

THE KEOP FILTER

July 2009

KEOP By The Numbers:

- NC Citizens Screened: **2074**
- Counties with current outreach activities: **24**

Demographics of Screening Participants (n=2074):

- 50% African-American
- 23% Diabetes
- 48% Hypertension
- 22% with family history of kidney disease
- 54% with early signs of kidney problems (protein in urine)

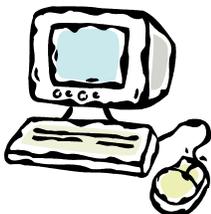
Community Outreach Update

Since our last newsletter, the KEOP has conducted outreach and education in 4 new counties: Catawba, Halifax, Rowan, and Washington.

In the upcoming months we will be beginning outreach activities in Johnston and Moore Counties.

Check us out on the web:

www.unckidneycenter.org/outreach.html



POLICY UPDATE: THE "HEART PREVAILS" LAW HELPS INCREASE ORGAN DONATION ACROSS THE STATE

In the Fall of 2007, North Carolina became one of thirty-two states that have now adopted the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) that streamlines the process of organ donation. One important provision of the UAGA is its mandate that the decision to have the heart symbol on one's drivers license be legally sufficient consent for organ, tissue and eye donation. Before this provision, a driver's license designation did not pass for legal consent, only intent to donate - familial consent still had to be obtained for organ donation.

According to Carolina Donor Services, since the passage of this legislation (SL 2007-358), introduced by Representative Dale Folwell, the rate of organ donations has increased. It is not possible to specifically identify the catalyst for this increase but nonetheless, this is good news for the 3,084 patients on the waiting list for an organ in North Carolina, including over 2,000 currently waiting for a kidney.

Along with increasing organ donation from deceased individuals, the UNC Kidney Center's KEOP is also working to increase living organ donation for kidney recipients through outreach, education, and possible policy initiatives (see below for more information).

OUTREACH UPDATE: KEOP PROMOTES TRANSPLANTATION AND ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS

With help from the Allan Brewster Memorial Fund, the KEOP is expanding its awareness campaign to promote understanding about kidney transplantation and the importance of organ donation.

Through podcasts, handouts and community-based information sessions, the KEOP will share the facts about the need for kidney donors and encourage North Carolinians to register as organ donors on their NC driver's license.

North Carolina Kidney Transplant Fast Facts:

There are two types of kidney transplants: those that come from living donors and those that come from unrelated donors who have died (non-living donors).

In North Carolina (2008):

- 2,456 persons were on waiting lists for a kidney
- 524 kidney transplants were performed
- There were 238 deceased kidney donors and 115 live kidney donors
- 61.8% of licensed drivers were actionable designated donors

If someone is interested in becoming a living kidney donor, it is important to know that:

- Transplantation occurs only if there is 1) a good chance of a successful outcome for the recipient, 2) a low risk to the donor, and 3) the voluntary consent of both parties.
- The donor must have health insurance to ensure care for any health problems detected in the pre-transplantation medical examination.
- Over 90% of donors experience no complications
- A matched pair donation is an option if a donor is not a compatible donor for a loved one

For more information on how to be an organ donor in NC: www.donatelifenc.org

UNC KIDNEY CENTER SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

The UNC KEOP is here to help you! Please contact Caroline Jennette, Legislative Liaison, if you would like more information about kidney disease, the KEOP, or the UNC Kidney Center in general.

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You can also check us out on the web at:

www.unckidneycenter.org

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- The UNC Kidney Center enjoyed visiting the NC Legislature in March 4th. Fifty-five people participated in the free screening and Kidney Center members discussed prevention and awareness program activities with legislators and staff.
- On March 10th, the Kidney Center hosted a luncheon to celebrate the announcement of the Allan Brewster Fund. In 1991, two sisters came to UNC to participate in a kidney transplant. One sister donated a kidney and the other sister was the recipient. Their aunt, Shirley Gilman, continued to express gratitude for the subsequent good health enjoyed by both her nieces and, eventually, dedicated her estate to the Allan Brewster Fund, named for the sisters' deceased brother. These funds will support an additional transplant fellow, assist kidney donors with medical and subsistence expenses, support the Allan Brewster Distinguished Professorship and provide funds for a transplant public awareness campaign. More on this story of gratitude and generosity can be found at www.unckidneycenter.org/brewsternews.html.
- On March 21st, the fourth annual Kidney Kare Run in Chapel Hill attracted just under four hundred participants and \$12,000 was raised to help support the KEOP's free education and screening efforts across North Carolina communities.

KEOP SCREENING UPDATE

The following screenings have occurred from January through June:

Bloomer Hill Clinic (Edgecombe), NC Legislature (Wake), New Directions Life Ministries (Stanly), Health Fair on the Block (Orange), Oak Grove Church (Wake), Kirkwood Adams Community Center (Halifax and Northampton), Salisbury YMCA (Rowan), Senior Center (Washington), Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries (Catawba), Whitestone Mason and Eastern Star Home (Guilford).

Fall screenings and awareness sessions will take place in:

Washington, Northampton, Johnson, Stanly, Moore, Wake, Lenoir, Bertie Counties

If you would like for the KEOP to conduct a screening in your district, please contact Donna Harward 919.966.2561 ext 300 or donna_harward@med.unc.edu.

Fast Facts:

- Kidneys remove fluid and wastes from the body, release hormones to help regulate blood pressure, and help balance the body's electrolytes.
- North Carolina ranks 9th in the nation for statewide prevalence of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD), which requires dialysis or transplant.
- Approximately 900,000 (11%) of North Carolinians have chronic kidney disease (CKD).
- 4 risk factors for kidney disease are: diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and family history of kidney disease.
- The good news: Early detection of kidney disease can prevent the progression to End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD).



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