **Implementation Study** to measure the effect Research Associates in emergency departments can have on public health screening. Dr. Keith Bradley MD, the CEO of NARAP in announcing the new study explained it would span 5-years and when completed touch ~300,000 emergency department patients and visitors making it the largest clinical research study ever undertaken.

The Implementation Study has been under development for over a year and builds on past NARAP studies focused on tobacco cessation, cervical and breast cancer, and colon-rectal cancer screenings. With tobacco being a known contributor to cancer, especially lung cancer and early screening and prevention reducing the cancer mortality rate, NARAP has embarked on an aggressive plan to leverage its growing consortium of Affiliate hospitals and volunteer Research Associates (pre-health professional students) to undertake this study.

The objectives of the study are three-fold.

- To determine the percentage of participants needing to undergo lung, breast, cervical or colon-rectal cancer screening.
- To determine the likelihood of study participants following through on completing the recommended cancer screening.
- To determine the barriers to study participants completing the recommended cancer screening.

The reality is that cancer is the #2 cause of death in the United States. A close second to heart attacks. Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer death among both men and women; about 1 out of 4 cancer deaths are from lung cancer. Current statistics also indicate that 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer over the course of their lifetime with colon-rectal cancer being the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. with 15.1 per 100,000 men and women based on 2009-2013 deaths. As a testimonial to screening, the American Cancer Society reports that there will be approximately 12,820 new cases of invasive cervical cancer in 2017 dramatically reducing the number of new cases over the years due to enhanced awareness and the availability of the Pap test.

With proper screening leading to early detection and treatment, NARAP has blended three of its previously successful clinical research studies on tobacco cessation, cervical and breast cancer, and colon-rectal cancer into the new study. Patients and visitors in emergency departments across the U.S. will soon have the opportunity to participate in the NARAP Implementation Study as they wait their turn to see a doctor.

NARAP Implementation Study continued...

NARAP Research Associates located in the emergency department at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, Connecticut were the first to undertake the study. Training took place in February and the Research Associates will perform the study over their 10-week Spring Semester. A study guide and training materials developed by Dr. Bradley and his team have been shared with the other NARAP Affiliate hospitals with the request that they implement the new study beginning in the Summer Semester that starts in June.

NARAP plans to publish the results of the study annually with year-over-year comparisons serving as a guidepost to determining public awareness and follow through for cancer screening and prevention. The new study also promises to provide NARAP Research Associates invaluable experience in interfacing with patients and visitors for their discernment, qualification and development as future health care professionals resulting in a win-win for the America Public and pre-health professional students.