

# Breaking barriers and stigma associated with cancer

International Health Policy Forum

Tbilisi, Georgia

May 4-6

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- Culture, feelings and beliefs/Myth and misconceptions
- Communication
- Knowledge and access

# Cultural Knowledge, Feelings, and Beliefs

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- Cancer as a shame and stigma
- Beliefs regarding causes of cancer
- Myths and misconceptions
- Cancer as a test from God
- Modesty
- Fear of cancer treatment
- Accepting and being strong in surviving cancer

# Communication

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- Who trusts who?
- Why a secret?
- Who is in the support circle?
- Keeping it a secret from the patient
- Keeping cancer a secret from family members

# Knowledge and access

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- Does everyone know what to do and where to go?
- How is the experience with the Healthcare System and Community?
- Are there barriers to screening?
- Is there trust in interactions with healthcare providers?
- How does the knowledge spreads as an empowerment tool?

# Questions and Answers

Thank you  
This presentation was funded by Last  
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# Resources

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1. Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs of Arab-American Women Regarding Inherited Cancer Risk, Suzanne Mellon & Jacqueline Gauthier & Michelle Cichon & Adnan Hammad & Michael S. Simon
2. Between traditional and modern perceptions of breast and cervical cancer screenings: a qualitative study of Arab women in Israel, Faisal Azaiza\* and Miri Cohen
3. Faith and Masculinity: A Discussion on Raising Awareness and Promoting Cancer Screening Among Latino Men, Michael J. Rovito<sup>1</sup> and James E. Leone
4. Challenges to effective cancer control in China, India, and Russia