



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY FORUM ADDRESSES CANCER CONCERNS ***County HHSA Organizes Event in Carlsbad April 28***

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency will hold a community forum in Carlsbad to answer questions from residents about cancer, including genetic and environmental factors.

The forum will take place Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the Calavera Hills Middle School Gymnasium, 4100 Tamarack Avenue. RSVP is not required, but attendees are encouraged to arrive with ample time to park, walk to the gym and find a seat.

Thomas Mack, M.D., a professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine is the featured speaker at the event. Dr. Mack is an expert in infectious and chronic diseases and he has conducted extensive research regarding genetic and environmental causes of chronic disease, including cancers.

Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County of San Diego Public Health Officer, will moderate the forum. Other experts will share findings on local air and water quality and present information regarding environmental links to cancers and to infectious and chronic diseases. A Department of Toxic Substances Control official, who supervised the 2009 removal of arsenic beneath the old football field at Carlsbad High School, will also present his findings. Forum attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions.

"Some residents have expressed concern about some cancer cases in the area," said Wooten. "We encourage residents to attend the forum to get answers to their questions and ease their concerns."

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