Cancer risk perception could lead to adverse health outcomes among women

Researcher recommends health care providers develop messages for heart health as prominently as breast health.

Published: 3 hours ago

According to recent studies, the U.S. has a disadvantage in women's life expectancy compared to peer countries despite high rates of health screenings such as mammography and popular national awareness campaigns. Recently, researchers at the University of Missouri examined the perceptions of risk among females and found that minority and less educated women believe that breast cancer, rather than heart disease, is the more common killer. Based on these findings, they recommend that health care providers should incorporate healthier lifestyle strategies for heart disease with messages for improved breast health to greater impact disease outcomes.

"Part of the Affordable Care Act is designed to help health care providers identify strategies to encourage the population to live healthier and prevent breast cancer and heart disease," said Julie M. Kapp, associate professor in the Department of Health Management and Informatics in the MU School of Medicine. "But before we can develop these targeted approaches, we have to understand the perceptions and behaviors of our audience -- in this case, premenopausal women."
Breast cancer is a leading cause of death for females in the U.S. where one in 30 women will die of breast cancer. The death rate for heart disease is significantly higher at one in seven. Obesity remains at the top of health care providers' concerns.

"The pink ribbon is one of the most recognizable symbols in the world and is associated with a very effective campaign, which might relate to the perception that breast cancer is a more common killer than other women's health issues," Kapp said. "Perhaps because of this, we found that minority women and women with a college education or less had greater odds of believing that breast cancer, rather than heart disease, causes more deaths in women yearly. Additionally, a quarter of the women surveyed reported that they are not making healthy lifestyle changes related to breast health, even though premenopausal women have the most to gain in knowledge and behaviors over their lifetime."

Researchers suggest that progress toward improving U.S. population health requires that health care providers use strategic opportunities to leverage healthy and active lifestyle messages for obesity and heart disease, in combination with breast health. These messages also should be targeted to different cultural and ethnic backgrounds as well as education levels, Kapp said.

The study was funded by a University of Missouri Research Council grant (URC 11-009).


**Mizzou battles enrollment declines following fall protests**

*School wants to reassure recruits campus is safe, welcoming*


COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri is facing an enrollment decline for the fall and a tougher time selling the school's recruiting pitch to high school students.
More than 5,600 students graduated from Mizzou last weekend, but there won’t be as many students to fill classrooms this fall. The decline has led the school to close four dorms because they won’t be able to fill them.

“It’s going to take time,” admissions representative Brittany Corneillier said.

She tells prospects walking past the main administrative building, Jesse Hall, that the school is working on a lot of things since last November when many proud Tigers protested what they saw as institutional racism at the school. University System President Tim Wolfe resigned during those protests.

About that time, journalism professor Cyndi Frisby wrote a Facebook post telling the Mizzou community that people in Columbia had called her a racial slur multiple times.

“I had no idea it was going to go viral,” she said.

She said she’s moved beyond the comments, both good and bad, but she still hears many more from students on campus.

“I think students are nervous to talk about how they really feel since the protests,” she said.

Mizzou’s leaders say they’ve done plenty to provide an atmosphere to talk, including starting a series on race and interracial dialogues on campus.

Spain also encouraged prospective students to visit the campus and talk with current students about the events.

“Interact with our students who lived through that experience at this campus, lived through it together back in November,” Spain said.

The fall’s enrollment will be the lowest in 10 years. Last fall, Mizzou had 6,200 new students. As of last week, only 4,700 incoming freshmen were signed up for the fall semester.

Vice Provost Jim Spain said the protests left some people were wondering if the campus is safe. He said, without hesitation, that it is.
“It sometimes feels uncomfortable. We’re working to make it feel comfortable and inclusive and supportive,” Spain said.

The school said it’s also trying everything it can to keep donors and alumni interested.

“Absolutely, they’re hurt. We’re hurt, but we also recognize that we’re learning from this. We’re growing from this. And we’re going to be a better university,” Spain said.

The school said fewer scholarships and smaller high school senior class numbers are also to blame, but other Missouri colleges, including the University of Central Missouri and Southeast Missouri State University, are looking forward to strong fall enrollment.

