

# Increasing Colorectal Cancer Screening among Asian Americans



**Sunmin Lee, ScD, MPH**

Professor

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

University of Maryland School of Public Health

Director, Community Outreach and Engagement

University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center

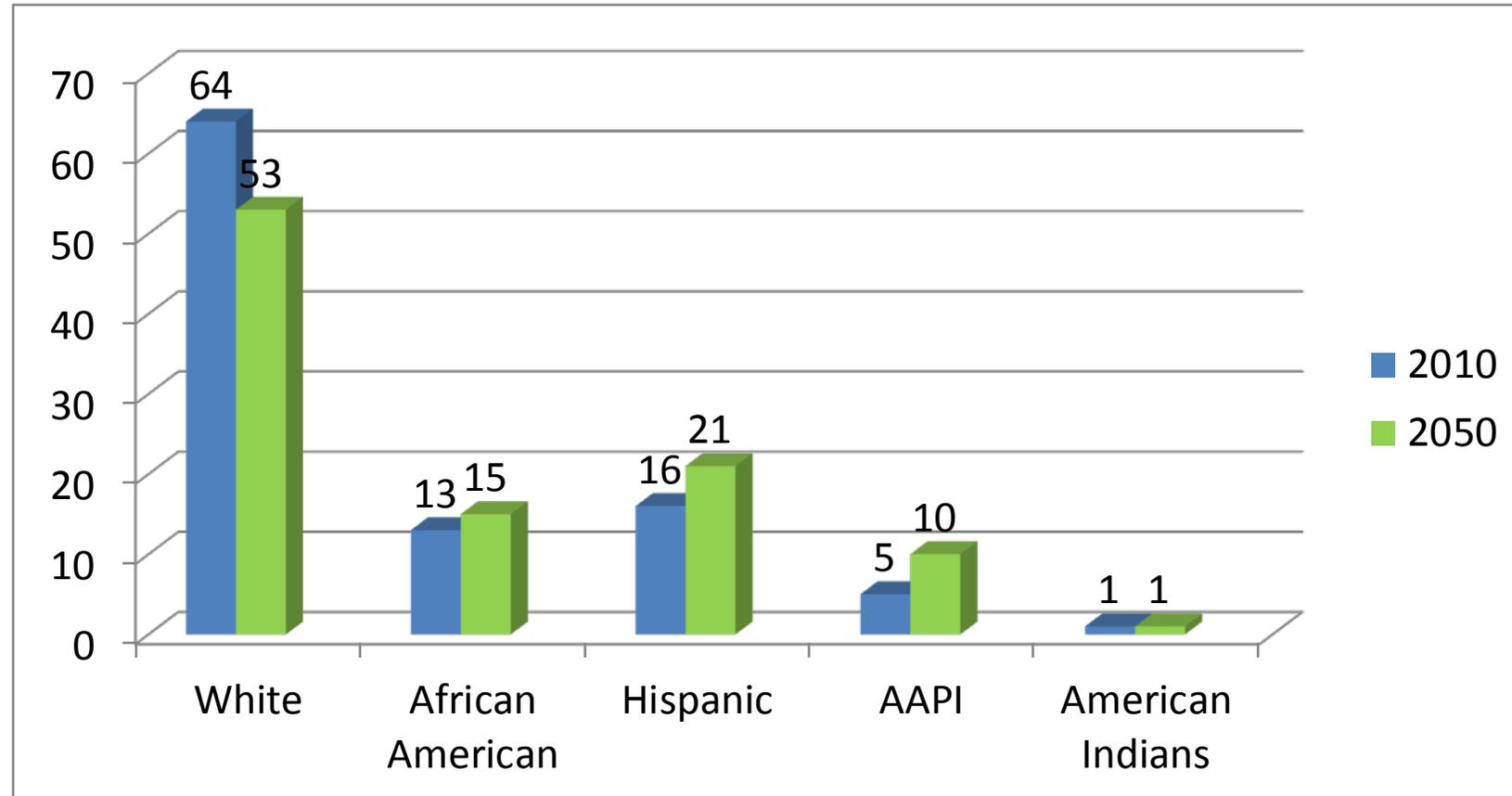
# Who are Asian Americans?



# Asian Americans

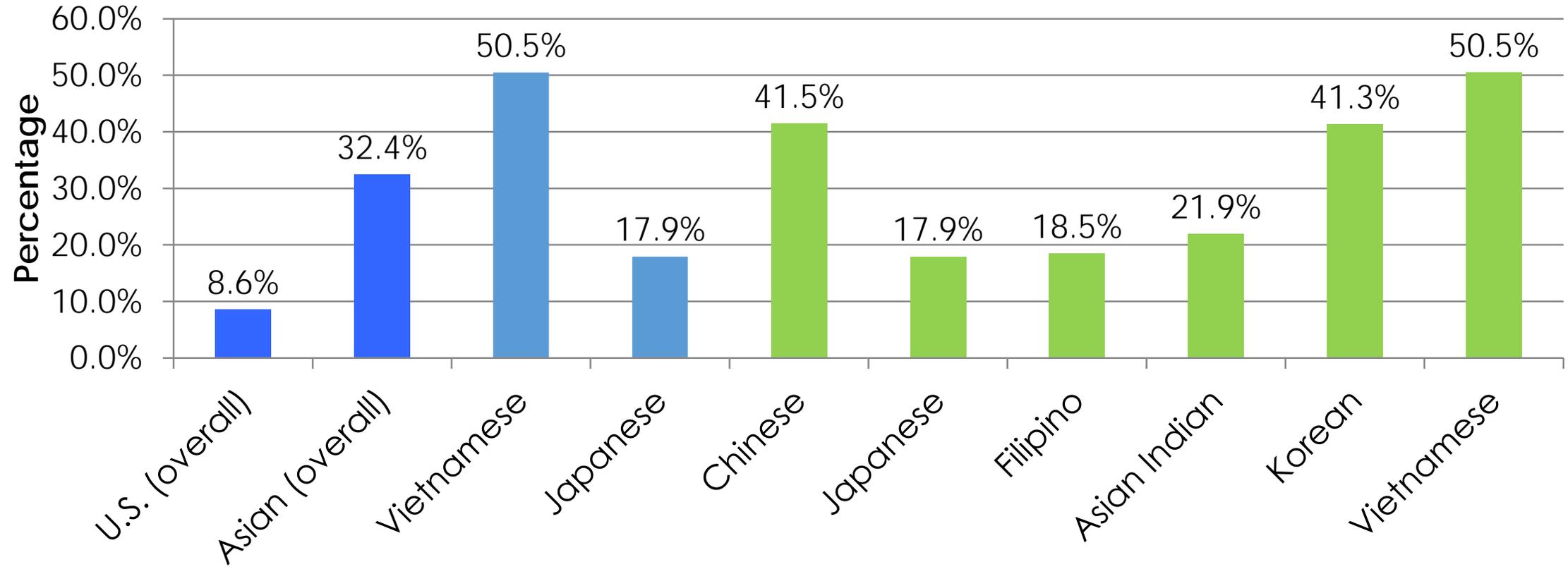
- Asian American: person of Asian ancestry who was born in or immigrated to the United States
  - 95% of total AAPI
  - From the Far East, Southeast Asia, and Indian Subcontinent
  - 31 distinct groups
  - >100 languages and dialects
    - **Aggregated Asian data may mask subgroup difference**
  - 70% foreign born; >65% speak native language; 35% linguistically isolated
  - Historically understudied population

# U.S. Population Distribution (%)



# Limited English Proficiency

## Estimated Percentages of Limited English Proficiency (LEP)



APIAHF (2011)

# Cancer Statistics for Asian Americans



# Cancer Is Leading Cause of Death among Asians

	Whites	Blacks	Asian/Pacific Islander
1	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Cancer
2	Cancer	Cancer	Heart Disease
3	Chronic lower respiratory disease	Cerebrovascular Disease	Cerebrovascular Disease
4	Accidents	Diabetes Mellitus	Accidents
5	Cerebrovascular Disease	Accidents	Diabetes Mellitus

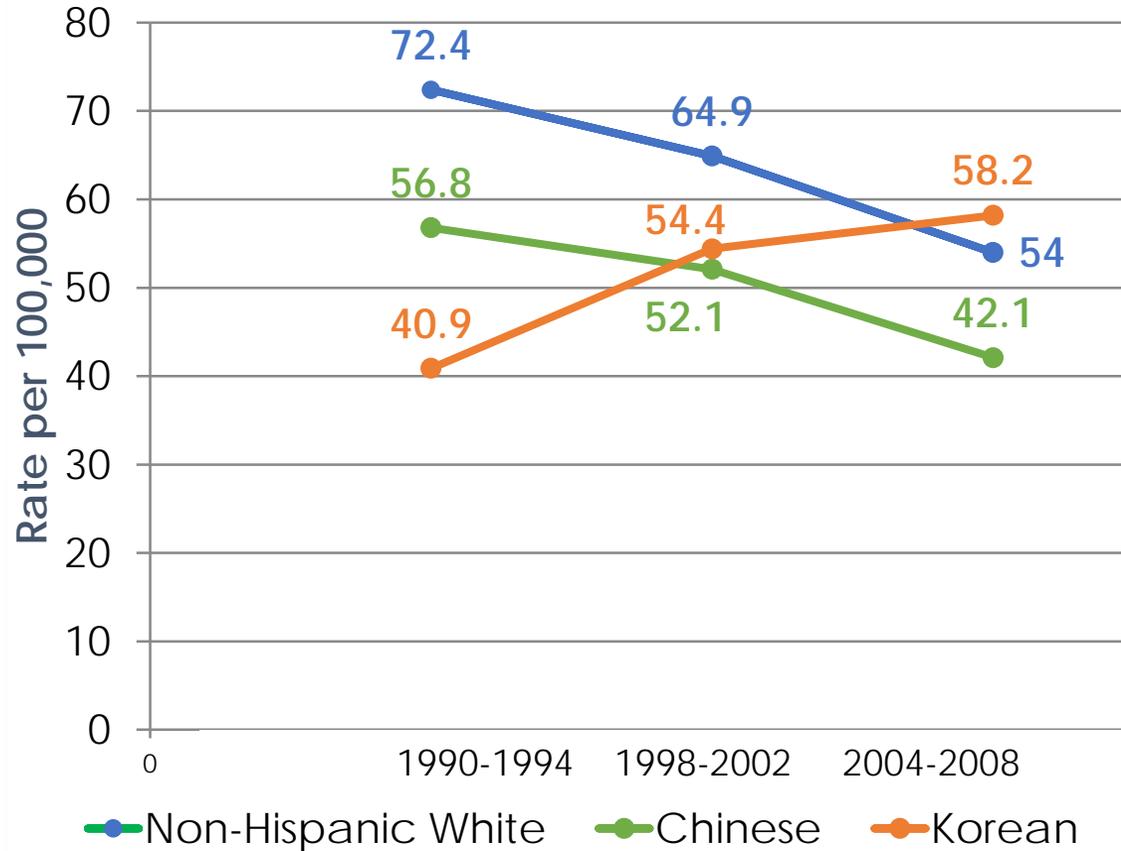
Heron (2015). Deaths: Leading causes for 2012. National Vital Statistics Reports.

