C-Change Welcomes Tom Kean as Executive Director

Tom Kean, a cancer control professional with more than 30 years experience in public, private, and not-for-profit organizations has been named the new executive director of C-Change. Kean has been a member of C-Change since the initial meeting of the National Dialogue on Cancer. (Top) Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner; (below) Tom Frieden; (right) Anna Barker

May Semi-Annual Meeting
A “Turning Point” for C-Change

On May 19-20, 2006, the sixteenth session of C-Change “Turning Points in Winning the War on Cancer,” was convened with applause for being hosted in the smoke-free jurisdiction of Bethesda, Maryland. The strategic focus on Prevention and Early Detection permeated discussions and actions ranging from research to public policy. Jim Marks, MD, MPH, Chair of the Prevention and Early Detection Steering Committee, framed C-Change’s strategic course of action and called upon leaders to engage themselves and their organizations in the collaborative steps that are necessary to realize the potential of each strategic initiative. During the working sessions on Friday, May 19, participants helped advance each of the five initiatives by committing support to specific aspects of their development and implementation. (See Strategic Initiatives update on page 6.)

During the Plenary Session on Saturday, May 20, Dr. Marks highlighted the progress on all five initiatives and then announced a sixth initiative - to raise public awareness about the value of prevention and early detection. Peggy Conlon, Chair of the Communications Sub-Committee and President of the Ad Council, described the evidence-based approach that will be used to discover messages that resonate with the public regarding cancer risks and protective actions. Once the research phase of this project is completed, these tools will be provided to C-Change members for use in their on-going media efforts to encourage consistent and synchronous cancer prevention and early detection messages. Following implementation, the result of this coordinated effort will be systematically measured across organizations and public audiences.

Three notable presentations framed discussion around specific “turning points” in research, policy, and practice. Anna Barker, PhD, Deputy Director of Advanced Technologies and Strategic Partnerships for the National Cancer Institute conveyed both the hope and promise of the Cancer Genome Atlas Project. Governor Ruth Ann Minner described Delaware’s landmark decision to implement the Delaware Cancer Treatment Program, providing financial support for cancer treatment to residents without comprehensive health insurance who are not eligible for Medicaid. Lastly, Commissioner Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH of New York City’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene illustrated the tactics and results of their highly successful Tobacco Control Program.

Additional program highlights and presentations are available on the web site at www.c-changetogether.org.

Cancer Prevention Research Summit Report begins on page 3
C-Change Semi-Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 19 & Friday, October 20, 2006

Hyatt Regency Bethesda in the smoke-free jurisdiction of Montgomery County, MD

Thursday, October 19, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Strategic Initiative Meetings (Concurrent sessions)
• Making the Business Case for Cancer Prevention and Early Detection
• Increasing the Nation’s Investment in Prevention Research
• Funding State Cancer and Tobacco Plans with State Tobacco Tax Revenue
• Increasing Access to Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment Services
• Building a National Cancer Corps
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Reception

Friday, October 20, 2006
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Plenary Session
• Welcome by President George H.W. Bush and LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., MD, FACS
• Progress toward Prevention and Early Detection Strategic Objectives
• C-Change Member Tribute
• UICC World Cancer Congress Call to Action

Economic Issues in Cancer – Implications for Future Action
• Keynote Address by Kevin M. Murphy, PhD
  Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago
• Panel Discussions and Member Perspectives
  • Economic Future for Cancer Research in the Post-Genomic Era
  • Cancer Treatment in the Post-Medicare Modernization Act Era
  • Employee Health Benefits in a Globally Competitive Environment
  • Panelists: Betsy Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH, National Association of Social Workers; Lloyd K. Everson, MD, US Oncology; Stephanie W. Kanwit, America’s Health Insurance Plans; Robert C. Young, MD, Fox Chase Cancer Center

Plan to join us for a productive meeting! If you have questions about the meeting, contact Brandi Stevenson in the C-Change office at 202.756.1383.
More than 120 leaders from the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors met June 12-13, in Bethesda, Maryland, at the C-Change Cancer Prevention Research Summit to identify effective strategies for reducing major barriers to the development of cancer preventive agents. In support of C-Change’s strategic focus on prevention and early detection, the Cancer Research and Clinical Trials team identified increasing the national investment in cancer prevention research as a priority and planned the Prevention Research Summit as a launching point for this ambitious undertaking.