On the Kansas side of the state line, Kansas State University’s enrollment has been steady. The University of Kansas is coming off four straight years of freshman class growth.

A decades-old rule could stop future campout protests at University of Missouri

UM System has had a prohibition on sleeping overnight on the campus grounds for nearly 70 years

Mizzou’s police chief said he doubts there will be another tent city protest on the Columbia campus

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
mdwilliams@kcstar.com

In a sweeping review of how it regulates free speech and the use of public campus grounds, the University of Missouri is considering enforcing a 67-year-old rule that prohibits overnight camping.
The review, by a committee formed in January by interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Faculty Council chairman Ben Trachtenberg, comes after the Concerned Student 1950 group erected a tent city on the university’s Carnahan Quadrangle in Columbia last November.

Concerned Student, a predominantly black student group, spent a week in tents to protest racial oppression on the campus. It led to a student hunger strike, the threat of a boycott by the football team and the eventual resignations of the university system president and the chancellor of the Columbia campus.

The encampment was briefly home to dozens of students, including hunger striker Jonathan Butler. In the aftermath, the university came under intense criticism from Missouri lawmakers and alumni who said the protest damaged the school’s reputation.

The rule against camping overnight, which dates to 1949, says a person can’t create a “bedroom or living room” on campus grounds. It doesn’t specifically address tents or whether students can create a tent city that’s occupied only during the day.

The rule was intended to ensure that students slept indoors in safe conditions.

University officials on Monday did not say why they didn’t enforce the rule last fall in Columbia, as the student protest intensified and drew national attention. But they did say it was under review as part of a broad-based look at how the university regulates free speech and governs the use of public space on the campus.

Other policies under consideration by the committee include distribution of fliers, protests inside buildings and guidelines for how to reserve outdoor event spaces.

The committee, which includes students, faculty and administrators, set out to make all the campus and system rules that pertain to free speech and public space easily accessible.

“As after the shake-up in the fall, one thing that kept coming up was, what are the rules about public space and what should they be?” said Trachtenberg. “Are people allowed to put tents on the quad?”

As it turned out, the university “has had a prohibition on overnight sleeping on campus for years. There is a health and safety concern,” said Bob Jerry, an MU law professor and chairman of the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press.

On Monday, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported that MU Police Chief Doug Schwandt said on a KFRU radio broadcast last week that the rule against camping overnight on campus would be enforced in the future.
Schwandt, who is a member of the committee, was unavailable for comment Monday. But he told the Tribune that last November it was the university administration that had allowed students to camp on the quad.

Trachtenberg told The Star that university administrators sent heaters and other supplies to the students’ tent-city protest.

“I don’t think that would happen again,” Schwandt told the Tribune. “I think there’s lessons learned from that. I doubt there would be approval to allow overnight camping again on campus.”

But Jerry said no recommendation on the 1949 rule has been made by the committee. It is still working on a final report for the university, he said.

He also said the committee was not created to limit free speech on the campus but rather to recommend rules, policies or best practices that he said would “preserve, protect and promote free expression, free speech and First Amendment rights on campus.”

As part of this review, the university said in March that it was “committed to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.” It also said in the same report that “the university may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not significantly disrupt the university’s ordinary activities.”

The committee is expected to make policy and rule recommendations that will do both. Trachtenberg said he expects a report over the summer break followed by a series of campus forums in the coming school year to discuss the recommendations.

University of Missouri expected to no longer allow protest camps

By Alan Burdziak

Monday, May 16, 2016 at 2:00 pm
Large-scale protests at the University of Missouri probably will not happen in the future quite like they did last fall.

An ad hoc committee is expected soon to publish its recommendations to administrators related to protests and free speech, including a recommendation that officials enforce two policies that went unused during November’s protests. In March, the university said it no longer will allow protests that disrupt campus operations, and last week, MU police Chief Doug Schwandt told radio station KFRU that a policy that bans overnight sleeping on campus outside of dorms or other designated areas also will be enforced.

Both decisions were in response to protests Concerned Student 1950 conducted in November against a perceived lack of action by university leaders in response to racism on campus. Many group members camped out for about a week on Carnahan Quadrangle and several times have staged protests in campus buildings, including at a Board of Curators meeting, to bring attention to their cause.

