Texting For Teens (T4T) Expansion

Teaching young people the importance of protecting their skin is an important strategy for reducing skin cancer later in life. In 2012, with a research contract from the National Library of Medicine, The University of Arizona Cancer Center started texting sun safety messages to middle-school students as an extension of the Students Are Sun Safe (SASS) program. The idea was to prompt teens to protect themselves from too much sun exposure. Some texts were reminders like: "Remember the 'Shadow Rule.' When your shadow is shorter than you, always seek shade!", while others were interactive: "What SPF are you wearing today? Text back your response." A recent publication from the T4T team, led by SCI Co-Director Robin Harris, suggested positive changes in students’ knowledge of and their likelihood to practice prevention behaviors. Sending health messages via text is a new area of public health and there is great potential for this type of communication.

CLINIC NEWS: We're happy to announce 3 new residents in the dermatology clinic! Dr. Joseph Chao, Dr. Colleen Cotton, and Dr. Jennifer Sawaya joined the team this year. The three-year residency program at the University of Arizona Cancer Center accepts new dermatology residents each year, and supports seven residents at a time. The residents see patients at the Arizona Cancer Center and the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. Their training includes work in medical and surgical procedures in skin cancer, including rotations in Mohs surgery, pediatric dermatology, and pathology. They also learn advanced surgical and cosmetic procedures. This is a wonderful program designed to combine the patient care experience with instructive, informative learning.
More than 9,000 Americans die of melanoma each year and the rate of new cases doubled from 1982 to 2011. The Surgeon General, and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) have stated that adoption of proven prevention programs in our communities could avoid an estimated 21,000 new melanoma cases each year! Furthermore, the CDC projects that without added community prevention efforts, melanoma will continue to increase over the next 15 years. Skin cancer is often caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun or indoor tanning. Less UV exposure means reduced rates of skin cancer. The SCI is committed to developing and facilitating community skin cancer prevention. The SCI can teach people how to protect themselves from the sun and how to detect skin cancer when it occurs, but communities play a major role in skin cancer prevention too! Join us in our efforts. Learn how you can make a difference in these astounding numbers of skin cancer. Connect with us and become a Skin cancer Prevention Friend (SPF) or a SCI Champion today.

Join to Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer

Skin cancer Prevention Friends (SPF)
Donate $100 and receive a subscription to our newsletter and other publications, alerts for all of our events, and an invitation to an annual luncheon featuring specialists in skin cancer treatment and prevention.
SPF Leaders donate $500+ and receive all of the above, plus play a leadership role in the SPF partnership, with a chance to review our progress, and make recommendations for the growth of the SCI.

SCI Champions Board
Champions invest in the SCI to save lives and prevent skin cancer by giving a minimum of $5,000 annually. Champions receive an invitation to the Annual Dinner of SCI Champions where we will share the latest on the SCI's achievements and what is on the horizon. You will also receive front-line service in learning about the newest advances in skin cancer treatment and prevention, access to the University of Arizona Cancer Center dermatologists, recognition in SCI publications, social media, websites and all annual events (including our annual Melanoma Walk), and a ‘Protect Your Skin’ sunscreen kit donated to the school or organization of your choice.

Call or email us today!
1-888-724-2749
Email: contactsci@uacc.arizona.edu

The SCI is committed to understanding skin cancer etiology, prevention, and treatment. Our group of internationally-recognized scientists work together to combine new ideas and discoveries. Translation of these discoveries from the laboratory, to the clinic, to the community, will improve health and reduce the skin cancer burden. The SCI opened the 2015-2016 grant cycle in August. These funds will serve as seed money for University of Arizona faculty and research fellows to test novel strategies for prevention, detection, and treatment of skin cancer.

Visit azskincancerinstitute.org to make a donation today!