

## **FICTIONAL BLOG POST:**

**Prostate cancer is killing men in the United States. How we show up can make a difference.**

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Unfortunately, cancer impacts nearly every person in some way or another during their lifetime. For many types of cancer, including prostate cancer, receiving a diagnosis is no longer a death sentence, and early detection and treatment create a better outcome. Many of these research advancements have been developed and tested through clinical trials right here at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, where I provide care for cancer patients.

Dr. Francis Collins, a fellow doctor and the former director of the National Institutes of Health, [recently announced his battle with an aggressive form of prostate cancer](#). In his writing, he also emphasized the hope he feels moving forward due to the major developments we have seen in recent years for the treatment of the disease.

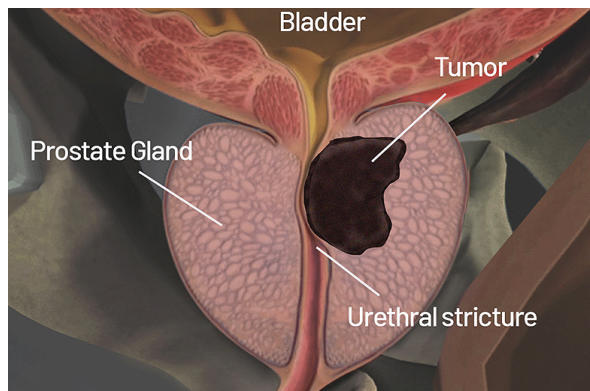


### **Why does this matter?**

These health-related announcements from important figures in our society provide healthcare providers with a valuable opportunity. We use this as a chance to remind people to pay attention to their bodies and to communicate with their doctors about any concerns they may have. While some people have more money, opportunity or greater social status than others, cancer does not discriminate based on those factors.

Ignoring any symptoms you are experiencing can have serious consequences the longer you wait. For men, this reminder can be even more important than they could have ever imagined. Women are 33% more likely to visit the doctor regularly than men, and they also make 100% more visits than men for non-illness reasons, such as annual examinations or preventive screenings. The reasons for this difference between men and women can't be boiled down to one explanation, but as a culture, we need to encourage the men in our lives to take control of their health to close these gaps.

### So, how does this all relate to prostate cancer?



- Screening tests and exams are the best way to detect anything abnormal in your health before the issue develops further. This truth also applies to prostate cancer, which is highly treatable when caught early. Although prostate cancer does not have a standard screening, your doctor can perform an exam [or even take a blood sample](#) if you are having symptoms or if this type of cancer runs in your family.

- Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer type for men in the United States.
- Prostate cancer is also found more often in African-American men, who are more likely to die from it, than White men. This is a health disparity that we need to actively work toward eliminating.

### What does this mean?

This factors out to roughly one in eight men experiencing prostate cancer in their lifetime. This could be your father, brother, or husband. ***This could be you.*** Talk to your doctor today and encourage your loved ones to do the same.



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