ABSTRACT

During his lifetime an African-American man has a 19% chance of being diagnosed with prostate cancer and a 6% chance of dying from the disease. These figures are all the more startling when compared to the rates for Caucasian men of similar ages. African-American men are 60% more likely than their white counterparts to develop prostate cancer and two to three times more likely to die of their disease. Factors contributing to this disparity likely include a more biologically aggressive form of prostate cancer in some African American men, diagnosis at a more advanced stage of the disease, differences in treatment choices or regimens, dietary factors, genetic factors, differences in prostate cancer screening and case-seeking behavior and other health care system interactions. Conquering this disease will require a multidisciplinary approach encompassing social interactions and norms, host factors, and tumor characteristics.

From 2007 – 2010, Shaw University, the oldest HBCU in the South, and researchers at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, collaborated on a unique research and training program called SUUPPRT; SUUPPRT was designed to prepare selected undergraduate students to become tomorrow’s culturally-sensitive prostate cancer researchers and public health advocates. Here we report the outcomes of the program.

OBJECTIVES

1. Recruit highly qualified students to the program.
2. Engage students in state-of-the-art prostate cancer research through research and training program called SUUPPRT.
3. Introduce students to the broad scope of prostate cancer research in 3 projects.
4. Recruit highly qualified students to the program.

APPROACHES

SUUPPRT...