

fourth annual "African American Prostate Cancer Disparity Summit"

Washington, DC (BlackNews.com) -

The Prostate Health Education Network, Inc. (PHEN) will host its fourth annual "African American Prostate Cancer Disparity Summit" in Washington, DC on September 25 - 26, 2008. "Since our very first summit in 2005, this event has proven highly effective in bringing together members of congress, medical and research specialists, survivors and members of industry to address one of the biggest health crisis in Black America," states PHEN president Thomas Farrington. African American men die at a rate of 2.4 times that of all other men from prostate cancer. This is the largest racial disparity for any type of cancer.

Because of the overwhelming success of the annual PHEN summits on Capitol Hill, the 2008 Summit will be held in conjunction with the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). The summit program on Thursday, September 25th will be held in the Rayburn House Office Building; Friday's, September 26th, program will be held at the Washington Convention Center as one of the ALC "Issue Forums."

Speakers on Thursday will include Tavis Smiley, US

Senator John Kerry, US Congressman Gregory Meeks, President of the American Association of Cancer Institutes, Dr. Edward Benz, former major league star and prostate cancer survivor, Ken Griffey, Sr., and many others.

The Friday program will use a "Town Hall Meeting" format to outline an "action blueprint" to properly address the prostate cancer crisis in Black America. This blueprint will be presented to the incoming Administration in 2009. Panelists will include well recognized leaders in the war on prostate cancer. The health policy advisers for both Senators Obama and McCain have been invited.

Both days of the summit will be exciting and educational. All of the sessions will include outstanding speakers with presentations on topics with the potential to impact on reducing the prostate cancer crisis. Attendees will also have ample opportunities to participate and network with others.

There is no charge to attend the summit and it is open to the public. However, attendees must register for the "Annual Legislative Conference" to attend the Friday program in the Washington

Convention Center. For additional information about the summit and how to register, please visit www.ProstateHealthEd.org

About the Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN):

PHEN is an I.R.C. 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that was founded by Thomas A. Farrington, who is a prostate cancer survivor and author of the book *Battling the Killer Within* and most recently, *Battling the Killer Within and Winning*. PHEN's mission is to increase prostate health education and awareness among African-American men. For additional resources and information, visit the PHEN website at www.prostatehealthed.org

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Blood Donors are Everybody's Type

An old slogan used in community blood drive campaigns said, "Blood is like a parachute. If you don't have it when you need it, chances are you'll never need it again." This pushed the life-and-death necessity of blood availability and the need for donors. Nowadays, bloodmobiles can be found outside churches, shopping malls, schools, grocery stores and anywhere else large groups of people congregate. Some offer giveaways to donors, including refreshments, t-shirts, coupons and tickets.

To make the slogan more specific, blood is like a parachute that opens for one person but not another person. That is because people have differing

blood groups, some of which are compatible with each other while others are incompatible. Red blood cells are part of the ABO system because they are divided into categories of O, A, B and AB. While all four blood groups exist throughout the world, distributions levels vary among nations and ethnic groups.

According to the American Red Cross, O is the most common blood group among African Americans. Group O is a "universal donor," meaning people with this blood group can donate to recipients of all four groups. Other blood groups have limited cross-compatibility. Some individuals possess rare blood types that make normal transfusion procedures difficult. Blood types are genetically inherited, just like eye color and other physical traits. As a result, transfusion patients with rare blood types generally have a better success rate with a donor of similar ethnic background and compatible ABO group. This affects patients with sickle cell disease, who are largely African American, as well as other conditions.

What does this mean for you? In short, African American blood donors are needed. No matter how rare or common your blood type is, somebody somewhere needs it. The next time you see the bloodmobile, stop inside or contact your local blood bank. If you're concerned that you may have a disqualifying condition, ask questions before dismissing the idea. It is an easy way for a healthy individual to help save lives.

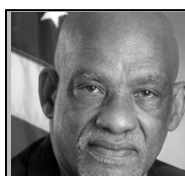
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