# Top 5 Cancer Incidence among Asian American, 2004-2008

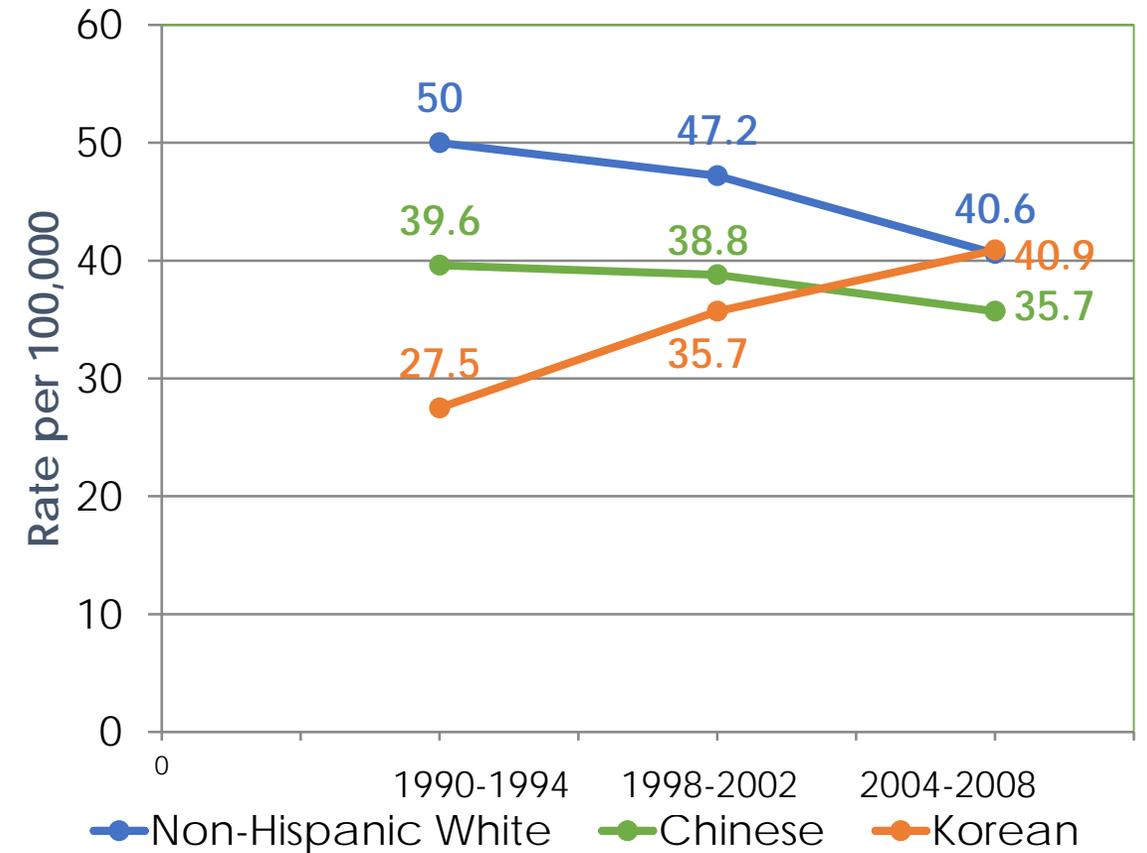
Male			Female		
White	Chinese	Korean	White	Chinese	Korean
Prostate	Prostate	Prostate	Breast	Breast	Breast
Lung	Lung	CRC	Lung	CRC	CRC
CRC	CRC	Lung	CRC	Lung	Lung
Bladder	Liver	Stomach	Uterus	Uterine	Stomach
Melanoma	Stomach	Liver	Melanoma	Thyroid	Thyroid

# CRC Incidence on the Rise for Korean Americans

Age-adjusted U.S. CRC Incidence, Male  
(SEER, 1990-2008)



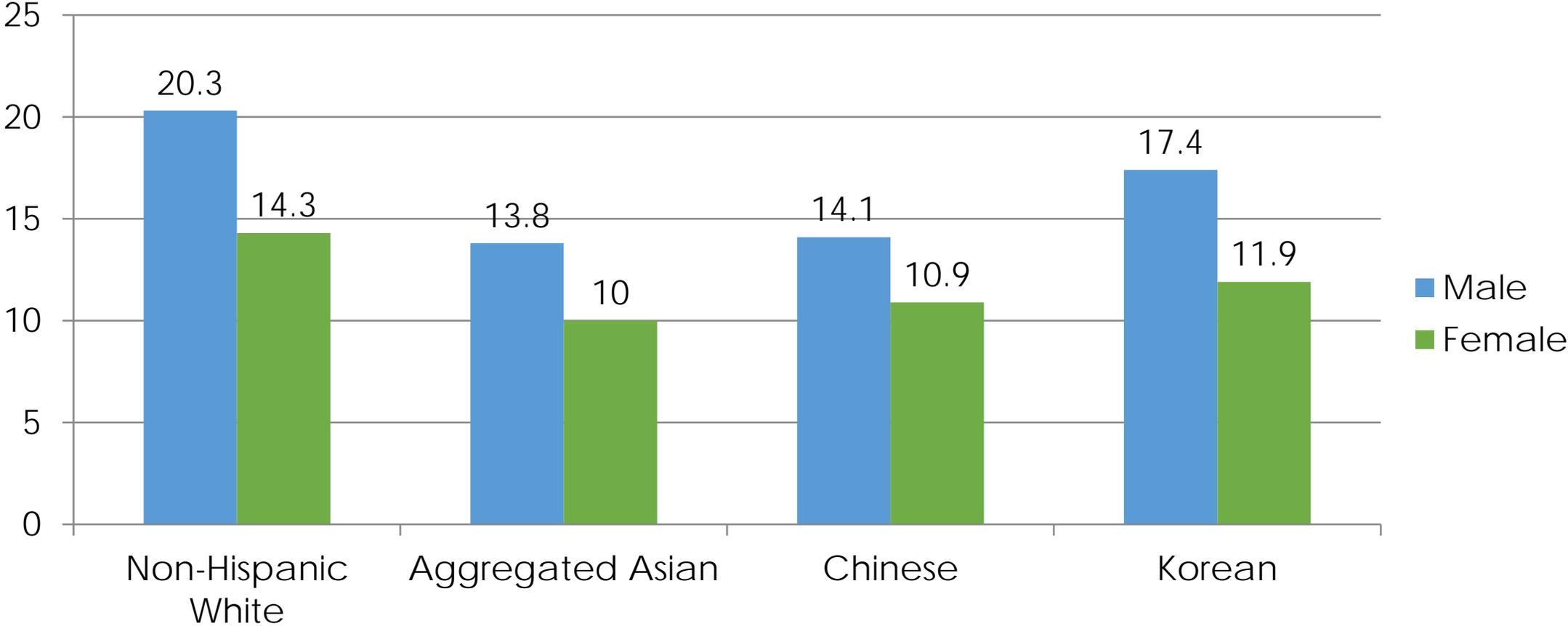
Age-adjusted U.S. CRC Incidence, Female  
(SEER, 1990-2008)



# Top 5 Cancer Mortality among Asian American, 2003-2011

Male			Female		
White	Chinese	Korean	White	Chinese	Korean
Lung	Lung	Lung	Lung	Lung	Lung
Prostate	Liver	Stomach	Breast	Breast	Stomach
<b>CRC</b>	<b>CRC</b>	Liver	<b>CRC</b>	<b>CRC</b>	<b>CRC</b>
Pancreas	Stomach	<b>CRC</b>	Pancreas	Pancreas	Pancreas
Leukemia	Leukemia	Pancreas	Ovary	Stomach	Liver

