

the Asia Pacific region, indeed the world, through interoperability, pooled resources, and the sharing of technical expertise. I firmly believe that Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO will help ensure global health safety and our own national security by allowing all WHO countries to more comprehensively and quickly coordinate global efforts to combat deadly outbreaks of diseases and any future epidemics.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan deserve the same level of public health as the citizens of every nation on earth, and I stand in support of their continued desire and commitment to be included in the WHO. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in encouraging the United States delegation in Geneva to stand in strong support of Taiwan's application for inclusion into the World Health Organization.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF KRISTI JACKSON, FUENTES
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Kristi Jackson, Fuentes Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Kristi Jackson was inspired to become a teacher by her mother, a devoted teacher herself, who taught Kristi to do the job wholeheartedly and with a great deal of compassion and a sense of humor. Kristi now teaches at the same school as her mother, joining her in their shared goal of watching their students become successful in the classroom and beyond.

Kristi Jackson is taking her mother's work a step further, answering her call to develop teacher leadership through empowerment and encouragement learned from her principal. Kristi also feels that it is her most important contribution to instill a love of reading in her students, the same love of reading she has had herself ever since her mother read her bedtime stories as a child.

Kristi hopes one day that the walls of her classroom expand beyond her students, to include all the teachers and students of her school.

I am honored to recognize Kristi Jackson as the Fuentes Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Her love for her students and fellow teachers is a credit to her school and her community.

SEX DIFFERENCES IN HEALTH
AWARENESS DAY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, as part of National Women's Health Week, the Society for Women's Health Research is recognizing today as "Sex Differences in Health Awareness Day." The intent of this day is to draw attention to the biological health differences between women and men. I am proud to reflect

on this issue, and I strongly believe the importance of this day cannot be overstated.

It is true, scientists have long known about the anatomical differences between men and women. However, only within the past decade has the scientific community begun to investigate and uncover significant biological and physiological differences between men and women. From genes to behavior, women and men are now gaining greater knowledge of their unique differences. As a result, they are able to better achieve optimal healthcare.

The Society for Women's Health Research has led efforts to shed light on the distinctions in women's health. Through the Society's tireless persistence on behalf of women's health, they have engaged and supported the scientific community to investigate these dissimilarities. Over the last fifteen years, the Society has worked to ensure that women are included in clinical trials and that the analysis of research include sex differences at all levels. I commend the Society for Women's Health Research for its tireless efforts to increase understanding of sex differences and to improve the health of women.

One health issue that affects women very differently than men is cancer. In fact, every 6.4 minutes, a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with a form of gynecologic cancer. This year, 28,000 American women are expected to die from gynecologic cancers. For example, ovarian cancer is a gynecologic cancer, and it is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. It kills more women than all other gynecologic cancers combined. The incidence of ovarian cancer has actually increased over several years. Up from 1 in 70 women in past years, ovarian cancer now occurs in 1 in 57 women. In comparison, prostate cancer mortality rates peaked in 1991 and have since decreased by about 33 percent, while deaths from ovarian cancer have risen. According to the American Cancer Society, ovarian cancer deaths rose by almost 20 percent in just one year from 2003 to 2004. While 25,500 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer this year, more than 16,000 women will die from the disease, including over 1,000 women in New York State.

Although there is only a 25 percent five-year survival rate when ovarian cancer is diagnosed in the later stages, if the cancer is caught before it has spread outside the ovaries, there is a greater than 90 percent survival rate of five years. However, the sad reality is that only 24 percent of ovarian cancer is caught early. Even more frustrating, early detection and treatment of ovarian cancer is oftentimes hindered due to lack of understanding by both women and their healthcare providers. Most women and healthcare professionals think ovarian cancer is asymptomatic, but new studies indicate that ovarian cancer does have symptoms, even in the early stage of the disease. Reliable screening tests do not exist for the early detection of ovarian cancer and a Pap smear only checks for cervical cancer. However, a bimanual pelvic exam, a Ca125 blood test, or a transvaginal ultrasound can help rule out ovarian cancer, but only if women and their doctors are aware of these options. With women's lives at stake, we clearly need to do a better job of educating women and, especially, their physicians, so that early detection of ovarian cancer becomes the norm.

In my district, the Buffalo-based Roswell Park Cancer Institute, RPCI, and the University of Rochester Medical Center, URMC, are supporting many research efforts on ovarian cancer. As a member of the Gynecologic Oncology Group, RPCI participates in most national trials to improve the prevention, detection and treatment of gynecologic cancers. They also collaborate in the Ovarian Cancer Early Detection Program sponsored by the National Cancer Institute. RPCI is evaluating the anti-angiogenesis factor IM862 in the treatment of recurrent ovarian carcinoma. Through the Gilda Radner Familial Ovarian Cancer Registry, RCPI collects data on familial ovarian cancer. RPCI continues to research glycoproteins and tumor markers in ovarian cancer. Researchers at the URMC are investigating tumor suppression gene identification for ovarian cancer and are conducting several phase III trials to identify treatments for women with ovarian cancer.

Despite the critical work of RPCI and URMC, ovarian cancer research and education continues to be significantly underfunded compared to other cancers. In the last 10 years, funding for prostate cancer, has increased 20 fold, while funding for ovarian cancer has only increased 2.5 percent. Not surprisingly, there has been substantial progress in prostate cancer detection and treatment, while achievements in ovarian cancer research continue to lag far behind. According to the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, \$37 million in outstanding ovarian cancer proposals will not be funded in 2005 due to limited resources.

Ovarian cancer is one example of the disparities women face in health research, prevention, and treatment. While progress has been made in some areas in recent years, there is still much more we must do to improve women's health. We need additional resources and we need Congressional action. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1245, also known as Johanna's Law. This legislation will authorize a federal campaign for gynecologic cancer education designed to improve early detection. It is one important step in closing the healthcare gap between men and women, and it should be enacted without delay.

As we celebrate National Women's Health Week and the achievements made to improve the health and well being of women, I urge my colleagues to take a moment to reflect on the differences in health between men and women and encourage us to make a much stronger commitment to promoting women's health in this country.

SEX DIFFERENCES ON HEALTH
AWARENESS DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sex Differences in Health Awareness Day.

Scientists have long known of the anatomical differences between the sexes, but we also know that diseases and drugs can affect men and women differently.

Thanks to the efforts of the Society for Women's Health Research over the last fifteen