

James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program

Koniaris, Leonidas

*Surgery
University of Miami*

*2010 Program
Research Project Grant
(5-year project)*

Project Title: Identifying and Addressing Cancer Outcome Disparities in Breast and Lung Cancer

Project Summary: Many minority and poor communities exhibit increased cancer risk and higher rates of cancer death. While higher smoking rates are partly to blame, other factors are also responsible. Our long-term goal is to identify and eradicate disparities and provide optimal treatment for all cancer patients. In this project, we will determine whether and where disparities exist for two of the most common tobacco-associated cancers, lung and breast, then communicate that knowledge to Florida communities. The interdisciplinary team consists of cancer surgeons, oncologists, statisticians, epidemiologists, and community educators. A very detailed database will be made by linking the Florida Cancer Data System, which collects diagnosis and treatment data for every Florida cancer patient, to the Agency for Health Care Administration database, which collects extensive inpatient and outpatient data for individual patients. The resulting dataset will cover the treatment, health, and outcomes status of ~500,000 cancer patients. Subsequent analysis of this dataset will be powerful enough to detect disparities in diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes for patient groups representing even a small fraction of the population. Next, we will identify causes of the disparities. Finally, we will present our findings in culturally appropriate ways to patients, health-care providers, and at-risk communities in order to improve cancer care.