# CRC Mortality Is High among Koreans, 2003-2011



Thompson et al. , *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*, 2016

# Statistics for Colorectal Cancer Screening among Asian Americans



# CRC Screening Guidelines

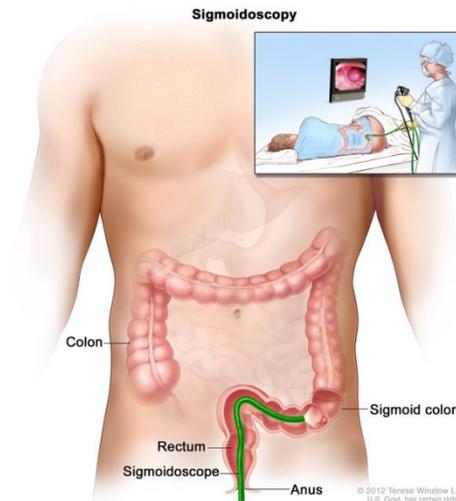
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) Recommendations for adults aged 50-75 years:

## Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)



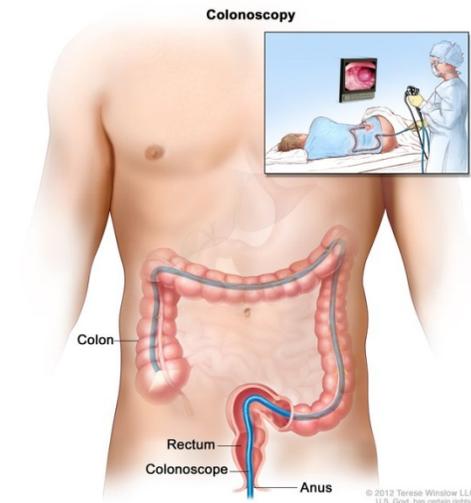
**Every Year**

## Flexible Sigmoidoscopy



**Every 5 Years combined  
with FIT every 3 Years**

## Colonoscopy



**Every 10 Years**

# CRC Screening Disparities (1)

## Maryland BRFSS CRC screening data by racial/ethnic groups, % (2010)

	Ever had FOBT	Ever had Sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy	Had FOBT in last 2 years	Had Sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy in last 2 years
<b>Asian</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>30.4</b>
White, Non-Hispanic	43.8	72.8	23.2	33.3
Black, Non-Hispanic	44.1	73.2	28.8	38.5
Hispanic	29.7	68.7	14.3	37.4

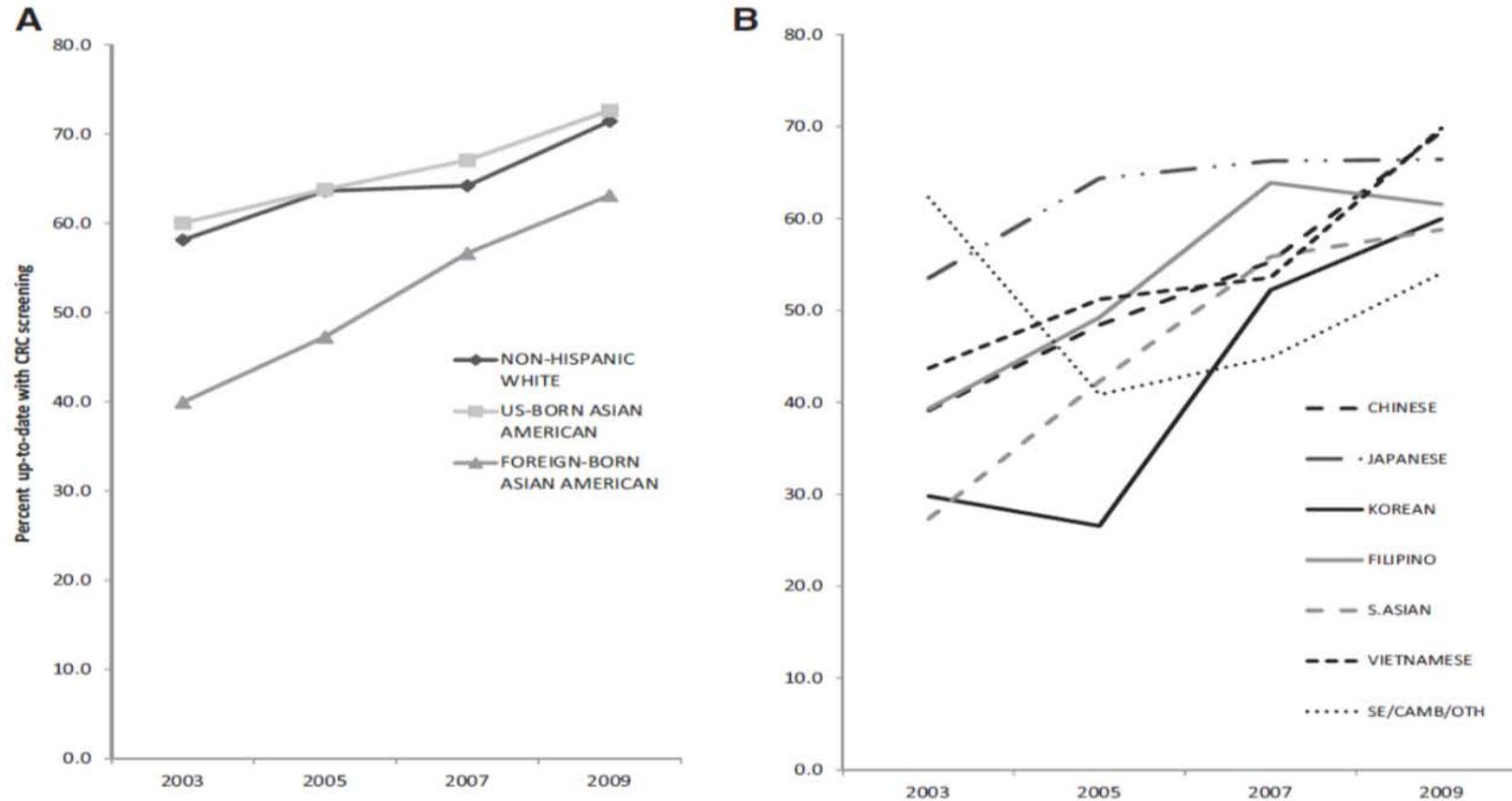
## CRC Screening Disparities (2)

CRC Screening (%) in Whites, AAPIs, and Asian Subgroups (CHIS, 2001-2005)\*

	2001	2003	2005	Change 2001-2005
Non-Latino Whites	56	55	59	3
AAPIs	46	45	49	3
<b>Chinese</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Korean</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-10</b>

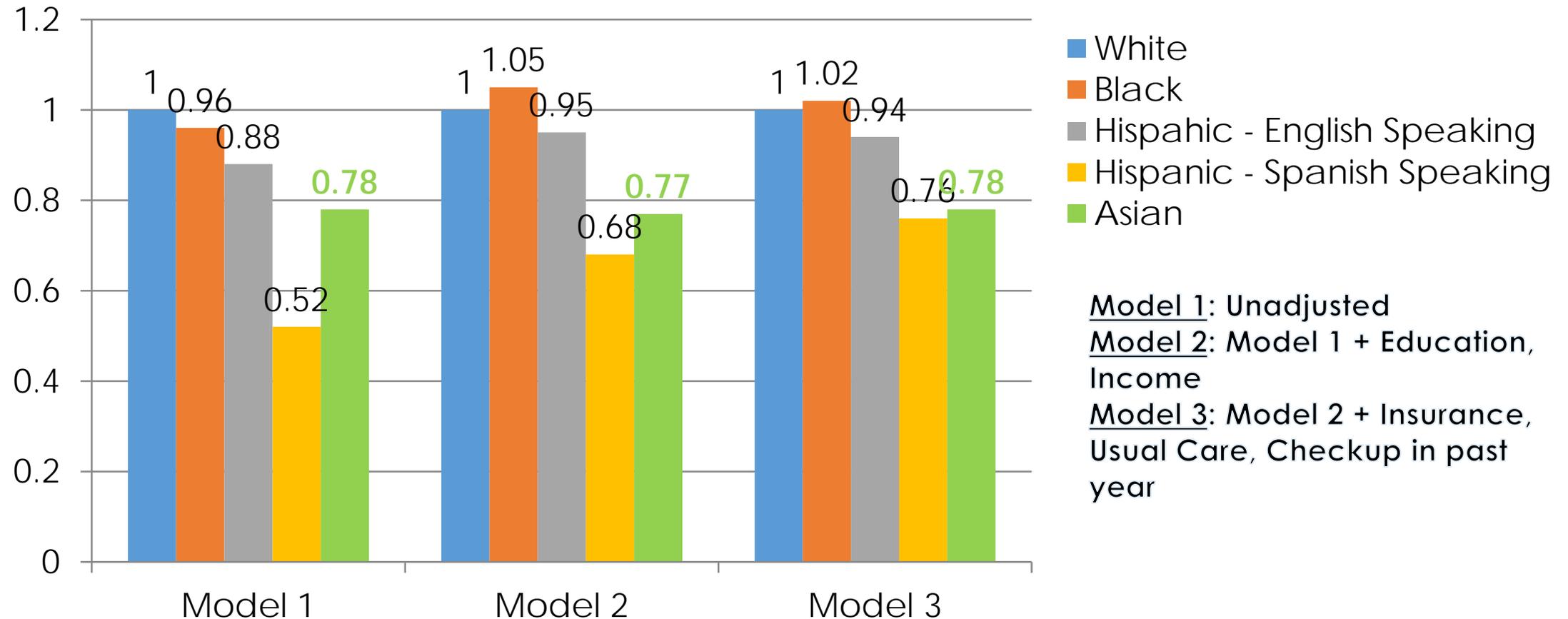
\* Includes any one of the following CRC screening tests within the past 5 years: sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, and FOBT

# Up-to-date CRC screening among California adults, 2003-2009



**Figure 1.** Up-to-date colorectal cancer screening among California adults ages 50–75 years, CHIS 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009. A, colorectal cancer screening prevalence among Asian Americans by place of birth and non-Hispanic Whites. B, colorectal cancer screening among Asian Americans, by subgroup. CAMB, Cambodian; CRC, colorectal cancer; OTH, other; S, South; SE, Southeast; US, United States.