Under the leadership of Ronald B. Herberman, MD, Director, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Center, the Summit Planning Committee identified four major barriers to investing in research for the development of cancer preventive agents. Concurrent sessions challenged participants to tackle these four barriers. The session issues and Chairs included:

- Intellectual Property and Patent Law
  Homer Pearce, PhD
- Clinical Research and Regulatory Approval
  Scott M. Lippman, MD
- Insurance Coverage and Reimbursement
  Bruce S. Pyenson, FSA, MAAA
- Clinical Trial Participation and Compliance
  David S. Alberts, MD

The Summit opened with welcoming remarks from Gary Reedy, C-Change Board member and Worldwide Vice President of Johnson & Johnson, followed by introductory remarks from Ron Herberman. Panelists and invited guests then heard from Dr. Mark McClellan, Administrator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, who spoke to the need and importance of working collaboratively with multi-sector organizations including C-Change to increase the impact of cancer prevention efforts. He also described how CMS is working to increase utilization of prevention and early detection services, increase and improve the evidence base as the vehicle for expanding benefits to cover new services, and to reward improved outcomes based on valid quality measures.

Don Coffey, PhD, from The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine followed Dr. McClellan with a stimulating and informative overview of the scientific evidence that supports the need for an increased investment in cancer prevention research. Dr. Coffey reminded the audience that one of every three persons in the U.S. will receive a cancer diagnosis, and 161 persons will die from this disease over the next two and one half hours.

Following the morning keynote addresses, the four sessions met for six intense hours of deliberation to pinpoint the barriers and recommend specific actions for resolutions.

Day two was convened by Carolyn (Bo) R. Aldige, President of the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, who introduced the plenary session’s facilitator, Susan Dentzer.
C-Change Has Strong Presence at the UICC World Cancer Congress

C-Change was well represented at the International Union Against Cancer World Cancer Congress July 8-12 in Washington, DC. President George H.W. Bush and Mrs. Bush referenced the collaborative work of C-Change in the opening session as did John Seffrin, C-Change Board member and CEO of the American Cancer Society. C-Change, a major sponsor of the World Cancer Congress, was one of more than 60 leaders in the cancer community providing an exhibit during the Congress. Various prevention and early detection Strategic Initiatives were presented at Congress sessions by C-Change Members and staff. For more information about the UICC visit www.uicc.org.

Andrew von Eschenbach

Health Policy Correspondent, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and then welcomed Andrew von Eschenbach, MD, Acting Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration. Dr. von Eschenbach provided his perspective on the future of cancer prevention through the acceleration of research. As the former Director of the National Cancer Institute and in his current role, he provided a unique perspective of the current state of cancer research and the promise of accelerated and effective cancer prevention research.

Senator Arlen Specter, Pennsylvania’s longest serving U.S. Senator and a cancer survivor, reflected on the past success of tripling the NIH budget and encouraged the scientific community to become actively involved in the political processes supporting cancer research and federal budget appropriations.

Following the keynote speakers, Session Chairs reported the findings and recommendations specific to each identified barrier. Major themes stemming from the discussions are noted below.

Session Highlights

Patent law and intellectual property discussions identified the inadequate period of time available to recover research and development investments due to relatively short patent terms and inadequate periods of data exclusivity, when compared to the unusually long cancer drug development times, as two of several key barriers to cancer prevention research. Proposed solutions include developing strong and predictable patent protection through patent law reform and extended cancer prevention drug and data package exclusivity periods; greater utilization of Amicus briefs; and support of the Hatch-Waxman II patent alternative guaranteeing 15-year protection extension for patent term and data package exclusivity.

The session that convened around clinical trial design and regulatory approval focused on the complexity of the disease; the availability of new agents; compartmentalization of diseases, scientists, and agencies; the limited number of successful prevention trial results along with
Increasing the Nation’s Investment in Cancer Prevention Research

Also overcome barriers by educating the public on chemoprevention including risks and benefits, educating oncology professionals about chemoprevention, and providing incentives to the pharmaceutical industry for chemopreventive drug and vaccine development. Proposed solutions include developing new outcome variables to identify at risk populations along with intermediate end point studies to determine the required duration of chemopreventive agent therapy, a strengthening of public-private-industry-corporate partnerships; increasing advocacy, education and understanding of cancer prevention and chemoprevention studies; and rewarding compliance with evidence-based prevention guidelines (the guidelines will need to be developed).

