

Tomeka's Story

One Life: Why We Went Into Medicine

The interdisciplinary efforts of more than 100 people at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) made it possible to diagnose Tomeka Harps' cervical cancer. The insistence of one woman at her church made it happen.



Kim R. Geisinger, MD, FCAP, with Tomeka Harps during one of her chemotherapy sessions, two months after she was diagnosed at a See, Test & Treat program in Jackson, Mississippi.

Harps' cancer was found January 28 as part of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Foundation's See, Test & Treat® program that provides free cervical and breast cancer screenings to underserved women. The screenings, along with one for acral melanoma, were offered by UMMC, the CAP, and New Horizon Church in Jackson, Mississippi.

"I'm about to start crying," Harps said recently, days after her first chemotherapy session. "That program is so important. Since I've been diagnosed, I've been talking to so many women. They haven't seen a doctor. Some can't afford it, and some are scared."

The value of every life is the element that led Kim R. Geisinger, MD, FCAP, and Stephen S. Raab, MD, FCAP, pathologists at UMMC, to seek the CAP Foundation grant.

"That one woman with cancer. One person. To me, that one lady makes all the difference in the world," Dr. Geisinger said.

After several years of having abnormal Pap test results, Harps faced barriers to health care. Five years later, her New Horizon congregational care nurse, Ella Jackson, insisted that she go to the UMMC screening.

"It was Stage 2B," Harps said. "I was diagnosed on Saturday. Bethany (Sabins) called me and said, 'We need you to come in Monday morning.' By Wednesday I was seeing a radiation oncologist."

Harps is fortunate the cancer hadn't spread beyond her pelvis, said Mildred Ridgway, MD, a gynecologic oncologist who leads the GYN team. As a physician who volunteered for the screening, she believes that See, Test & Treat is a success if just one patient benefits in the long term.

Harps, with children ages 13, 12, and 8, said at 33 she values life more each day. She has now completed radiation therapy, is in the midst of chemotherapy, and then will have brachytherapy.

Of the 30 women who received a mammogram, 11 had abnormal readings. Of the 33 who received Pap tests, two had abnormal readings. All participants were screened for acral melanoma, and four were referred for follow-up. Physicians or nurses discussed results with each woman who was then provided with names and contacts for medical providers for follow-up.

Dr. Raab, who had worked with the CAP before, said, "It seemed like a great idea to have a partnership with a national organization that combines the community point of view."



Stephen S. Raab, MD, FCAP, lead pathologist, and Hillary "Brooke" Sims, MD, both with University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The program also gave pathologists an opportunity to meet patients. Dr. Raab points to the enthusiasm of participants and the women who received testing. Several referred to the "red carpet treatment" they received with students escorting them from one part of the screening to another and with live cooking and exercise demonstrations in the lobby. A financial advisor helped women who wanted to see if they qualified for any existing programs such as Medicaid.

Dr. Raab said, "This is why we originally went into medicine—this feeling you're really helping someone."

Thanks to Hologic Communities of Practice Support Better Patient Care Through See, Test & Treat

Passionate, uplifting, inspiring, empowering: These are just a few of the words used to describe the CAP Foundation's See, Test & Treat program during a recent telephone conference with CAP member leaders.

After the meeting, Barbarajean Magnani, PhD, MD, FCAP, elaborated, "See, Test & Treat is a wonderful opportunity to work with your clinical colleagues and provide a day of health care screening for women who may need it most, and can least afford it."

The organization's flagship program for community outreach and treatment wouldn't be possible, however, if it were not for generous partners who share the CAP's vision for safe and accurate testing that makes people healthier.

Hologic, Inc., a global health care and diagnostics company, is one of the partners that supports the CAP Foundation's humanitarian and health care outreach. Recently, Hologic has been sponsoring meetings known as a community of practice. At these sessions, physicians and leaders explore See, Test & Treat program opportunities and challenges.