# Up-to-date CRC Screening in Sequential Multivariable Regression Modeling (BRFSS, 2010)





None of the Asian vs. White disparity  
was explained by SES or access to care

What is driving the disparity?

# STOP CRC

## Screening TO Prevent ColoRectal Cancer



Funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PI: Lee (3U48DP001929 SIP 13-067), 2013-2015

# Study Objective and Design

- **Study Objective:**

- To examine facilitators and barriers to CRC screening among Chinese and Korean Americans by **triangulating quantitative and qualitative data**

- **Study Design: Mixed-Methods Study**

- Quantitative method: self-administered surveys (n=120)
  - Qualitative methods (two-stage): key informant interviews (n=17) and focus groups (n=120)

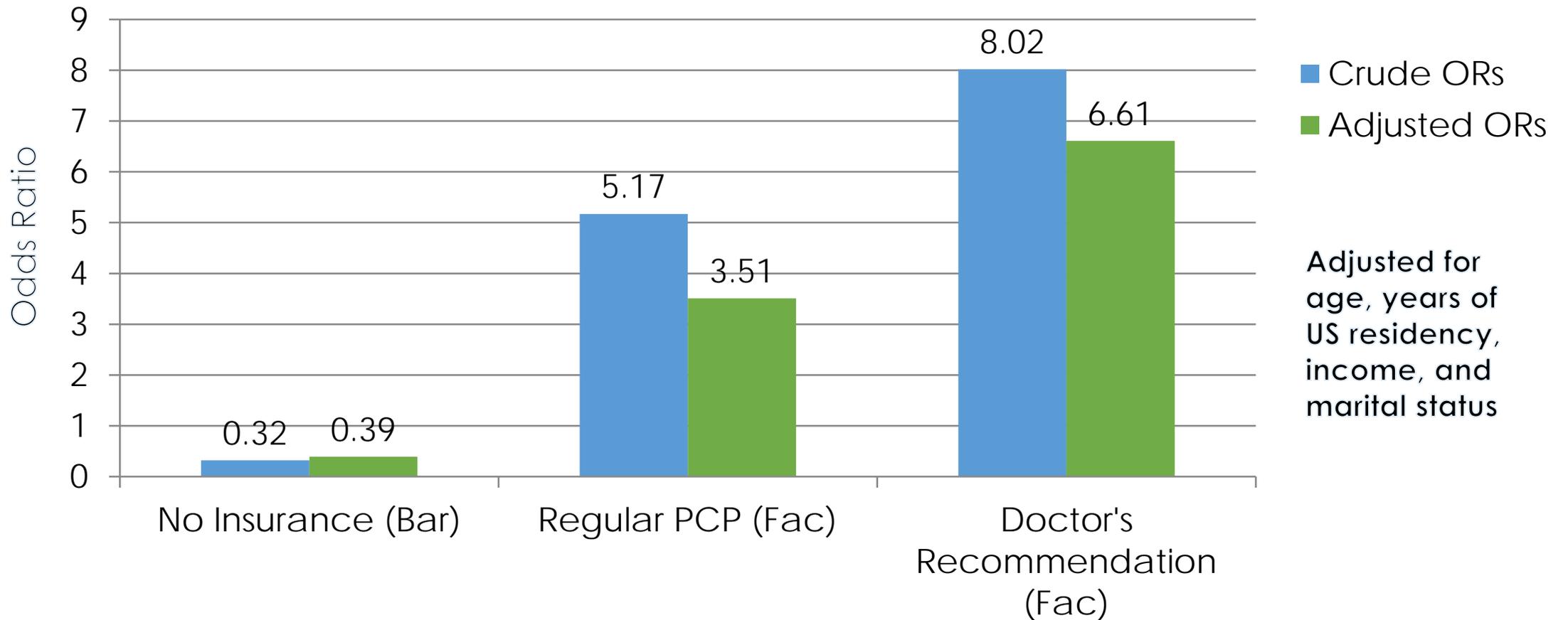


Chinese Focus Group

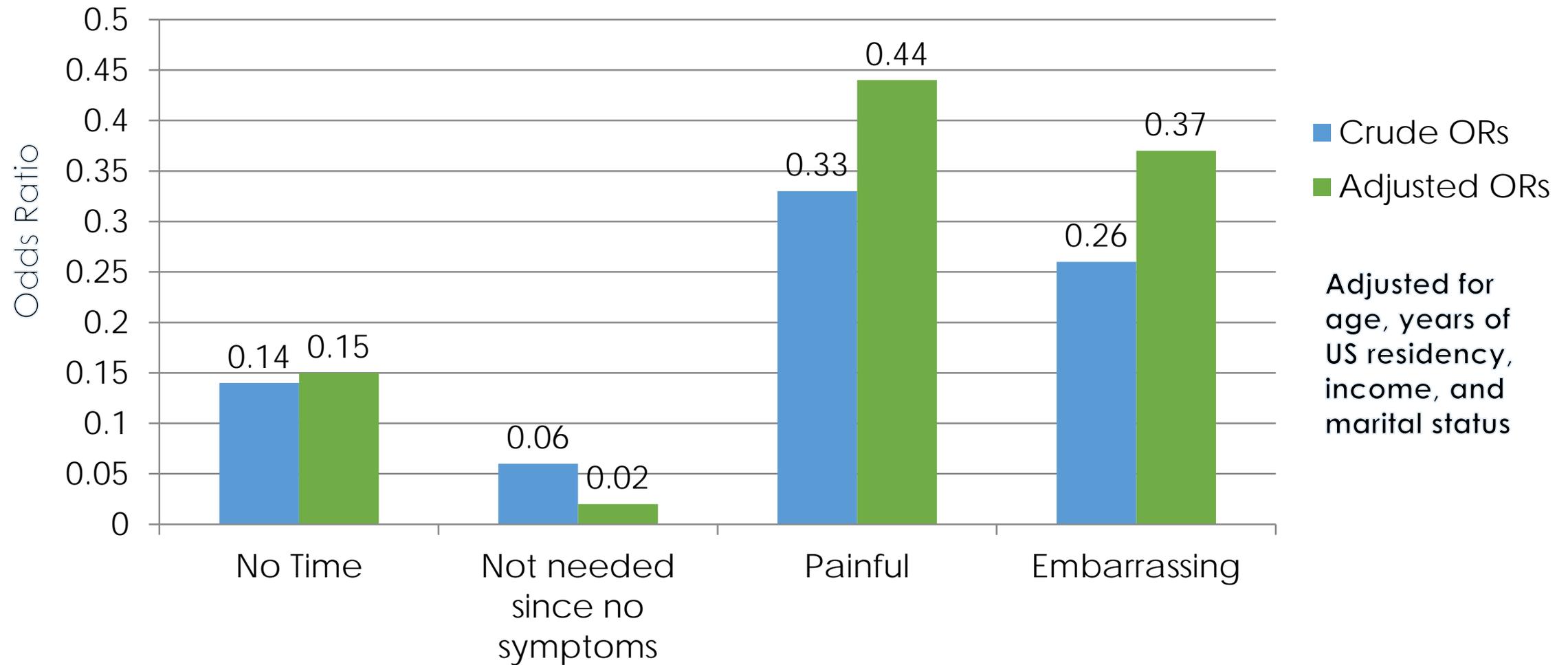


Korean Focus Group

# Quantitative Findings: Key General Facilitators and Barriers



# Quantitative Findings: Key Colonoscopy Facilitators and Barriers



# Qualitative Findings: Cultural Barriers (1)

- **Less emphasis on preventive care**

“If I have no symptoms for CRC now, I am not going spend my time and money to get screening.”

- **Strong stigma towards cancer**

“Cancer is a fatal disease anyway. There is a view that it is better not to know about things to happen later. There are people who think that if it is cancer it will be too difficult, so they do not get screening.”

- **Heavy Emphasis on Self-care**

“I do not actively take the tests, I just do exercise and maintain a good mood. I eat well and sleep well.”

# Qualitative Findings: Cultural Barriers (2)

- **Misconception of perceived susceptibility**

“CRC is something that White people get often.”

“In my case I don’t really like meat. Since my diet is mostly vegetable-based, I don’t think that I will get CRC.”

- **Less exposure to American media**

“ It’s not like they’re watching TV to see Katie Couric tell them that you should get colonoscopy because it can save your life. They’re more shielded from NBC news talking about screening.” (by a physician)

- **Burden to family members**

“They see themselves as a burden [to their children]” and that “it’s hard for them to reach out to them [their children] to [say] ‘oh okay, I need to go see a doctor. Can you not go to work and come and help me see a doctor?’ ” (by a physician)

# Qualitative Findings: Language and Navigating American Health Care System

## ■ Language

“We always went to see Chinese speaking doctors so we could express our concerns”.

“We have to go to a doctor, but due to communication issues we seek Korean offices.”

## ■ Complexity of navigating health care system

“I don't really understand the U.S. healthcare system,” noting finding a doctor, making an appointment, and going through a primary care physician to see a specialist as specific challenges.