The group’s efforts led to the resignation of former UM System President Tim Wolfe. MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned the same day amid reports of infighting and faculty dissatisfaction. Schwandt said it was campus administrators who made the decision to allow the group to camp on the quad, but he does not know specifics about how the decision was made.

“I don’t think that would happen again,” Schwandt said in an interview with the Tribune. “I think there’s lessons learned from that. I doubt there’d be approval to allow overnight camping again on campus.”

Christian Basi, an MU spokesman, and Loftin, who was chancellor when protesters set up the encampment on the quad, were not available for comment Monday morning. Several members of Concerned Student 1950 either declined to comment or did not respond to messages or return calls from the Tribune.

Police usually do not get involved in policy issues, Schwandt said, but officers might arrest or ticket those who do not listen to commands to cease disruptive protests or to not camp overnight. Schwandt said such actions could lead to prosecution for disturbing the peace or trespassing.

Schwandt is the police department’s representative on MU’s Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech, and the Press. Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and the MU Faculty Council created the committee early this year to examine how MU should respond to conflicts and protests and how it should regulate public spaces while protecting First Amendment rights.

Committee Chairman Robert Jerry said the recommendations will be a combination of policies that already were in place, including the prohibitions against camping and disruption, and new regulations, such as processes for how to reserve an outdoor space for events. One of the main advantages, Jerry said, is that all the regulations and policies will be in one place for people to review.
The committee’s report will be sent to Foley and Faculty Council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg. Jerry said the policies will not prevent spontaneous protests as long as they are not being done in a space that is already reserved. Jerry, a law professor, said there will be some areas where expressive events will be prohibited, but the rule will not include campus quads.

The recommendations will restrict expression only in certain circumstances, such as when safety is a concern, Jerry said. Restricting expressive events such as protests will be done in accordance with the First Amendment and case law, he said. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled restrictions must be narrowly defined in time, place and manner and be content neutral. He said the recommendations will protect free speech and allow for “robust free expression anywhere on campus.”

“We’re aware of the possibility that different interpretations can be put on these proposals, but the reality is we’re being absolutely rigid in that our recommendations will be content neutral,” Jerry said.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Jones bill to repeal MU Health Care certificate of need exemption awaiting Nixon's action

By Rudi Keller

Monday, May 16, 2016 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri Health Care would lose its ability to build new hospital or nursing facilities without seeking state regulatory approval if Gov. Jay Nixon signs any of three bills governing medical providers.

State Rep. Caleb Jones, R-Columbia, added a provision repealing MU’s exemption to the state certificate of need law, which requires new health care-related construction and equipment purchases costing $1 million or more to be approved by the Health Facilities Review Commission.

Jones’ proposal only addresses the construction exemption for MU Health Care, leaving the equipment exemption in place.
“As a representative of an area that has more doctors per capita than anywhere else in the United States except Rochester, I think we need to do everything possible to have a healthy, vibrant medical community in Columbia, and having taxpayers’ dollars compete against private industry causes some very serious concerns,” Jones said.

The university, which opposed the legislation, is reviewing how it will affect operations if signed, spokeswoman Mary Jenkins wrote Monday in an email.

“At MU Health Care, our first priority is the patients and families we serve,” Jenkins wrote. “To fulfill our mission of healing, teaching and conducting life-saving research, MU Health will continue to maintain state-of-the-art facilities and technology.”

Lawmakers ended their session Friday. Jones added the exemption repeal to a bill that includes rules for municipal hospital investments, requirements for meningitis vaccines for college students and enacts interstate compacts for licensing nurses and physical therapists as well as several other changes in health care law.

The two other bills also deal with several aspects of health care, including one that also enacts the interstate compact on physical therapists and a third that began as a bill to prohibit rules requiring a fence around hospital helicopter landing pads.

Jones is a member of the Health Facilities Review Commission and in July was one of two votes in favor of a failed certificate of need application from Fulton Medical Center LLC — a partnership of MU Health and Leawood, Kan.-based Nueterra Health — to build a 10-bed surgical hospital in southeast Columbia. At the time, commission members suggested MU build the hospital on its own because it is not bound by the certificate of need law.