Communities of practice are groups of people who share a common concern or passion and work toward the same goal, learning from one another and improving their efforts as they interact. For example, both Hologic and the CAP Foundation continue to learn the best ways to accurately and efficiently test underserved patients through their experiences in See, Test & Treat.

"As a leader in diagnostics, Hologic is honored to play a role in a cancer screening program for women who might not otherwise



Sang Wu, MD, FCAP (in the white coat behind the volunteers on the right) is the program host of the IVFMD See, Test & Treat program in Irving, Texas.

have such an opportunity," said Tom West, president, Diagnostic Solutions Division at Hologic. "Together, Hologic and See, Test & Treat are giving patients a strong sense of certainty."

Both the CAP and Hologic share a common concern for health, particularly through laboratory medicine. Hologic produces leading-edge tests and diagnostic equipment while the CAP helps ensure that laboratory practitioners, their methods, and their laboratory equipment are all up to the gold standard created by the largest board-certified pathologist organization.

At a typical See, Test & Treat program, as many as 100 or more women may undergo testing on a single day. Few medical facilities have the resources to accommodate so many patients at once. That's where Hologic comes in.

Hologic lends equipment and donates supplies—such as their ThinPrep system, which includes the only liquid-based Pap test—enabling the facility to handle the single-day demand.

When companies like Hologic partner with the CAP Foundation, the site, the sponsoring pathologist, other specialties, and many volunteers, See, Test & Treat is "one of the most efficient days for coordinated health care ever," says Dr. Magnani.



Eva M. Wojcik, MD, FCAP (fourth from left) is the lead pathologist at Loyola's See, Test & Treat program, a participant in communities of practice, and a member of the CAP Foundation Board.

A Familiar ‘Ring’: Leadership Development Awards Identify and Support Promising Residents

See, Test & Treat began with a concept that turned the standard model on its head.

What if the term *health care* delivery were interpreted literally?

What if an all-star team were to launch a one-day, culturally sensitive, preventive medicine push that hop-scotched over barriers to care in isolated patient communities?

And what if *challenges* that day were seen as opportunities for that team to connect, consult, and brainstorm solutions on the fly?

See, Test & Treat is about locally driven, dynamic, and durable change. Pathologists volunteer because they see a need; problem solving is in their DNA. Within the CAP, support for that problem solving speaks to our mission.

Which is why Alvin M. Ring, MD, FCAP, a member of the CAP Foundation Grants Committee, had been looking forward to reviewing applications for the committee’s Leadership Development Awards. Dr. Ring had been asked to select three winners from among eight finalists, each of whom would be funded to attend a major conference.

An emeritus member and CAP Foundation director from Illinois who has taught and mentored residents for decades, Dr. Ring knows what a future leader looks like. After an hour with those applications, however, he had eliminated exactly none. In the end, he donated \$5,000 from his own family’s charitable fund to the CAP Foundation so that no one would be turned away.

Shortly afterward, David A. Cohen, MD, an AP/CP resident at Houston Methodist Hospital, learned that he had made the cut. Solid choice: Dr. Cohen had been a volunteer for See, Test & Treat since his first year of residency. His CV showed involvement with the CAP: as secretary for the Residents Forum Executive Committee and also as a former delegate. He also had served on his hospital’s House Staff Council.

Dr. Cohen has a passionate commitment to See, Test & Treat. “Cervical cancer is preventable!” he firmly says. Explaining to patients what their results mean is a natural fit for a lot of pathology residents, he points out. A significant number are multilingual, a sought-after skill when many patients do not speak English.

When Dr. Cohen describes the value of a same-day turnaround for cytology results, which allows for same-day therapeutic procedures and reduces the likelihood that patients will be lost to follow-up, his sense of ownership is tangible. “Pathologists are really good at making sure things get done,” he says. “And they want pathology to be a specialty where they can be part of a multidisciplinary team. If more residents knew about See, Test & Treat, I’m sure they would do it.”