## ■ Need for patient navigation

Highlighted the need to assist patients with finding a doctor, making the appointments, and explaining procedures stating, “I mean with the language problem, if without our help, they cannot manage.” (*by a patient navigator*)

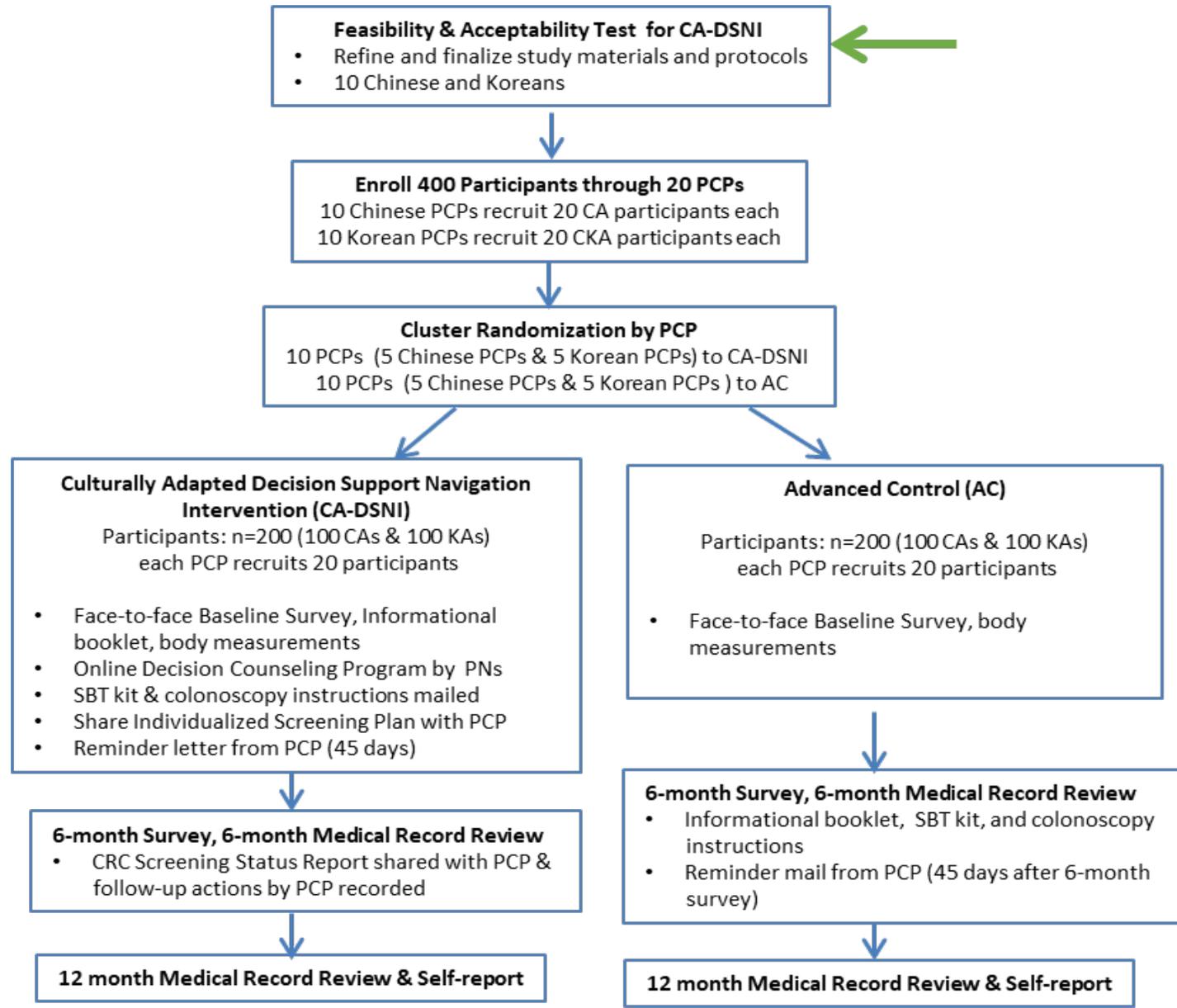
# Culturally Adapted Decision Support Navigation Trial to Reduce Colorectal Cancer Disparity among Asian American Primary Care Patients



Funded by National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities  
PI: Lee (1R01 012778), 2017-2022

# Key Features of This Program

- Built on the key findings from the STOP CRC study
  - Physician's recommendation is the strongest facilitator – involve PCPs as main players
  - Numerous psychological, cultural, and healthcare system barriers to CRC screening are addressed
- To date, a small number of community-based studies have used community education outreach intervention
  - Some of above mentioned barriers are difficult to overcome by one-way delivery of information
  - Knowledge itself is not adequate to address emotional concerns or affective factors
- Linguistically and culturally adapted evidence-based interactive decision aids (Decision Counseling Program (DCP), an online software program)
  - Provide information and engage participants in shared decision making with a provider
- Navigators act as an agent of PCPs to do shared decision making, in coordination with PCPs and office managers
- Participants choose one of the two screening methods (stool test or colonoscopy)



# Booklets



**Happier and Healthier Life  
Starts with  
Colorectal Cancer Screening**



**대장암 검진,  
선택이 아닌 필수입니다**



**关爱健康  
从结直肠癌筛查开始**

## Why Screen For Colorectal Cancer?

### 6 Important Facts



Colorectal cancer is the **only cancer that can be prevented** by identifying and removing precancerous polyps.



**9 out of 10** deaths from colorectal cancer **can be prevented** with screening and early detection.

People between **age 50 and 75** should be screened for colorectal cancer. **90%** of new colorectal cancer cases occur in people **50 or older**.

#### Stool Blood Test

Every year

#### Frequency

#### Colonoscopy

- Every 10 years if results are normal
- Every 3-5 years if 1-2 polyps are found

- ✓ No bowel cleansing
- ✓ No dietary restriction
- ✓ Can do it at home
- ✓ Low cost
- ✓ Not invasive
- ✓ No side effects

#### Benefits

- ✓ Examines entire colon
- ✓ Can remove polyps as well as find colon cancers
- ✓ Can find other gastrointestinal-related diseases

#### Limitations

- Can miss polyps and cancers
- Can produce false-positive result
- Colonoscopy is necessary if results are positive

- Full bowel cleansing needed to be effective
- Dietary restriction
- May miss a day of work
- Need person to take you home
- Potential post-procedural complications

## Myths about Colorectal Cancer Screening

### Myth 1:

Colonoscopy is unpleasant and uncomfortable.

### Truth 1:

Sedatives induce sleep. You will not be unpleasant and uncomfortable.

### Myth 2:

Colonoscopy is the only way to screen.

### Truth 2:

Colonoscopy is the most accurate test, but other screening option, such as stool blood test is available.

### Myth 3:

If I do not have symptoms, colorectal cancer screening is unnecessary.

### Truth 3:

You can have colorectal cancer without any symptoms. Only screening can detect early signs and prevent colorectal cancer.

### Myth 4:

Colorectal cancer screening is unnecessary because I eat healthy, exercise regularly, and do not have a family history of colorectal cancer.

### Truth 4:

Colorectal cancer is still possible even if you eat healthy, exercise regularly, and do not have a family history.

# Decision Counseling Program



Welcome John Yee

English • Spanish • Korean • Chinese

log out

Initiate Session

Recall Session

To initiate a Session, highlight a Decision below and click the start s  
Decisions are grouped under their Domain (in bold).

Select a Decision

Print a copy of the Decision Factors and Questions Outline.

start session



환영합니다 John Yee

English • Spanish • Korean • Chinese

로그아웃

상담 시작

상담을 시작하려면 아래 선택 박스에서 의사결정 종류를 선택한 다음, 상담시작 버튼을 클릭하세요. 의  
사결정 내용은 아래 각 영역에 따라 분류되어 있습니다 (굵은 글씨로 표시).

목록에서 의사결정을 선택하세요

의사결정 이유와 질문의 개요를 인쇄 하세요.

상담 시작

이전 상담 불러오기

이전 상담을 불러오는 세 가지 방법.

1. 참여자 아이디로 상담 불러오기.
2. 참여자 아이디로 선택된 의사결정 기록 불러오기.
3. 의사결정에 따라 모든 상담 불러오기.

참여자 아이디로 상담 불러오기:



欢迎 John Yee

English • Spanish • Korean • Chinese

退出

开始项目

在开始项目之前，在下面的决策选项中做出选择，并且点击“开始项目”按钮。各个决策分属不  
同组（粗体字）。

选择一个决定

打印决定因素和问题大纲。

开始项目

召回项目信息

召回信息的三种方式:

1. 根据参与者ID召回项目信息。
2. 根据决定召回选择报告。
3. 根据决定召回所有项目信息。

根据参与者ID召回项目信息:

请输入参与者ID

开始

根据决定召回选择报告:

请选择参与者ID

开始

根据决定召回所有项目信息:

选择一个决定

开始

### Factors That Favor Option 2 (Not to do a stool blood test at home)

This session is read-only! Changes to answers will not be recorded.

What factors or reasons would make you favor not doing the stool blood test at home?

Factor 1

Noone mentioned SBT to me. I had no knowledge about it

Factor 2

I am worried about the cost. I did not know how much it would cost to me. I am not sure if my insurance covers it.

Factor 3

Factor 4

Factor 5

[previous page](#)

### Enter Factor Effect

This session is read-only! Changes to answers will not be recorded.

Favors Option 1: (To do a stool blood test at home)

My family doctor suggested me to do it.

Neutral A Little Some Much Very Much Over

The cost is free

Neutral A Little Some Much Very Much Over

Favors Option 2: (Not to do a stool blood test at home)

I am worried about the cost. I did not know how much it would cost to me. I am

Neutral A Little Some Much Very Much Over

[previous page](#)

### Decision Counseling Report: TRAINING: To Do A Stool Blood Test At Home - UMD

This session is read-only! Changes to answers will not be recorded.

