

2014 Symposium Survey Outcomes

A total of 13 churches nationwide hosted symposiums with approximately 1,000 attendees across the 13 sites. Attendees were asked to complete a survey questionnaire after each symposium.

Medical Expert Participants

PHEN recruited 19 prostate cancer medical specialists to participate in the educational symposia. These clinicians represented the following specialties: urology, urologic oncology, genitourinary oncology, and radiation oncology. All of the clinicians saw patients in private clinic, while approximately half of the clinicians also had affiliations with major academic cancer research institutions.

Survey Results

Question 1: “I came to this symposium because I am...”

At risk for prostate cancer	31.8%
Newly diagnosed and have not started treatment	2.8%
Newly diagnosed and have started treatment	2.4%
Prostate cancer survivor	11.9%
Wife/partner/relative of prostate cancer survivor	8.3%
Other	42.8%

This question was asked to determine how the symposium attendees described themselves in relationship to the topic at hand. A plurality of the respondents indicated, “Other”. Of these “other” responses, most of them indicated a desire to acquire information about prostate cancer because of a male loved one in their lives.

Question 2

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Total (out of 100%)
I was satisfied with the topics covered.	82.2%	15.1%	97.3%
I was satisfied with the speakers/presenters.	81.1%	16.1%	97.2%
My knowledge of prostate health and cancer has increased as a result of the symposium.	76.9%	19.1%	96%
Overall, I was satisfied with the organization of the symposium.	77.9%	18.1%	96%

The survey's second question asked about respondent satisfaction with the topics covered, the speakers and presented, the overall organization of the symposium, and whether or not their knowledge of prostate health and cancer had increased as a result of the symposium.

Question 3: "I plan to attend or recommend that someone else attend next year."

This question was geared toward understanding the usefulness of the symposium to the respondent and to also ascertain the likelihood of the respondent either returning in the future, or recommending the program to someone else. With over 300 responses to this question (n=323), 97.8% of responses indicated plans to return to the symposium or suggest that someone attend in 2015.

Question 4: "The length of the symposium was: Too long, Just right, or Too short"

Just right	89.7%
Too long	5.5%
Too short	4.9%

An overwhelmingly majority of the survey respondents deemed the symposium "Just right" in its length, which was a standard 3-4 hours across all but two of the symposia sites. The remaining responses were divided almost equally between "Too long" (5.5%) and "Too short" (4.9%).

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Question 5: “How did you hear about the symposium?”

Church	77.7%
Other	17.5%
Internet	3.0%
Media	1.8%

A majority of attendees learned of the symposium through a church. The second most popular method of becoming informed about the symposium was “other”, which was via the PHEN e-newsletter or Survivor Network members. Despite PHEN’s best efforts with media (newspapers and radio) and the internet (flyer advertising), less than 5% of survey respondents combined learned of the event through those channels.

Question 6: “What was the most useful session of the symposium for you?”

It is clear that across all 13 sites, participants were impressed by the clinicians and their ability to share information in a clear and concise manner. Even more important for some, was the ability of the clinicians to answer a variety of questions, honestly and directly, while also including information that was not necessarily available online or in the pamphlets the participants had received. Other popular sessions of the symposia included:

- Medical information/screening
- Survivor stories
- Men openly discussing their health with each other
- Being encouraged to have more fruitful dialogues with personal physicians

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Question 7: “What other topics or speakers would have been useful to you?”

Symposia attendees almost uniformly requested more information on diet and nutrition. Many specifically asked for someone to “talk about diet and nutrition”, a “dietician”, and “more on the importance of lifestyle changes around diet.” In addition to a desire for nutritional information, other prevalent themes around desired information, aggregated across sites, included:

- Exercise and Preventive Health
- More Information on Treatments (seed implant, hormone therapy, prostate medications)
- Financial (medical insurance, programs for low-income survivors)
- Sexuality and sexually relationships
- Cancer and mental health

General Comments

In the open-ended comments section of the survey, several distinct themes emerged from the respondents.

- 1) Appreciation for the information shared by the panelists
 - “Very good place for information on healing”
 - “We can’t hear the messages enough.”
 - “Potentially life changing for someone”
 - “I feel truly empowered by this education”

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2) The need for more publicity

- “Do more advertising to get more men to attend.”
- “I strongly feel that a program of such importance should have been better publicized.”
- “More church members should be invited.”

3) Expansion of the reach of the symposium

- “Programs like this should be replicated by every church in the world. This was POWERFUL.”
- “I enjoyed the symposium and I would like to see it continued at this church and spread to the community.”
- ”I have been telling others about this symposium and would like to see how I can get my church to have one of these.”

4) Inclusion of more caregivers

- “Would like to hear more from caregivers” “
- “Need to have more caregivers invited (they need help).”
- “Plan to support the caregiver”