



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Office of
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

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For Immediate Press Release
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Omega Psi Phi urges members to get regular prostate exams

Omega News -- Decatur, Georgia – May 10, 2007 – Researchers have determined that black men have the highest rate of prostate cancer in the world and the lowest rate of survival. Based on these findings, Omega Psi Phi is urging its members, as well as men of color, to be tested regularly for prostate cancer.

In America, black men are 1.5 times more likely to develop prostate cancer and are three times more likely to die of the disease than white men. "Everyone else is living longer," said Warren G. Lee Jr., Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi. "But black men are dying sooner."

Charles A. Christopher, MD is a staff physician at Texas State University, Student Health Center. He also serves as Omega Psi Phi Surgeon General. "We recognize that there is a stigma attached to the digital examination, but medical testing is necessary to save lives," said Dr. Christopher.

Omega Psi Phi has more than 150 thousand members worldwide. The Fraternity leadership is asking all chapters within the organization to promote awareness of prostate cancer and raise money for cancer research. "We think the statistics pertaining to prostate cancer are alarming and we want to alert men that it is important that they get checked," said Lee.

The symptoms of prostate cancer can include blood in the urine; the need to urinate frequently, especially at night; weak or interrupted urine flow; pain or a burning feeling while urinating; and constant pain in the lower back, pelvis or upper thighs.

"If someone experiences these symptoms, we strongly urge that they see a physician," said Dr. Christopher. "This is a quality-of-life issue that can be addressed, if caught early."

Omega Psi Phi is committed to making a difference in the lives of black people; health awareness is a crucial step in that mission.

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