First Name:

Last Name:

Medical Record Number:

666

<--- Copy Case ID to Medical Record Number

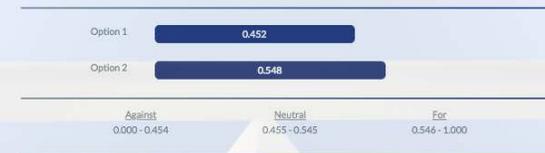
Case ID: 666

Date of Birth: mm-dd-yyyy

Date of Report: 05/22/2018

**A. Results of this session indicate that you are not likely to do a stool blood test at home.**

The bar graph below shows how you feel about Option 1 (To do a stool blood test at home) and Option 2 (Not to do a stool blood test at home). If one option has a longer bar (0.546-1.000), that option is preferred over the option with the shorter bar (0.000-0.454). Otherwise, preference for the options is about equal.



**B. Top Factors and Direction of Influence:**

The following factors are likely to have an effect on your preference.

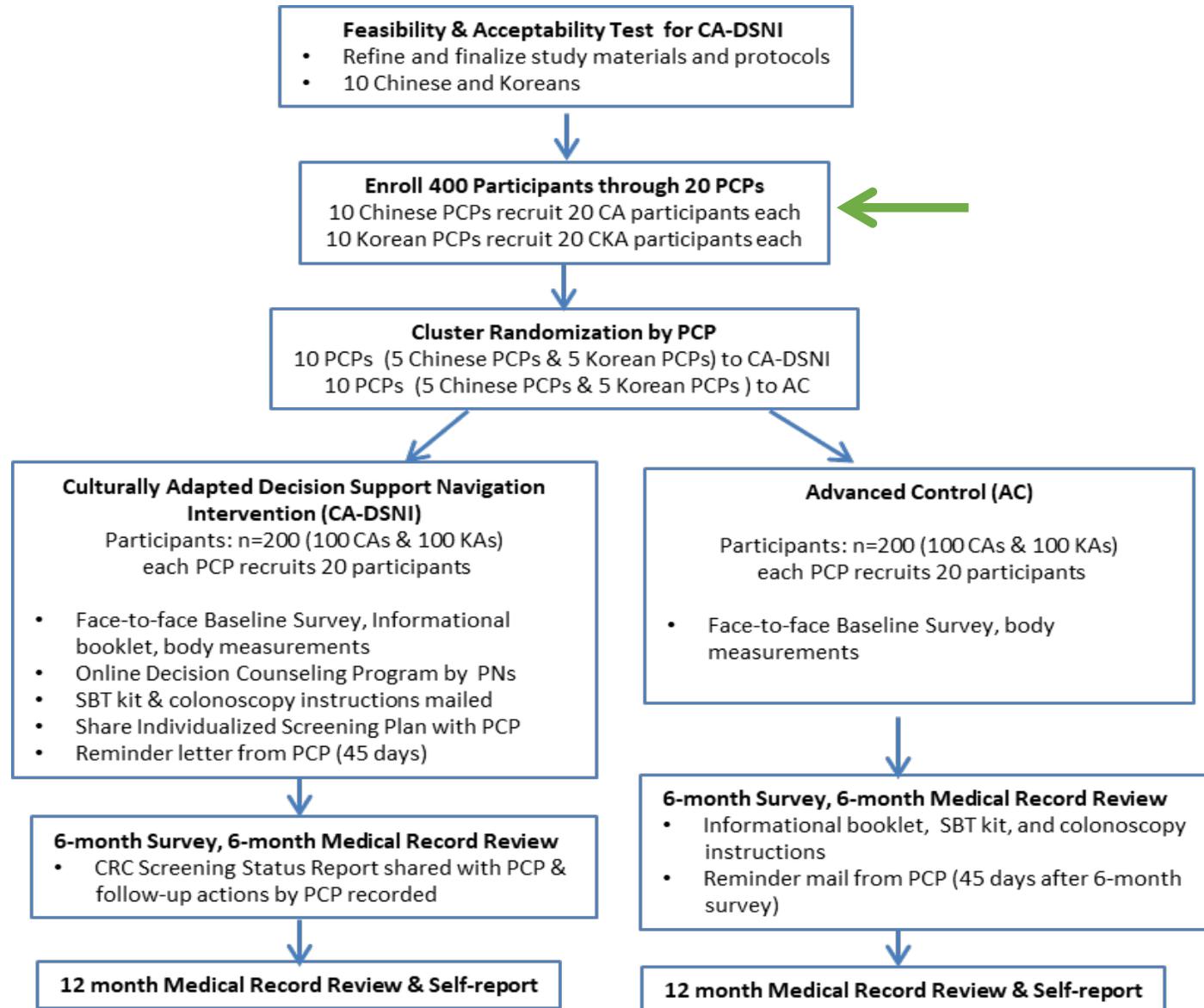
**Factors Favoring Option 1**  
(To do a stool blood test at home)

The cost is free

My family doctor suggested me to do it.

**Factors Favoring Option 2**  
(Not to do a stool blood test at home)

I am worried about the cost. I did not know how much it would cost to me. I am not sure if my insurance covers it.



# Eligibility Criteria

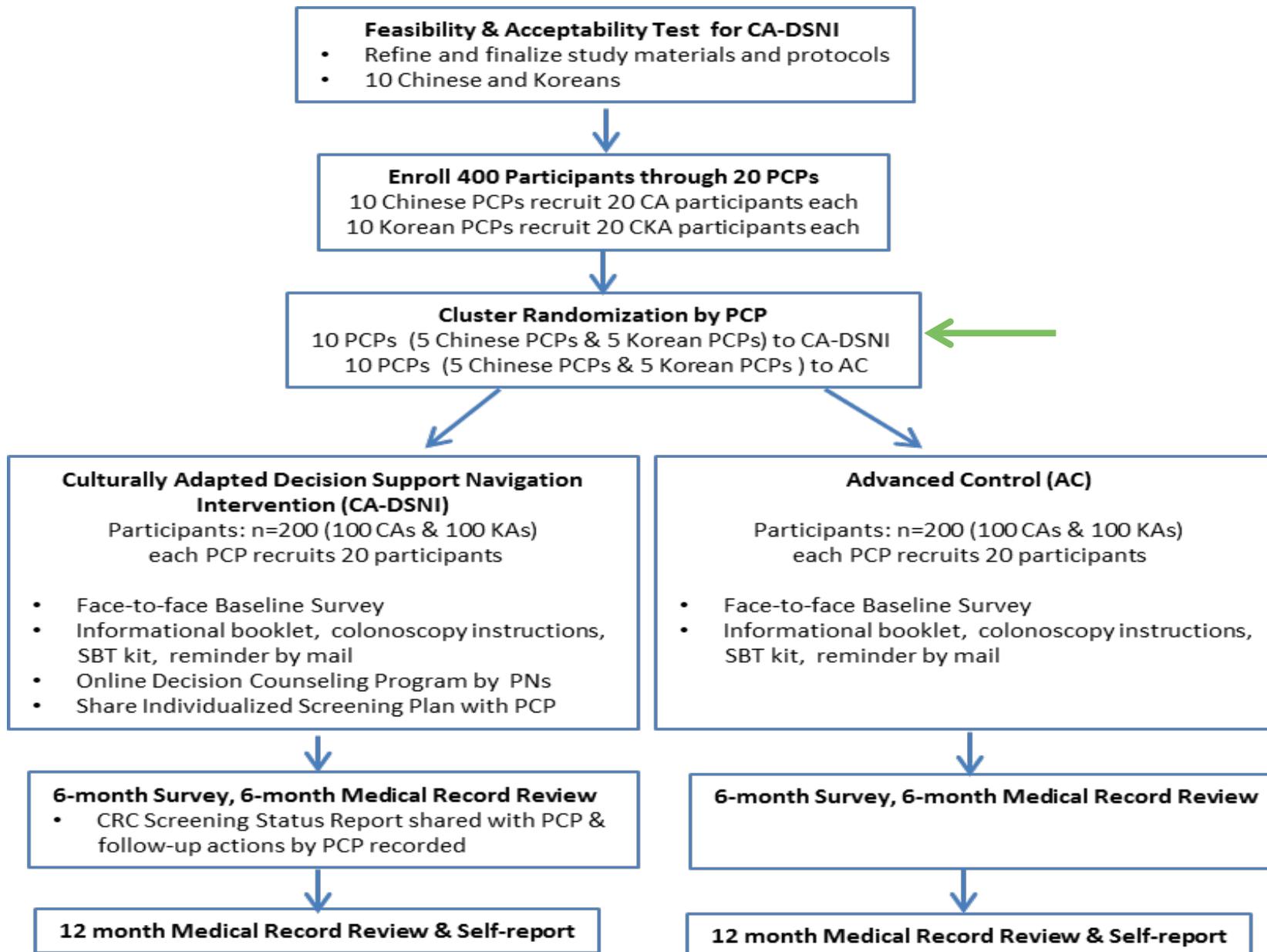
## ■ Inclusion Criteria

- Male and female Chinese or Korean patients aged 50-75
- Not up- to-date for CRC screening
  - Have not done colonoscopy in last 10 years
  - Have not done stool blood test (FOBT or FIT) in last one year

## ■ Exclusion Criteria

- Family history of CRC 1<sup>st</sup> degree relatives
- Previous history of removing polyps
- Those who have inflammatory bowel disease
- Those who have previous diagnosis of colorectal cancer

