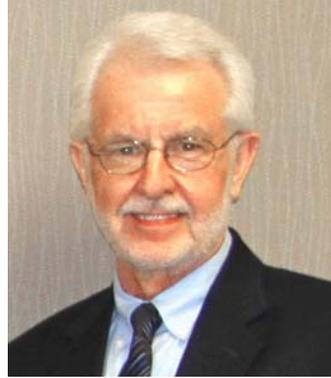


Foundation Director to Co-Chair Illinois Cancer Partnership

4 September 2015

The Illinois Cancer Partnership (ICP) announces the selection of Shaan Trotter as Chair and Rudy Bess as Co-Chair at its bi-annual meeting last month in Springfield, IL. Trotter previously served for one year as Co-Chair of the ICP before being moved up to the one-year Chair position. Trotter succeeds the outgoing Chair, Shannon Lightner, director of Cancer Education for the American Cancer Society's Illinois Division. Bess succeeds Trotter as Co-Chair.



Rudy Bess, Founding Director
The Hope Light Foundation

Trotter is Administrative Director of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University's Office of Equity and Minority Health which addresses the unique cancer issues of minority and medically underserved populations with a purpose of reducing cancer health disparities.

Bess, a native of Metropolis, Illinois, is the Founding Director of The Hope Light Foundation that is a nonprofit public charity dedicated to communicating cancer awareness to help people detect cancer early.

The ICP is a statewide, collaborative organization with a mission to reduce the incidence, morbidity and mortality of cancer in Illinois. The ICP was formed by the Illinois Department of Public Health to develop and prepare the Illinois Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. The ICP relies on the involvement of a broad range of citizens throughout the state, including individuals, informal groups, cancer coalitions, cancer organizations, hospital systems, colleges/universities and corporate entities, to accomplish its program goals and objectives and to implement its strategies and interventions.

The ICP is currently focusing on developing strategies and interventions to reduce colorectal cancer death rates in sixteen southernmost Illinois counties that are among 238 counties identified by American Cancer Society researchers as having the nation's highest colorectal cancer death rates. These counties comprise three geographic Hot Spots (i.e., the Lower Mississippi Delta, west central Appalachia, and a swath of counties in eastern Virginia and North Carolina).