February, 16, 2017

Dear Editor,

Please find attached the full-text manuscript in Word format (file name CRC in Harlem)

Title: A Decade of Improved Access to Screening is Associated with fewer Colorectal Cancer Deaths in African Americans: a single center retrospective study

Authors: Yahuza Siba MD, Joan Culpepper- Morgan MD, FACG, Sainabou Jallow MD, Eric Aletevi MD, Jude Onaghise MD, Albert Sey MD, Menachem Schechter MD, Lisa Ozick MD, Raja Sabbagh MD, MPH, FACS,

In 2002, Harold Freeman, a pioneer in the field of cancer disparity published a seminal work on the dismal colon cancer survival of poor blacks in Harlem. He postulated several reasons for this disparity including lack of insurance and access to care. The work submitted here was conceived as a follow up to that initial analysis. We wanted to know if anything had changed in the last decade with so many health service initiatives now available.

Our results are hopeful yet provocative in that things are better but survival disparity still exists. In addition, we suggest that more can still be done with extending the current screening guidelines to all patients before mandating screening at an earlier age. We hope the editors will read our work with interest in extending the conversation on workable solutions to health care disparities.

The content of the manuscript is original and it has not been published or accepted for publication, either in whole or in part, in any form. No part of this manuscript is currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. In case of acceptance of the manuscript the copyright is transferred to Annals of Gastroenterology.

Sincerely yours,

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