All of which confirms Dr. Ring’s reputation for an intuition about people. He knows the markers of leadership: commitment, pragmatism, generosity, energy. And he recognizes the qualities of those who will solve, build, innovate—and give back.



Dr. Alvin M. Ring, MD, FCAP



David A. Cohen, MD

Make an Instant, Direct Connection to the CAP Foundation

News and information now runs, more than ever, at the speed of tweets and posts.

Now you can follow all the news surrounding the CAP Foundation’s See, Test & Treat program, as well as its many grant and award opportunities through Facebook and Twitter.

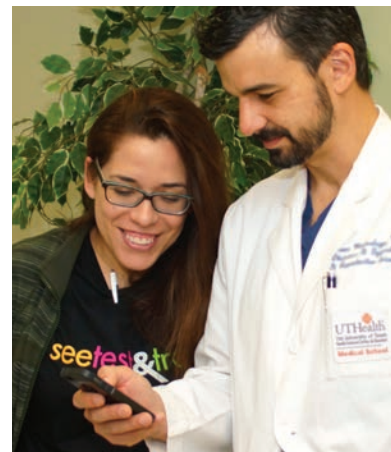
Search for the CAP Foundation or @capfndn on both platforms for regular updates, photos, and articles. For instance, you may have missed the news regarding the success of 2017’s first two See, Test & Treat programs. In Katy, Texas, preliminary results report that volunteers provided nearly 75 Pap tests and more than 30 mammograms to patients in need who were then able to schedule immediate follow-up treatment based on their same-day results.

These life-saving programs would not be possible without the support of partners, members, and donors. Be sure to tell your online communities about the donation options available. You’ll also be able to communicate directly with the CAP Foundation staff with any questions regarding donations or volunteering.

When you tag the CAP Foundation in any related tweets use the hashtag **#SeeTestTreat** to get the word out about the flagship program that brings health care to hundreds of underserved women across the United States.

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Volunteers at a See, Test & Treat program at the Sunnyside Health Center in Houston.

Delivering Life-Saving Cancer Screenings to Women of Every Background



Nepalese women at the Charles Drew Health Center program in Omaha, Nebraska.

Of all the barriers between women across the country and life-saving cervical and breast cancer screenings, the language barrier can be one of the most difficult to overcome. At Charles Drew Health Center in Omaha, Nebraska, Anthony Montegut, MD, says that many women in the community speak a primary language other than English and that puts them at a high risk of these cancers going untreated.

“A lot of these women move around frequently, and their addresses and phones change before we can arrange follow-up care or find out if they qualify for assistance,” Dr. Montegut said. “See, Test & Treat helps eliminate those barriers by arranging everything on the same day.”

Charles Drew is the site of the pilot programs of See, Test & Treat more than a decade ago, serving at-risk women on Native American reservations. Gene N. Herbek, MD, FCAP, pathologist at Charles Drew, former CAP Foundation Board member, and former CAP president, led the pilot. He has since seen See, Test & Treat grow to reach thousands of women in more than 10 languages.

Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD), a major donor, contributed to the Omaha program, the first one of its kind in the city.

A medical technology company that manufactures and sells medical devices, instrument systems, and reagents, BD forged the partnership between the CAP Foundation and Charles Drew. BD contributed \$50,000 over two years of planning and implementation.

“Even though this was our first year, we delivered at least 40 cervical cancer screenings, each one to a woman who had no other alternative,” Dr. Montegut said. “About one third had never had a Pap test in their life. One result was confirmed to be cancerous.”

A language interpreter at Charles Drew recalled helping a group of mostly elderly women from Nepal explain how grateful they were to receive screenings at no cost. Overcome with emotion, the Nepalese women sang a song in their native language. Dr. Montegut said it was one of the most touching moments he has experienced as a physician.

In a beautiful thank-you note, a Spanish-speaking woman said she was grateful there was a program that helped women like her.