At a hearing on Jones’ bill in February, eight MU Health representatives testified against repealing the exemption.

“We must be allowed to restructure and grow,” Timothy Fete, medical director for Women’s and Children’s Hospital, said to the House Emerging Issues Committee. “We need to be able to move swiftly and nimbly” without the constraints of the certificate of need process, he said.

The certificate of need law is intended to prevent duplication of facilities, Jones said.

“A lot of these health facilities receive state tax dollars for Medicaid, and the last thing we want to do is saturate a market anywhere in the state and waste taxpayer dollars or abuse taxpayer dollars,” Jones said.
New Tissue Preservation at MU Extends Active Lifestyle for Patients


MISSOURIAN

City Council freezes downtown development, places tax increases on August ballot

TAYLOR BLATCHFORD, 8 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Construction permits for downtown student housing complexes are frozen after the City Council voted 5-2 on Monday night to temporarily stop issuing construction permits for multi-family housing projects in central Columbia.

The ordinance, which applies to the area within a mile of MU’s campus, also prohibits the demolition of structures at least 50 years old within the same zone.
The council also approved two propositions to be placed on the Aug. 2 ballot: an increase in Columbia’s lodging tax and the continuation of collecting local sales taxes on vehicles purchased out of state.

**Housing freeze**

The ordinance, which Mayor Brian Treece requested in April, prohibits the approval of any construction permits for new multi-family structures until Dec. 1. It applies to any property within one mile of the MU campus, bordered by Providence Road on the west, Hitt Street on the east, Elm Street on the north and Stadium Boulevard on the south.

The proposal cites “unprecedented growth in the construction of off-campus student housing complexes” and MU’s significant enrollment decline for fall 2016 as reasons for the freeze. Last Wednesday, administrators announced at a budget forum that enrollment is expected to be down by 2,600 students, a significant jump from MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley’s estimate of 1,500 students in March.

The bill was passed after about 90 minutes of debate among residents and council members.

Second Ward Councilman Michael Trapp said the ordinance wasn’t necessary or prudent.

“An administrative delay seems like a reaction to a crisis, and I don’t see downtown as a crisis,” Trapp said. “In every aspect, downtown is booming.”

Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser also opposed the administrative delay and said the delay of downtown development would push students to residential neighborhoods in the city's periphery.

“Continue to destroy our local neighborhoods, or let people build downtown,” Nauser said.

Most of the 14 citizens who spoke supported the housing freeze, however, citing the increased strain placed on Columbia’s downtown infrastructure by the rapid increase of student housing.
Longtime Columbia resident Alyce Turner described going downtown on Saturday nights as being “on frat row.”

“This is not the planned diverse downtown that I had hoped, when downtown started growing, that we would see,” Turner said.

Developer Wayne Hawks said he is “terribly concerned” about Columbia, especially with MU’s projected enrollment decrease. Hawks said he had shut down all his future developments besides single-family homes.

“I’m done developing in Columbia,” Hawks said. “I’m bye-bye. I’ve moved onto other places, and that hurts me tremendously.”

Developer Tony Grove said the council should think about what it was trying to stop with the ordinance and ensure that it’s not shutting “good things” out of the downtown area.

Nevertheless, residents who remained in the council chambers burst into applause after Treece announced the ordinance passed.

**Lodging tax**

The council voted unanimously to place a proposition on the Aug. 2 ballot that would increase the local lodging tax from 4 percent to 5 percent.

The revenue from the increase would be used to construct a new terminal at the Columbia Regional Airport. The increase is estimated to generate an additional $500,000 per year and would be collected for a maximum of 23 years. City Manager Mike Matthes said significant progress could be made on the new terminal within three to five years.

The airport’s facility should be increased from about 19,000 square feet to about 35,000 square feet to accommodate a recent upswing in passenger activity, according to an assessment by airport consultant Parsons Brinckerhoff. The number of people boarding planes at the airport increased by about 22 percent in 2015 and is estimated to exceed 70,000 this year.
Matthes said expansion was necessary to meet the demands of mid-Missouri travelers.

The airport doesn’t meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and passengers who use wheelchairs have limited options for boarding planes, which Treece said was unacceptable.