Through the leadership of Ron Herberman, MD, C-Change will define specific next steps for addressing priority needs in collaboration with Summit participants. Furthermore, Dr. Herberman will moderate a special session at AACR’s 5th Annual International Conference on Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research in Boston on November 13, 2006. This session will summarize the Cancer Prevention Research Summit recommendations and post-Summit directions as well as seek involvement of the larger community in implementing solutions.

A comprehensive report of the Summit proceedings is being developed through the in-kind support of the American Association of Cancer Research. For additional information or to become involved with increasing the nation’s investment in cancer prevention research contact Alison Smith, at asmith@c-changetogether.org or 847.432.6301.

In announcing Kean’s appointment, LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. MD, Chair of the C-Change Board of Directors, said, “C-Change is at a critical moment in its history, poised to make significant advances in accelerating the attack on this devastating disease.” Leffall continued, “With his knowledge of the cancer community and his proven executive leadership skills, Tom Kean is the right person to assure that C-Change’s programs will take hold and will provide its members and the public with new tools to combat the onset or effects of cancer,” Leffall concluded.

A graduate of the University of Texas for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees (MPH), Kean has served in cancer control positions with prestigious organizations including MD Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, the National Cancer Institute, and AMC Cancer Center. In his most recent role, Kean was President of a consulting firm he co-founded, Strategic Health Concepts, Inc., dedicated to supporting the development and implementation of chronic disease prevention and control programs ranging from local to international efforts. Kean has been intimately involved with C-Change and the other national partners in the annual Comprehensive Cancer Control Leadership Institutes that have supported the development and implementation of state, tribe, and territory cancer plans.

In remarks closing the Plenary Session of C-Change’s Semi-Annual Meeting on May 20, Kean told the audience, “C-Change is at an important place in its evolution. I am really excited about the number of programs coming together on some actionable items.” While describing drivers of his professional passion, Kean paused on a personal note, his grandchildren. “I hope they do not have to face cancer problems that are in the power of my generation to change. That generation is the group that is in this room,” he added.

Kean has received the National Institutes of Health Award of Merit in 1986 for his contributions in cancer prevention and control. In 1993, he received the National Cancer Institute’s Marion Morra Award for his contributions in cancer communications.
Stevenson Named to Administrative Post

C-Change is pleased to announce the appointment of Brandi Stevenson as the new Administrative & Meeting Coordinator. Stevenson will oversee office operations and provide administrative and meeting support.

Prior to joining the C-Change team, Stevenson worked as the Special Projects Coordinator for the Grant Center in New York City, where she planned and organized events and programs for the Grant Center students. While at the Grant Center, Stevenson implemented new educational programs and assisted with daily office operations.

Before working at the Grant Center, Stevenson worked as an Intern Architect for Bertram A. Bruton and Associates in Denver, CO. Stevenson created proposals and compiled construction documents for various projects including the Fed-Ex expansion at Denver International Airport and a Baptist Church in Jacksonville, FL.

She holds a Bachelors of Architecture degree from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia.

Update: C-Change’s Prevention & Early Detection Strategic Initiatives

Prevention and Early Detection Steering Committee

The Prevention and Early Detection Steering Committee continues to provide guidance and support to the strategic initiatives. During the May 2006 Semi Annual Meeting, C-Change members and guests were provided with an update of the six strategic initiatives by Steering Committee Chair and Board member Jim Marks, MD, MPH. The initiatives are well underway thanks to the leadership and collaborative efforts put forth by various Team chairs, members, and the Communications sub-committee. The Steering Committee also assisted the Program Work Group in developing the framework for the May Semi-Annual Meeting, “Turning Points in Winning the War on Cancer: Research, Policy, and Practice.” The Steering Committee and Team leaders are continuing their efforts to further the strategic initiatives and will be defining metrics to measure short and long term impact.

Building a National Cancer Corps through a Core Competency Program.

In an effort to equip the general health workforce with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the basic needs of patients with cancer, the Cancer Workforce Team continues progress toward building a National Cancer Corps through a Core Competency Program. The Cancer Workforce Team, along with a multi-disciplinary Expert Panel convened during the May Semi-Annual Meeting to finalize competency definitions in preparation for a constituent comment period during the month of July. In addition, the Cancer Core Competency Program was presented at the July UICC World Cancer Congress. With the incorporation of the final round of feedback from the comment period, the core competency statements will be shared at the Semi-Annual meeting in October. Next, the implementation phase will begin with the launch of several diverse pilot sites ranging from healthcare organizations to state-specific comprehensive cancer coalitions.

