



**Capital Area
Carcinoid
Survivors
(CACS)**

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For immediate release

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**CARCINOID CANCER SUPPORT GROUP GETS THE ATTENTION OF
THREE STATES AND A CITY**

October 2004 is Carcinoid Awareness Month. Three mid-Atlantic governors---
Robert Ehrlich of Maryland, Mark Warner of Virginia and Bob Wise of West
Virginia---and Mayor Anthony Williams of Washington, D.C., have all issued
proclamations to announce this.

The carcinoid cancer patients and caregivers of the Capital Area Carcinoid
Survivors (CACS), a 3-year-old support group, requested these proclamations to
help educate medical practitioners and the public about this rare disease. A few
dozen citizens in each of these states and D.C. are diagnosed with carcinoid cancer
annually.

These people frequently go through many months and even years of misdiagnoses
because the symptoms of these tumors mirror other diseases---such as irritable
bowel syndrome, anxiety, menopausal hot flashes, and Crohn's disease.

Current CACS president Lawrence Chinnery reports, "I had symptoms for nearly 17
years before my correct diagnosis in 1992. This was due to a lack of awareness of
carcinoid cancer by various healthcare providers. Too often this results in faulty
diagnoses that result in untimely death."

He added "In fact, carcinoid patients, including me, have all too often been made to
feel their symptoms are 'all in their heads'. This is because many doctors are
unaware of the telltale diagnostic patterns of this disease."

Carcinoid tumors secreting hormones can cause a wide range of symptoms, such as
flushing, breathing difficulties, diarrhea, irritability, itching, strokes, heart valve
failure, and intestinal blockages. Eventually the tumors may be found using CT
scans or a special scanning technique, the OctreoScan plus special blood tests.
Treatment is equally complicated.

CACS members are observing Carcinoid Awareness Month with educational
mailings to area specialists, including oncologists, endocrinologists,
gastroenterologists, dermatologists and surgeons, and by hosting a talk at their
monthly support group meeting by Dr. Richard Warner of Mt. Sinai Hospital, New
York City. Dr. Warner has treated more carcinoid patients than any other U.S.
physician.

Chinnery suggests learning more via the CACS website at
<http://members.aol.com/cacsva/> . The proclamations can be viewed there and at
www.noids.org .