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Practicum Site: Rescue Lung Society and V.A. Tennessee Valley Healthcare System

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Raising awareness on the importance of CT Lung Screening and attitudes towards personalized tobacco treatment



Introduction: Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States and on a global scale. Tobacco use is the primary cause and risk for developing lung cancer. Computed tomography (CT) screening saves lives from lung cancer and includes tobacco treatment as primary prevention. Rescue Lung Society (RLS) is an organization that works with public health professionals throughout the country to advocate and raise awareness for lung cancer and the importance of CT screening. There are conferences, social media forums, webinars, and more to help connect professionals and provide them with resources on how to help their patients with screening, identify lung cancer risk factors, and lung cancer diagnoses.

Methods: The primary tasks of this practicum included networking, communicating, and organizing plans for a variety of RLS initiatives. This was accomplished through collaborative work alongside RLS board members utilizing program management and development skills.

Results: Through the roles and responsibilities of my internship, I developed pamphlets, newsletters, storyboards for website programming, and blog posts to regularly update and connect healthcare professionals. I participated in conference planning events and board meetings. I am working alongside researchers at VUMC and the VA to lead a paper on attitudes towards personalized tobacco treatment in a cohort of Veterans screened for lung cancer

Conclusions: CT lung screening saves lives from lung cancer and includes tobacco treatment. I gained first-hand experience in working with a non-profit to raise awareness for lung cancer screening and in leading a paper on Veteran attitudes towards personalized tobacco treatment.