## Study Schema



# Korean PCPs Participating in the Study (KAMA)



Dr. Oki Kwon



Dr. Ji Yon Hwang-Ki



Dr. Daniel Kim



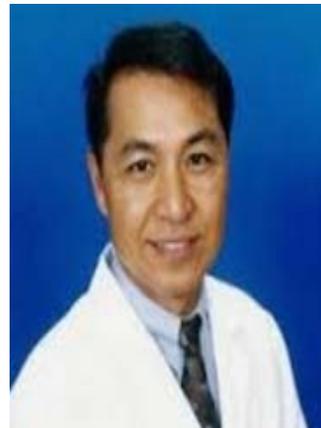
Dr. Wonsock Shin



Dr. James Suh



Dr. Hwang Junn



Dr. Victor Kim



Dr. Su Yi



Dr. Kenneth Lee



Dr. Yeong H. Oh



Korean PCPs

# Chinese PCPs Participating in the Study



Dr. Rong Zhang



Dr. Moping Chow



Dr. Qiufang Cheng



Dr. Harry Li



Dr. Hing-Chung Lee



Dr. Mark Li



Dr. Sharon Yang



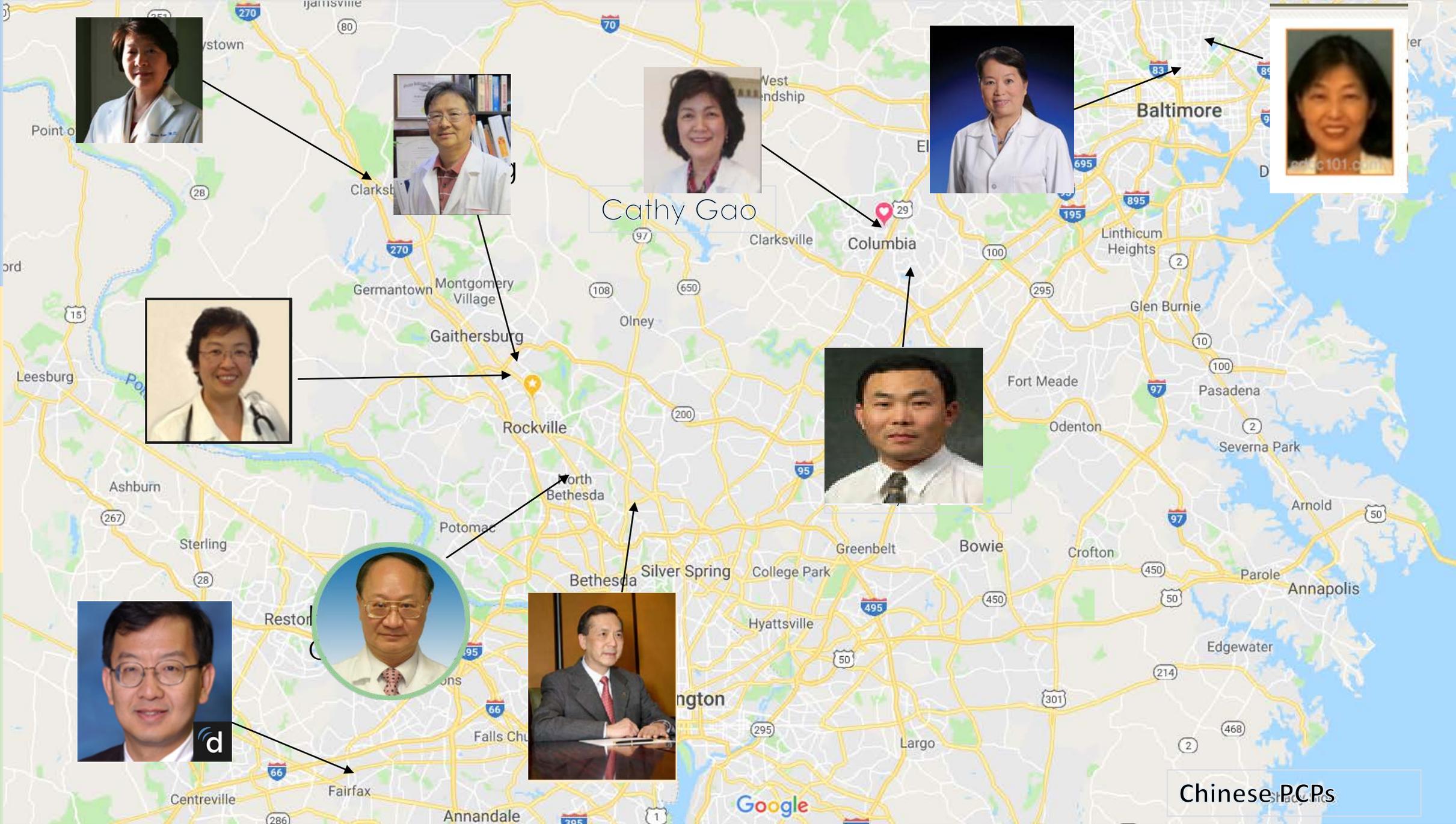
Dr. Nan Ni



Dr. Cathy Gao

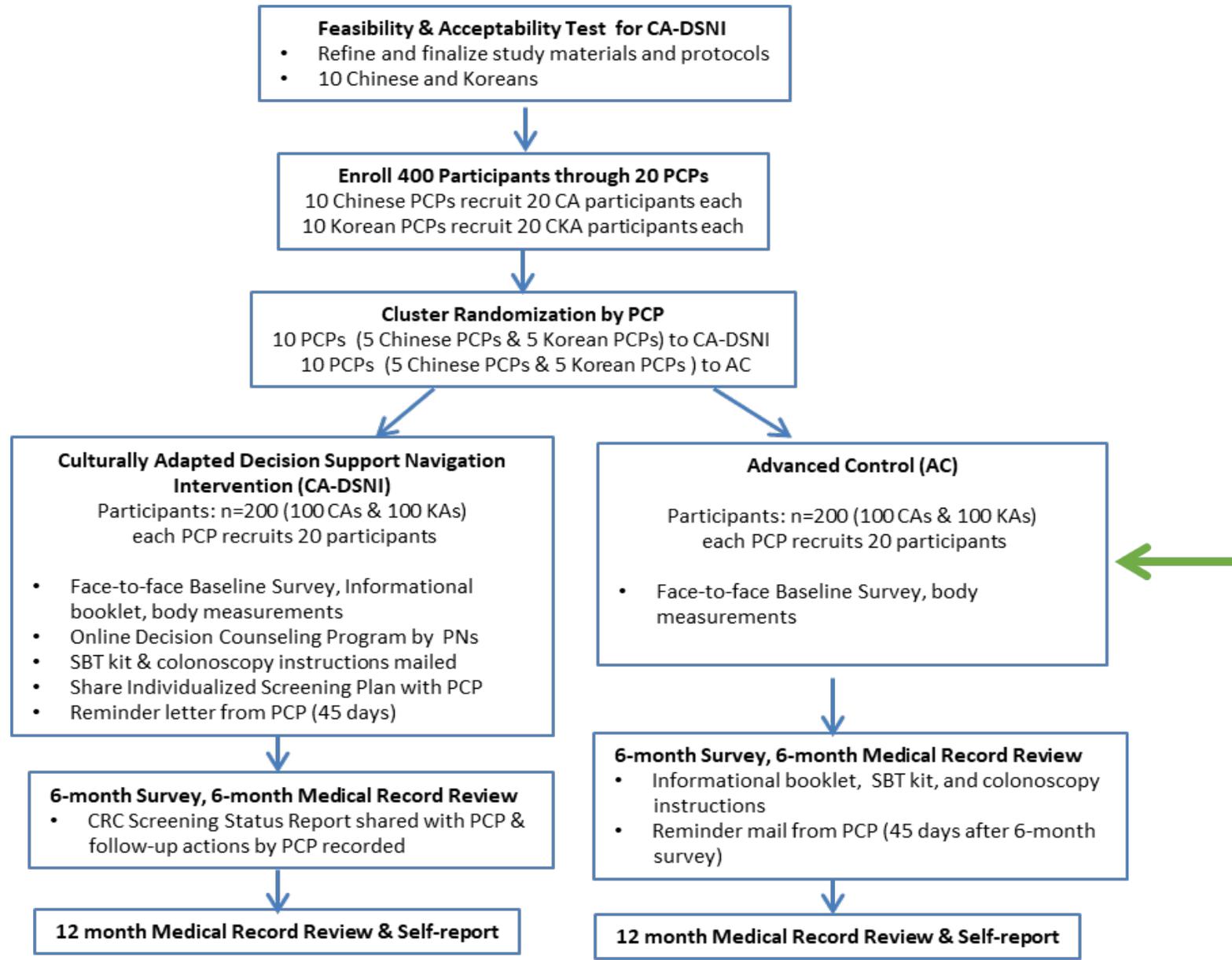


Dr. Benson Yu



Cathy Gao

Chinese PCPs



# Additional Services at the Baseline Meeting

- Weight & Height – BMI calculated
  - Waist and Hip circumference measured
  - Blood Pressure
  - Glucose
  - Cholesterol
- 
- We let them know if their measurements are out of range, and recommend them to consult with their PCPs

# During the Decision Counseling Program...

Patient Navigator will:

- Review CRC screening materials and verify participant's preferred screening test
- Identify major factors that would influence participant to or not to screen (pros and cons), determine the level of influence the patient assigns to each factor (not important to overwhelmingly important), enter reported factors and factor weights into DCP, and compute a screening likelihood score (low to high)
- Review this with participants, and develop a screening plan to reinforce facilitators and overcome barriers. Then share this with PCP and participant, and help arranging screening
- Will send a provider endorsement and encouragement for screening
- During any time of the study period (1 year), if PCP meets with patients, this will be reinforced

## Sample #1



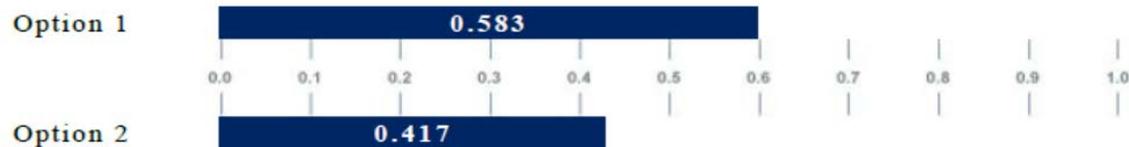
## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

First Name: Anett Last Name: Chen  
Date of Birth: 12-12-1960  
Medical Record Number:  
Case ID: Anett001  
Date of Report: 05/31/2018

### Decision Counseling Report:

#### A. Results of this session indicate that you are likely to do a stool blood test at home.

The bar graph below shows how you feel about Option 1 (To do a stool blood test at home) and Option 2 (Not to do a stool blood test at home). If one option has a longer bar (0.546-1.000), that option is preferred over the option with the shorter bar (0.000-0.454). Otherwise, preference for the options is about equal.



