

## **Colorectal Cancer: Georgia's participation in national efforts to enroll 17,500 patients in priority colorectal trials**

Cancer is serious health problem that affects the lives of many Georgians. The state of Georgia has made cancer research a priority in this state. The Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (Georgia CORE) was developed to enhance the quality of cancer care through research.

Georgia CORE is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. Georgia CORE has made strides towards its mission to improve cancer care in Georgia by strengthening clinical research. The statewide cancer research network and Georgia Cancer Trials registry is made available through Georgia CORE.

The Scientific Leadership Council in Gastrointestinal Cancer recently identified the top ten priority clinical trials in colorectal cancer, requiring a national effort to enroll 17,500 patients. Within the state of Georgia, 8 of the 10 trials are being offered in 15 cities (23 locations).

### **Colorectal Cancer in Georgia: The Facts**

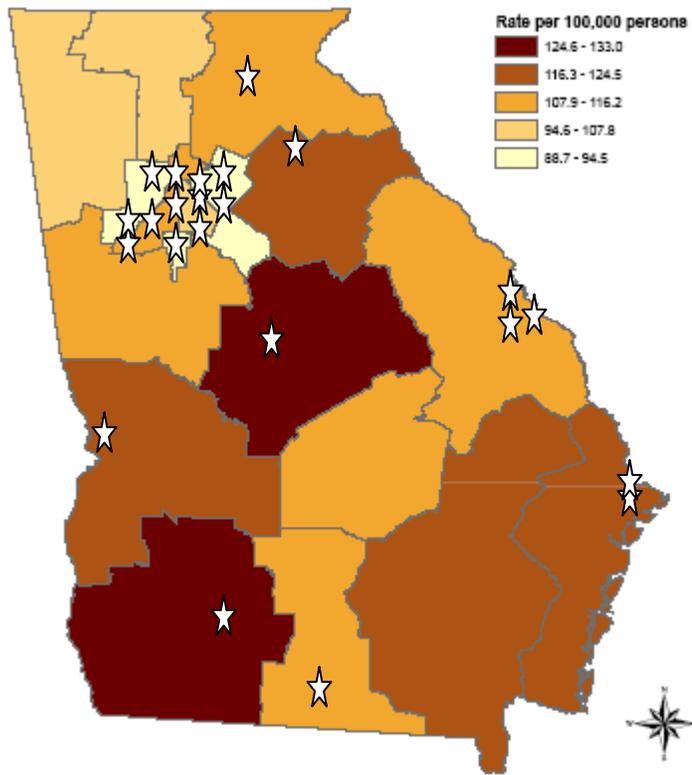
Each year, approximately 3,331 new cases of colorectal cancer are diagnosed in Georgia. Colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum) is the third leading causes of cancer deaths in the Georgia<sup>1</sup>.

- 90 percent of the colorectal cases occur in men and women age 50 and older.
- Men are 41% more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 44% more likely to die from colorectal cancer than women.
- African American men and women are more likely to be diagnosed with and die from colorectal cancer than white men or women<sup>2</sup>.
- The colorectal cancer incidence rates for African American men in Georgia exceed the national averages<sup>3</sup>.
- Since 1999, colorectal cancer mortality in the state has increased while national rates have decreased<sup>4</sup>.

### **Most Impacted Areas in Georgia**

- Much of South Georgia has higher number of new colorectal cancer cases than North Georgia or Metro Atlanta<sup>5</sup>. Figure 1, shown on the next page, displays the rate of new colorectal cancer cases in Georgia, from 1999-2002. The darker color indicates higher incidence rates.

**Figure 1.**  
**Cancer Incidence Rate, Colorectal(colon & rectum) by Public Health District, All Counties, 0-0,45+, All Years (1999-2002) with Locations of Priority Colorectal Cancer Trials**



☆ Priority Colorectal Cancer Clinical Trial Site

Source: OASIS GIS Mapping Tool: Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Information & Policy

### Priority Colorectal Clinical Trials in Georgia

- Clinical Trials are important and help in the advancement and effectiveness of cancer treatment.
- The need for colorectal cancer clinical trials in Georgia is evident, based on recent morbidity statistics.
- Clinical Trials appear to be most needed in South Georgia. There is also a need for cancer trials in North Georgia, where the incidence is higher<sup>5</sup>.
- The Coalition of National Cancer Cooperative Groups (CCCG) recently announced the identification of the top ten priority clinical trials in colorectal cancer, requiring a national effort to enroll 17,500 patients. The ten priority colorectal clinical trials were selected as a result of a meeting from CCCG's Scientific Leadership Council in Gastrointestinal Cancer to answer the most important remaining questions about colorectal cancer and to determine recommendations for future colorectal cancer research<sup>6</sup>.
- 8 of the 10 trials are enrolling in 15 cities at 23 locations within the state of Georgia<sup>7</sup>. The listing of clinical trial sites by city with a description of the priority colorectal trials is provided in "Priority Colorectal Trials: Participating Sites in Georgia", provided by the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (Georgia CORE).

For more information about colorectal cancer clinical trials please visit [www.georgiacore.org](http://www.georgiacore.org) or [www.georgiacancertrials.org](http://www.georgiacancertrials.org). If you would like to contact Georgia CORE please call 404-523-8735.

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- <sup>1</sup>Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 2006. "Colorectal Cancer," at [http://www.cdc.gov/colorectalcancer/what\\_cdc\\_is\\_doing/about\\_cdc\\_program.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/colorectalcancer/what_cdc_is_doing/about_cdc_program.htm).
- <sup>2</sup>Georgia Department of Human Resources. 2005. "Colorectal Cancer in Georgia, 1999-2002," at <http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/chronic/cancer/ColorectalCanceinGeorgia1999-2002.pdf>.
- <sup>3</sup>Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results. 2006. "Incidence Rate Report for Georgia by County: Colon and Rectum," at Sorted by Rate <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/cgi-bin/incidencrates/incidencrates.pl?13&02&02&1&001&1&1&1>.
- <sup>4</sup>Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results. 2006. "Historical Trends Mortality, Georgia: Colon and Rectum," at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/recenttrend/recenttrend.php?0&13&0&9599&001&999&00&0&0&0&2#graph>.
- <sup>5</sup>Georgia Department of Human Resources. 2004. "Georgia Cancer Data Report," at <http://health.state.ga.us/pdfs/chronic/cancer/CancerDataReport2004.pdf>.
- <sup>6</sup>Clinical Trials Matter. 2006. "New Year, New Priorities: Scientific Leadership Council on GI Sets Goals to Speed Process," at [http://cancertrialshelp.org/static\\_binary/2031-152.pdf](http://cancertrialshelp.org/static_binary/2031-152.pdf).
- <sup>7</sup>Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education. 2006. "Seeking 17,500 Participants for Enrollment in Priority Colorectal Trials," at <http://www.gacore.org/articleDetail.aspx?articleID=2>.