Funding State Cancer and Tobacco Control Plans with State Tobacco Tax Revenue

Through technical assistance and small grants, C-Change is supporting states in their strategic development of policies for funding comprehensive cancer and tobacco control plans. Grants have been awarded to Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Utah, and Wyoming assisting these states in developing a coordinated, stakeholder driven approach. State supported activities include the development of state cancer control budgets inclusive of tobacco control priorities; meeting support between cancer and tobacco control leaders; and the promotion of advocacy education and training. In addition, a Tobacco Control Module was presented at Phase III Comprehensive Cancer Control Leadership Institutes in April and June and will also be presented during October and the March 2007 Leadership Institutes. The module highlights key tobacco control policy and programmatic issues and stresses the importance of strong collaborations between cancer and tobacco control coalitions.

Increasing Access to Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment Services

As a direct result of the interest generated during the May 2006 Semi Annual meeting, a work group finalized a “Request for Proposal (RFP)” in support of the Access initiative. The RFP, issued in July, will identify an organization or individual to develop guidance for state, tribe and territory comprehensive cancer control coalitions that are addressing timely access to cancer services. The guidance will address issues ranging from health benefit coverage to other access areas including transportation and patient navigation services.

Increasing the Nation’s Investment in Cancer Prevention Research

The goals of this strategic initiative are to prioritize scientific opportunities and resolve barriers to major legal, regulatory, and financial issues. The Cancer Prevention Research Summit, recently held in Bethesda, Maryland, launched the first phase of this initiative. More than 120 leaders from the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors convened to address four key barriers to cancer prevention research, recommend solutions to the barriers and identify key constituents and next steps needed to support the recommendations. (See page 3 for a report on the Summit proceedings)

Making the Business Case for Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

This initiative is well underway in defining the value of covering prevention and early detection services. One of the key strategies for disseminating the evidence base is targeting human resource executives and benefits managers. C-Change members and partners spearheading this initiative are working with the Ad Council to develop and launch a communication strategy that encourages public and private sector employers to provide health insurance coverage for evidence-based cancer prevention and early detection services. The Milliman report, “Cancer Screening: Payer Cost/Benefit thru Employee Benefits Programs” is one of the documents being used to define the value of prevention and early detection services and was presented at the July UICC (International Union against Cancer) Conference.

See www.c-changeresources.org/about_ndc/newsroom/article/MillimanReport.pdf to download the report.
The development and implementation of state, tribe, and territory comprehensive cancer control (CCC) program plans has been a strategic priority of C-Change since its founding in 1998. To help foster the ongoing development and implementation of these stakeholder- and data-driven CCC efforts, two awards were created. The Exemplary Planning Award recognizes a state, tribe, or territory CCC Coalition for developing a plan through a stakeholder- and data-driven process, which because of its design is likely to be effective during its implementation phase. The Exemplary Implementation Award recognizes a CCC Coalition that has demonstrated progress on impacting the burden of cancer during the CCC plan implementation phase.

In early 2006, C-Change’s Comprehensive Cancer Control Team received four planning and five implementation award nominations. The Washington State Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership was honored with the Exemplary Planning Award. Spearheaded by the efforts of two prostate cancer survivors, a multi-sector Washington Comprehensive Cancer Control Partnership was formed in October 2001. This partnership published a stakeholder- and data-driven CCC Plan in 2004. The plan addresses the full continuum of cancer care and is actively supported by partnership member organizations. Jeffrey R. Harris, MD, MPH, MBA, Professor of Health Services, University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine and Lauren B. Jenks, MPH, CHES, Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Unit of the Washington State Department of Health accepted the award on behalf of the CCCP.

The Exemplary Implementation Award was presented to the Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC). In 1998, Michigan developed a stakeholder- and data-driven comprehensive cancer control plan with clearly articulated priorities. This strategic plan addresses the full continuum of cancer care in Michigan. As a result of MCC’s ongoing collaborative efforts, systematic progress has been made in addressing the cancer burden in Michigan. Evidence of this progress includes an increase in early stage diagnosis of breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer and indications of an associated decline in cancer mortality rates. Accepting the award on behalf of the MCC was Max Wicha, M.D., Director, Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Michigan and Patty Brookover, Director of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, Michigan Department of Community Health.