“Our only limit is how we can work together as a health care industry and as a community. With supporters like BD we have the opportunity to save lives,” said Dr. Herbek.

seetest&treat

2017 Program Pipeline

For a complete list of dates and locations of upcoming See, Test & Treat programs, please visit foundation.cap.org.

WEST

Los Angeles, CA

MIDWEST

Maywood, IL

Ann Arbor, MI

Omaha, NE

Minneapolis, MN

EAST

Cambridge, MA

Newark, NJ

Bronx, NY

SOUTH

Jackson, MS

Katy, TX

Houston, TX (2 programs)

Irving, TX

Fort Worth, TX

Liberty, TX

Norton, VA

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President's Column

Four Crucial Days in a Young Woman's Life



By Karim E. Sirgi, MD, MBA, FCAP

Just four days from screening to treatment, from uninsured and undiagnosed to diagnosed and treated.

This is, literally, what

“See, Test & Treat” means: serving women immediately and efficiently.

At a Jackson, Mississippi See, Test & Treat program in January, on a Saturday morning (see p. 1), Tomeka Harps was screened and received a diagnosis of invasive squamous cancer—a very difficult diagnosis to deliver to a 33-year-old young woman. Volunteers immediately comforted her and set up a treatment plan. By the following Tuesday she already had seen an oncologist, and by Wednesday—just four days later—she had started radiation therapy.

Stories like this happen over and over. Someone's mother, sister, or daughter gets a fighting chance for survival at every See, Test & Treat program. That fighting chance comes from you, through your volunteerism and your donations. The CAP Foundation is grateful for what you do, and the patients are, as well.

Each one-day local See, Test & Treat program serves 50 to 125 underserved women at participating medical facilities around the country. These disadvantaged women, as you well know, face a significantly higher mortality rate from preventable cancers than the general population.

The CAP Foundation is much more than a feel-good-about-ourselves kind of organization. Donations of time and money are truly investments in our profession. The return on this investment accrues directly to you—allowing your professional colleagues to gain an education and exposure that they wouldn't get during a normal residency or fellowship.

Time, of course, is our most precious resource and many amazing CAP members freely donate time as volunteers at See, Test & Treat programs.

The investment of time isn't enough to sustain the CAP Foundation's programs. Our financial support comes from the College of American Pathologists, many outside companies and organizations, and CAP members like you.

My chief goal as president of the CAP Foundation is to increase awareness of the impact the foundation has on our communities. Successful in my professional and business life, I'm ready to give back to the community. The CAP Foundation is an intelligent investment in the future of our specialty. It is the “soft diplomacy” touch our membership collectively contributes back to our internal and external stakeholders.

Recently, I asked a few friends and colleagues to estimate the percentage of CAP members who donate to the CAP Foundation. After guessing numbers in the range of 25% to 30%, they were surprised to learn that only 4% of CAP members are donors. As an organization, I know we can do better.

While we pathologists serve as the brains of medicine, Ms. Harps' story reminds us that we are the heart, too. In the spirit of “I don't care how much you know, I really want to know how much you care,” the CAP Foundation is our collective opportunity to demonstrate how much we care.

Our communities have many women like Tomeka Harps. Join me in helping to raise our contribution level beyond 4%. Please use the enclosed envelope to show where your heart is.

We owe it to someone's mother, sister, or daughter.

IRA Charitable Rollover

Here's a great way to support the CAP Foundation. If you are at least 70½ years old, you may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from individual retirement accounts to a qualified charitable organization. Your donation will not be subject to income taxes on the distribution.

For details, please contact Denise Kainrath at 847-832-7718 or CAPFdn@cap.org.



A fighting chance (see p. 5).

Online at foundation.cap.org:

- Photo galleries
- Patient and donor stories
- CAP Foundation partners
- Grants
- Leadership Development Award
- Informatics Award
- Upcoming See, Test & Treat dates and locations
- Board member bios
- And much more!

In This Issue:

- From screening to treatment in four days
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