

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

Michael Jenkins, michael.jenkins@searhc.org, (907) 463-6666 (Juneau, SEARHC Corporate Communications Director)
Charles Bingham, charles.bingham@searhc.org, (907) 966-8504 (Sitka, SEARHC Corporate Communications Specialist)
Dr. David Vastola, david.vastola@searhc.org, (907) 966-8754 (Sitka, SEARHC Community Health Care Services Medical Dir.)

SEARHC to host cancer forums in Juneau, Sitka, Klawock

JUNEAU, Jan. 28, 2010 —The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) is teaming up with the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) and the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center (ANEC) to present a series of free cancer forums Feb. 3-5 in Juneau, Sitka and Klawock.

The “Knowledge is Power! Learn All About Cancer: Community Cancer Forum” events will feature guest speakers Dr. Greg Marino, the lead oncologist at ANMC, and Janet Kelly, MS, MPH, of ANEC. Local SEARHC physicians and other health care workers also will attend the events. The events will feature presentations from the two guest speakers, followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served.

The event details for each location are:

- **Juneau** — 6:30-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the SEARHC Ethel Lund Medical Center, contact Charmayne Druley at 463-4058 or chars@searhc.org for more information.
- **Sitka** — 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4, at the SEARHC Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital Litehouse Cafeteria, contact Vera Gibson at 966-8310 or verag@searhc.org for more information.
- **Klawock** — 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, at the Klawock School Library, contact Dr. David Vastola at 966-8754 in Sitka or david.vastola@searhc.org, or call the Alicia Roberts Medical Center in Klawock at 755-4800 for more information.

“Cancer is the leading cause of death for Alaska Natives and a major source of concern for our communities,” said David Vastola, MD, SEARHC Community Health Care Services Medical Director. “There are many things we can do to decrease the risk of getting cancer and to detect cancers at an earlier stage. The cancer forums will help get this information to our patients and give them opportunities to ask questions. When it comes to cancer, knowledge is power!”

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