Find additional information about the award recipients on the website at www.c-changetogether.org

LaSalle Leffall, Leslie Given, Michigan winners Max Wicha and Patty Brookover, and President Bush

Summer Interns Explore Cancer Career Paths

After an extraordinarily successful pilot year of the Summer Internship Program in 2005, the Cancer Workforce Team launched year two of the program at the May 2006 Semi-Annual meeting. This year’s class is comprised of fourteen interns representing multi-sector organizations, various disciplines, and educational levels ranging from undergraduate to post-doctoral students. Each intern is engaged in one or more significant projects within his/her host organization, the outcomes of which will be on display at a poster session during the October Semi-Annual Meeting.

LaSalle Leffall, Leslie Given, Michigan winners Max Wicha and Patty Brookover, and President Bush

2006 Summer Interns

C-Change recognizes the following interns and thanks their organizations for supporting the development of the caregivers and leaders of tomorrow:

- Timothy A. Burggraf
  Intercultural Cancer Council
- Tiffany D. Delcour*
  Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium
- Melissa Grossman
  National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Di He
  American Cancer Society
- Vicki L. Hebert*
  Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Dan Howell
  Wellness Center, University of North Dakota
- Nicole Maddox
  National Cancer Institute
- John Phillips**
  Educational Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials
- Sheri Dixon Schully, PhD
  National Cancer Institute
- Michelle Tang
  Intercultural Cancer Council
- Huong Tran
  Van Andel Research Institute
- Kelly Waldron*
  C-Change
- Makeda J. Williams, PhD, MPH
  National Cancer Institute
- Nicole Zakak
  Columbia University School of Nursing

* Internship Grant Recipient from C-Change
**Internship Grant Recipient from C-Change made possible by Abbott Laboratories
National Cancer Institute Adopts Smoke-free Policies for Conferences

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) announced a new policy requiring that all meetings and conferences organized or primarily sponsored by NCI be held in a state, county, city, or town that has adopted a comprehensive smoke-free policy. The policy was announced on July 13, 2006, and goes into effect January 1, 2007.

NCI has developed a website to support meeting planning in smoke-free jurisdictions at www.dccps/tcrb/smokefreemeetingpolicy.html. The site (available Fall 2006) features an interactive tool to help NCI employees locate smoke-free venues based on the latest smoking policy information for states, counties, and cities; monitor the implementation of the policy; respond to inquiries; and document exceptions to the policy. “NCI seeks to recognize the contribution of states, counties, cities and towns that have chosen to protect the public, including employees, from secondhand smoke exposure,” said Robert Croyle, Ph.D., director of NCI’s Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. “We hope this policy will encourage other states and cities to do likewise.”

C-Change encourages other members and partners to adopt a smoke-free jurisdiction policy. To view the C-Change smoke-free jurisdiction policy visit our website at www.c-changetogether.org/about_ncc/newsroom/reports/SmokingResolution.pdf

Niederhuber Installed as NCI Director

C-Change Board member John E. Niederhuber, MD, has been sworn in as the thirteenth Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Niederhuber had been serving as Acting Director after the Institute’s previous director, Andrew C. von Eschenbach, MD, also a C-Change Member, was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as acting commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

John Niederhuber

A nationally renowned surgeon and researcher, Niederhuber dedicated his academic career to the treatment and study of cancer — as a professor, department chair, senior associate dean, cancer center director, National Cancer Advisory Board chair, external advisor to the NCI, grant reviewer, and laboratory investigator supported by NCI and the National Institutes of Health.

Niederhuber has stated that one of his approaches to his leadership of the NCI will be to find new ways to leverage resources. He expects the NCI to continue collaborations with other NIH Institutes and Centers, nonprofits organizations, Federal agencies, and academic institutions.

In his Director’s Update column in the September 19 issue of the NCI Cancer Bulletin, Niederhuber said that he plans to continue to address NCI’s strategic priorities through appropriately aligned new initiatives. He also said that the Institute is “committed to striving to maintain the number of competing awards near the level achieved during the period when the NIH budget doubled. In addition, we are firmly committed to funding new investigators and devising incentives that will attract the best minds to a field so vital to the health of our citizens — and to our country’s future development in a changing world market.”
May Semi-Annual Meeting
A “Turning Point” for C-Change

May 19-20, 2006

Bo Aldige

Willis Goldbeck

Mrs. Barbara Bush

Tom David and Bill Mayer
Cancer Prevention Research Summit

June 12-13, 2006

Marge Foti

Bruce Pyenson

David Alberts

Gerry Kennealey and Homer Pearce