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The arghile smoking epidemic among Arab Americans in south east Michigan

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The water pipe (arghile) is used to smoke specially made tobacco. Tobacco is the single greatest cause of preventable death in the world (WHO, 2008a), currently killing 6 million people every year, 72% of whom live in low- and middle- income countries. Contrary to popular belief, smoking arghile is often more harmful than cigarette smoking. Arghile smoke contains dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, heavy metals, and cancer-causing chemicals and nicotine. A typical 1-hour arghile session generates as much smoke as a 100 cigarettes. Arghile smoking more than doubles the risk of lung cancer, respiratory illness, and low birth weight. Arghile is used daily by millions of men and women globally and is especially prevalent in countries with a high rate of smoking ranging from 77% in Yemen to 61.9% in Jordan to 42.6% in Syria. The high prevalence of tobacco& arghile consumption among the Arab world is the single most important factor responsible for increasing cancer incidence in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Tobacco causes about 90% of all lung cancers (MPOWER, 2008). Other tobacco-related cancers, such as caners of the bladder, oral cavity, larynx, esophagus, and colon, are among the five most common cancers that effect Arab males. Prevalence of arghile smoking among Arab Americans is estimated at 33%, owing to a mix of Arab cultural and pop-culture factors. About one-third to one-half of all long term smokers will die 15 years younger of tobacco-related diseases than a nonsmoker. Arghile impacts the general population as well with many students and adults that visit Hookah bars to socialize. Arghile smoking holds important cultural significance and many Arab American households have their own arghile at home which are smoked during family gatherings or after meals. In the Middle East and in Arab American communities throughout the U.S., arghile smoking is available at cafes, restaurants, and 'hookah lounges.' ACCESS has developed a culturally and linguistically appropriate evidence based model to address the issue of arghile that impacts a community of close to 400,000 Arab Americans in South East Michigan. ACCESS educates all members of the community including youth and women about the harmful impact of arghile smoking and helps break cultural barriers to address the issue. Currently, ACCESS is working to develop programs to expand their tobacco cessation program to incorporate arghile smoking.

Biography

Adnan Hammad is the Senior Director of ACCESS Community Health & Research Center at the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) and is the Chairman of the National and International Health Research Initiative. In this capacity he adopted a holistic approach to address the health care needs of the Arab American community. This approach integrates public health education, research and environment, mental health, primary and specialty medical care. In addition to his role with ACCESS in serving the community, he currently serves as adjunct professor at Wayne State University school of Medicine-Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences. He also holds numerous leadership roles in professional, non-profit and non-governmental organizations including serving in various capacities on a number of regional, national, and international organizations. He authored and co-authored over 170 publications in the fields of health risk behavior and epidemiological research, including the ethnicity and disease special supplements on Arab American health. He is currently the Chairman of the 7th biennial Conference on Health Issues in the Arab American Community. He has received numerous recognitions for his advocacy and health research including: the Wayne State University School of Medicine Pathfinders in Medicine Award 2004, the American Cancer Society's National Humanitarian Award 2009; and the St. George National Award, 2012, to name a few. His international recognitions include: Managing Director of Makassed Hospital, Jerusalem, and Health Consultant for the Harvard Institute of International Development in the Middle East and Senior Health Planner for strategic health planning programs in the Middle East in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Relief & Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Dr. Hammad has several degrees including, Master of Health Sciences, High Post Graduate Diploma in Health Economy, and a Doctorate in Public Health Services and Policy.

Hedgehog signaling pathway and the acquired chemoresistance

Wenfu Tan

Fudan University, China

This lecture will address how hedgehog signaling pathway controls the chemoresistant phenotype of acquired chemoresistance, including: How hedgehog signaling pathway is activated in the acquired chemoresistant cancer cells; whether the smoothened receptor may transmit the GPCR-like signaling and subsequently be involved in the Gli-dependent acquired chemoresistance; whether and how hedgehog signaling pathway promote the acquired chemoresistance by maintaining the tumor-initiating cell like properties of acquired chemoresistant cancer cells.

Biography

Wenfu Tan has studied tumor pharmacology for 15 years, during which he has authored around 15 peer-reviewed reports. He is a member of the Chinese Association of Tumor Pharmacology, and has served on numerous review committees, including the Nature Science Foundation of China (NSFC).