A survey of residents in 2014 showed that about two-thirds of respondents would support increasing the tax on hotel and motel transactions to pay for a new airport terminal. If approved by voters in August, the city would also pursue grant money from the Federal Aviation Administration as well as funding from state agencies such as the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Nearly all of 18 members of the public who spoke supported placing the tax on the August ballot, citing the potential economic growth a better airport would bring the city.

Matt McCormick, president of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, said a better airport will help overall economic development and Columbia’s attractiveness to businesses and conventions.

“For many years, this has been a top priority of the chamber,” McCormick said. “We continue to be a major supporter of the airport and the expansion of it.”

Some members of the public, including those in the hospitality industry, criticized the proposition for its vagueness and said the council needed to develop a clearer plan.

Teri Weise, director of sales at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, said funds from hotel taxes have repeatedly been used for attractions that didn’t pan out.

“It’s easy to support something when you don’t have to pay for it and it doesn’t impact your business directly,” she said.

Use tax
Voters will also decide in August whether Columbia will continue collecting local sales tax on motor vehicles, trailers, boats and outboard motors purchased out of state, after the council voted unanimously to put a measure allowing the city to do so.

About 20 percent of vehicle sales come from out-of-state vendors or private sales, according to the Missouri Department of Revenue. The loss of the tax would cost Columbia about $500,000 per year.

Rejecting the proposition would also put Missouri vehicle dealers at a competitive disadvantage to out-of-state dealers, according to the ballot language.

Columbia's lodging tax increase will go on August ballot

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Columbia voters will now decide on how Columbia Regional Airport's expansion will be paid for.

The city council voted to put a lodging tax increase on August's ballot Monday night, something that has drawn mixed reviews.

The plan would raise tax from 4% to 5% per night at Columbia hotels.

Businesses in town, like Veterans United and Shelter Insurance have shown support. They say an airport is critical in recruiting good people to work.

The University of Missouri said expanding the airport is vital to its nuclear medicine research.

Hotel owners in town, however, said they want more information on the airport expansion such as what it looks like and what the actual cost of the terminal would be.

The Holiday Inn Executive Center Director said the council should put it off to find a more
suitable tax for the airport expansion.

Matthes expects that the 1% raise would collect $10 million a year.

Missouri attorney general hopefuls slam Obama on bathrooms

Missouri's two Republicans vying for attorney general on Monday slammed the Obama administration for a directive aimed at protecting bathroom access for transgender students.

BY SUMMER BALLENTINE Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. - Missouri's two Republicans vying for attorney general on Monday slammed the Obama administration for a directive aimed at protecting bathroom access for transgender students.

Attorney Josh Hawley and state Sen. Kurt Schaefer spoke in a debate aired on Columbia-based Zimmer Radio against guidance issued by leaders at the Justice and Education departments that tells public schools to allow transgender students to use the restrooms that match their gender identities, not sex at birth.

The administration's guidance does not impose any new legal requirements, but officials say it's meant to clarify expectations of school districts that receive funding from the federal government. It comes amid a legal battle with the Department of Justice over a North Carolina
law requiring transgender people to use public bathrooms, showers and changing rooms that correspond to the sex on their birth certificate.

"President Obama doesn't realize that he doesn't get to write the law," Hawley said.

Schaefer said the administration is cheapening the Civil Rights Act by applying protections "to somebody who feels like they're the opposite sex this day or that day."

Schaefer called it "the epitome of the most recent lunacy of a combination of political correctness and federal overreach."

Hawley and Schaefer are set to face off Aug. 2 in the Republican primary. They're hoping to replace Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster, who is running for governor. Nixon, a Democrat, is barred by term limits from running.

Democrats Teresa Hensley, a former Cass County prosecutor, and St. Louis County Assessor Jake Zimmerman also are running for attorney general.

During the Monday debate, the Republican candidates also spoke against legalizing marijuana and abortions.

**Hawley and Schaefer, who share similar stances on issues, are trying to emphasize their different backgrounds. Hawley, who took a leave of absence from work as an associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Law to run for attorney general, would be a first-time officeholder. Schaefer was first elected to the Senate in 2008, is the Senate Appropriations Committee chairman and previously served as an assistant attorney general.**

The general election is Nov. 8.