#### B. Top Factors and Direction of Influence:

The following factors are likely to have an effect on your preference.

##### Factors Favoring Option 1

(To do a stool blood test at home)

Afraid of colonoscopy and prefer to do stool blood test

The schedule is very flexible (compared with colonoscopy, doesn't need to take one day off.)

##### Factors Favoring Option 2

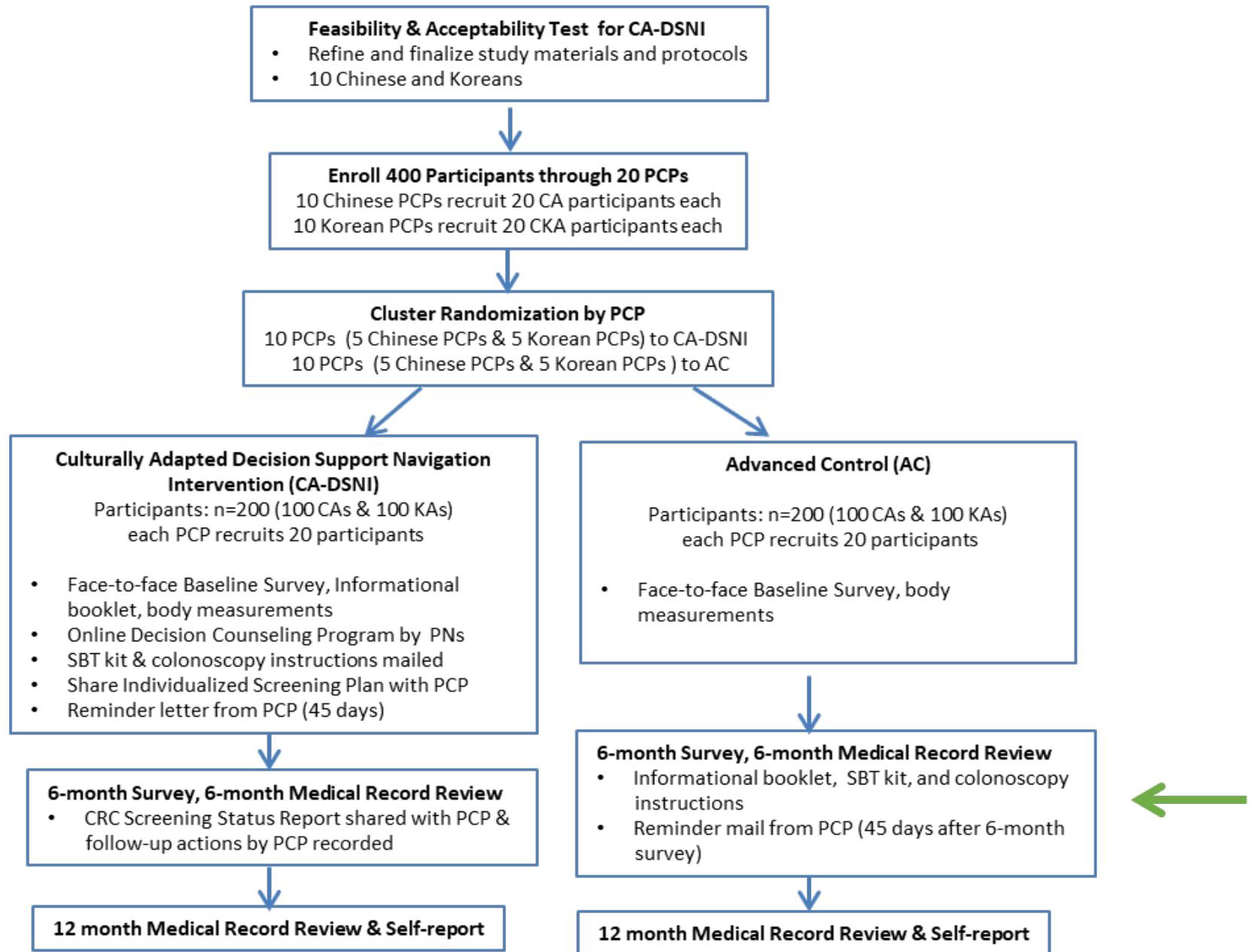
(Not to do a stool blood test at home)

Feel very uncomfortable when participant needs to collect sample

#### C. Comments:

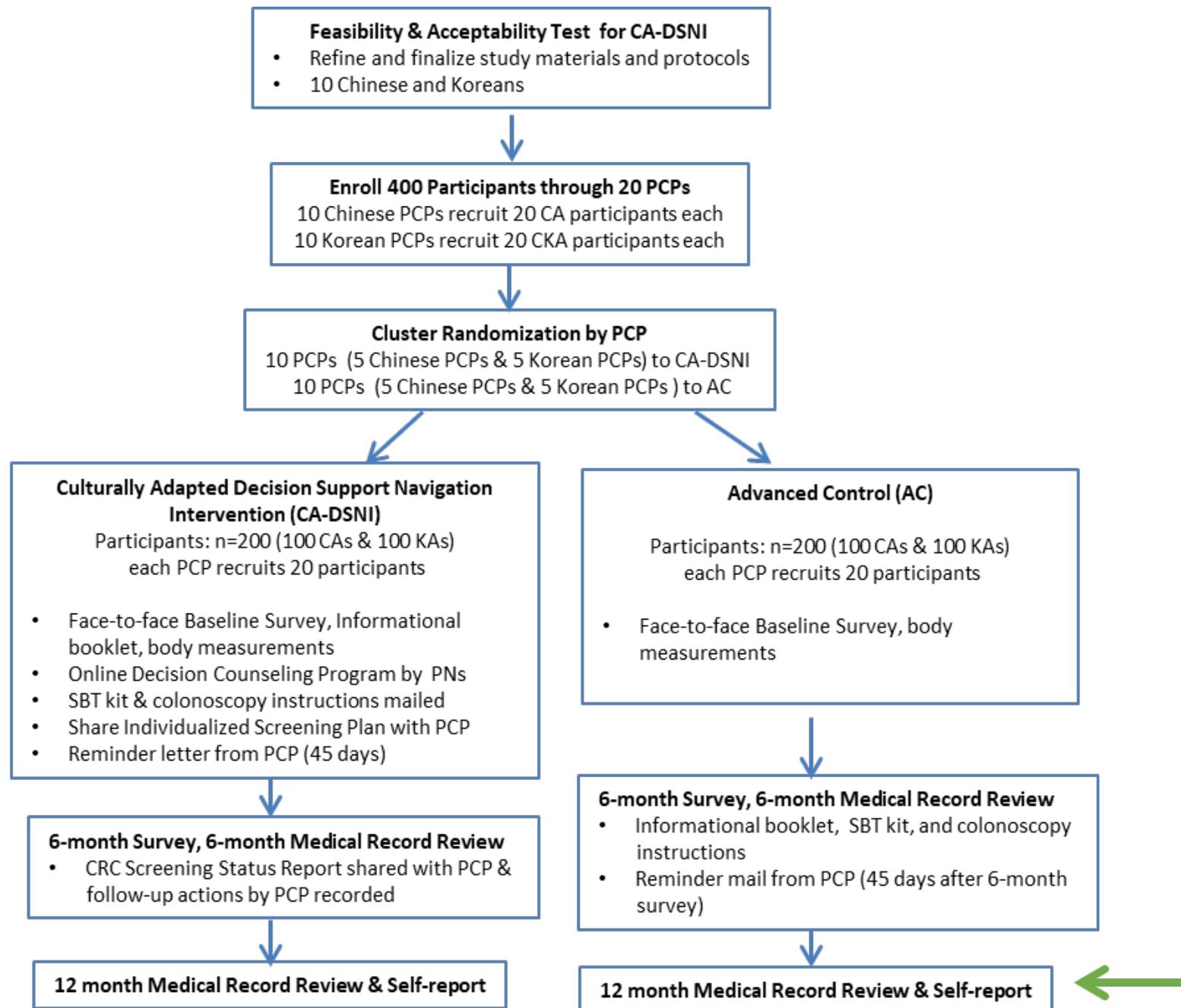
No comment

Decision Counselor: Yan Qiao



## After 6-month Review

- CRC screening status report will be shared with PCP
- PCP will follow-up with participants
  - Non-adherent participants: providers will contact participants and encourage screening
  - Those who require follow-up of abnormal Stool Blood Test (SBT): providers will arrange diagnostic colonoscopy
  - Those who had normal SBT result: providers will contact patients in one year to offer screening



# Community-Engaged Research

- Community-engaged research is crucial for success of health disparities research
  - More than 50 Asian-serving community-based organizations (CBO) and faith-based organizations (FBO)
  - More than 30 physicians who serve Asian population
  - Korean American Medical Association's Washington DC Chapter & Chinese American Doctor's Association
- Health Department of Local Government
- Have maintained Community Advisory Board for last 10 years
- BUILD TRUST! (Takes time and effort)
  - Offer assistance for growth of CBO/FBO
  - Train community health workers
  - Bi-directional community learning
  - Long-term relationship

