

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON PROSTATE CANCER: A HISTORIC LANDMARK

\$650 Million Prostate Research Imaging and Men's Education Act is Introduced



**LEADING THE BATTLE AGAINST
THE PROSTATE CANCER CRISIS**



Rep. Elijah Cummings
(D-MD)



Faina Shtern, M.D.
President and CEO, AdMeTech Foundation



Lou Gossett, Jr.
Oscar-winning actor



Theodore DeWeese, M.D.
Chair and Professor, Radiation Oncology
Johns Hopkins University

NBC News Coverage, March 4, 2010

PSA screenings a cause for confusion (by Tracie Potts)

(NBC) - New recommendations on whether men should be screened for prostate cancer are causing confusion. The American Cancer Society, urologists and government researchers disagree on whether the popular PSA blood test and digital rectal exams are effective. Congress took up the issue today.

The PSA blood test and rectal exams can detect prostate cancer but can't determine if it's harmless or deadly. "We must find a way to ignore the kittens and focus treatment on the deadly lions," explained oncologist Theodore DeWeese.

Biopsies aren't guided by high-tech imaging like mammograms are so they can miss deadly cancers. To be safe, doctors treat them all and leave thousand of men impotent or incontinent. Many live with the disease and never know it. "Many will die with prostate cancer who never have side effects or any prostate cancer-related symptoms," said Dr. William Dahut of the National Cancer Institute.

Is screening worth it? The American Cancer Society's new advice: men should only be screened if they've been informed of the risks.

Lou Gossett, Jr. supports development of better tests. He stated, "It's like winning a lottery now."

Dr. Otis Brawley is the chief medical officer for the American Cancer Society. "There are uncertainties, known risks and at this time, possible benefits," said Brawley.

Dr. Faina Shtern is working on imaging and told Congress it's to save lives and money. "There is a possibility to save over two billion dollars," said Shtern.

But Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Democrat from Maryland, said a big hurdle remains: getting men to talk to their doctors about prostate cancer. "Many men are putting off these tests, putting off these discussions and they are simply suffering and dying," Cummings said. He's sponsoring a bill that'll give researchers 650 million dollars to develop better diagnostics and hopefully save lives.

Prostate cancer is the second biggest cancer killer of men besides lung cancer. One in six men will be diagnosed with it.



William Dahut, M.D.
Clinical Director
National Cancer Institute



Otis Brawley, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
American Cancer Society