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Award Number: DAMD17-01-1-0546

TITLE: Barriers to Early Detection of Breast Cancer Among  
African American Females Over Age of 55

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REPORT DATE: October 2003

TYPE OF REPORT: Final

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release;  
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**REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE**Form Approved  
OMB No. 074-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503

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|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>1. AGENCY USE ONLY</b><br>(Leave blank)   |   | <b>2. REPORT DATE</b><br>October 2003                          | <b>3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED</b><br>Final (10 Sep 2001 - 9 Sep 2003) |  |
| <b>4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE</b><br>Barriers to Early Detection of Breast Cancer Among African American Females Over Age of 55   |   |  | <b>5. FUNDING NUMBERS</b><br>DAMD17-01-1-0546                               |  |
| <b>6. AUTHOR(S)</b><br>Virginia J. Smith, Ph.D.  |   |  |   |  |
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| <b>9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b><br>U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command<br>Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012   |   |  | <b>10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER</b>                     |  |
| <b>11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b><br><div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">20040116 001</div>   |   |  |   |  |
| <b>12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT</b><br>Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited   |   |  | <b>12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE</b>   |  |
| <b>13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words)</b><br><p>This exploratory study to identify barriers to early detection of breast cancer among African-American females over the age of 55 was designed to result in the articulation of hypotheses for further study. Preliminary findings are based only on the in-depth review of the literature that was conducted. This review confirmed that there are disparities in rates of early diagnosis of breast cancer among African-American women between the ages of 55 and 70. Also, it showed that there are still unexplained factors of late diagnosis of breast cancer among African-American females. Additionally, only a few studies address the cultural context issues and those that have provided insight have used qualitative methods. Based on the findings from the literature review, a semi-structured interview protocol was developed to explore beliefs and practices around breast cancer and breast cancer screening among a small sample of up to 25 African-American breast cancer survivors over the age of 55.</p> |   |  |   |  |
| <b>14. SUBJECT TERMS</b><br>Breast Cancer, African-Americans   |   |  | <b>15. NUMBER OF PAGES</b><br>5   |  |
|  |   |  | <b>16. PRICE CODE</b>   |  |
| <b>17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT</b><br>Unclassified   | <b>18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE</b><br>Unclassified | <b>19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT</b><br>Unclassified | <b>20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT</b><br>Unlimited                              |  |

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# **Barriers to Early Detection of Breast Cancer among African-American Females Over Age 55**

**Annual Report (9/10/02 – 9/9/03)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This exploratory study to identify barriers to early detection of breast cancer among African-American females over the age of 55 was designed to result in the articulation of hypotheses for further study. Activity during the reporting period has been limited to obtaining approval to enroll human subjects. A no cost extension has been requested to complete the work now that there is informal approval to enroll human subjects, pending formal correspondence. We expect to enroll subjects by December 1, 2003 and complete the project by August 31, 2004.

## **BODY**

All activities during the funding period were devoted to revisions to protocols and application for FWA (Federal Wide Approval) to enroll human subjects.

## **KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

There are no key research accomplishments to report for this reporting period.

## **REPORTABLE OUTCOMES**

There are no reportable outcomes to report at this time since authorization to enroll and interview human subjects has not been formally granted.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Preliminary conclusions are based only on the literature review only. They are as follows:

- There are still unexplained factors of late diagnosis of breast cancer among African-American females
- Few studies address the cultural context issues and those that have provided insight have used qualitative methods.

A complete copy of the literature review which was conducted during the previous reporting period was appended to the previous annual report.

**REFERENCES**

Not applicable for this reporting period.