



The Wingspan

ScreeND Newsletter
March-April 2026

Welcome to ScreeND!

What a remarkable Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month it has been! From engaging webinars to outstanding submissions to the Turn ND Blue Photo Contest, we have seen tremendous awareness and momentum building across North Dakota.



We are also deeply humbled to share that ScreeND has received the 2026 ACS NCCRT National Achievement Award Grand Prize—an honor that reflects the dedication of communities, clinics, and partners across our state working together to save lives. We are truly privileged to stand alongside other prestigious organizations recognized this year, and this honor motivates us to work even harder to advance colorectal cancer screening and make a lasting difference.

Learn more about the [2026 National Achievement Award Honorees](#)

2026 National Achievement Awardees

Grand Prize Award Winner:
ScreeND Program at Quality Health Associates of North Dakota
 • Category: CDC Colorectal Cancer Control Program
 • Location: North Dakota

Honorees:
BRAVE- CRC Program at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
 • Category: Health Systems Treatment Program
 • Location: Texas

Fred Hutch/University of Washington Medicine Population Health CRC Screening Program
 • Category: Health System Screening Program
 • Location: Washington

MNGI Digestive Health
 • Category: Links to Care Program
 • Location: Minnesota

DASHBOARD

4/4
 NEW clinics recruited and detailed assessments completed, with at least 1 month of data reported.

2/2
 Tribal Clinics have resumed Technical Assistance calls with targeted tasks to achieve first goals set.

NEWS, ETC.

Join Fight Colorectal Cancer in advocating for greater funding for colorectal cancer research and screening! Congress is beginning to work on its FY27 funding priorities and now is a critical time for members of Congress to hear from us about what is important to the colorectal cancer community. Fight CRC has made it easy to reach out to your elected officials by completing an action alert to urge them to support the creation of a [Colorectal Cancer Research Program within the Department of Defense](#) as well as increased funding for the [CDC's Colorectal Cancer Control Program](#). Completing the action alert only takes a few minutes! Share with your community so that Congress hears the colorectal cancer community loud and clear.

P2P SHARING

Expanding Colorectal Cancer Screening Access in Tribal Communities

Through the ScreeND Program, a critical barrier to colorectal cancer screening in Tribal communities has been overcome. By connecting leaders across Indian Health Service facilities and Exact Sciences—including **Brenda Molash** and **Mark Elhardt** at **Standing Rock Service Unit**, **Diane Peach** at **Quentin N. Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility**, and Exact Sciences' Kim Angelo, Market Development Manager, and Jonathan Stutzman, National Accounts Director—a path forward was created.

This collaboration successfully navigated the complexities of the IHS Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) process. As a result, as of **February 24**, PRC programs nationwide can now order **Cologuard®** for their beneficiaries.

This milestone dramatically expands access to noninvasive colorectal cancer screening for Tribal communities across the country and represents a major step toward screening equity. We are confident this advancement will have a powerful and lasting impact on cancer prevention and early detection in Tribal health systems.

Turn ND Blue Photo Contest: Vote for Your Favorites!

The **Turn ND Blue Photo Contest** is back, and this year's submissions are truly outstanding! From powerful images to creative slogans, participants across North Dakota have shared inspiring ways to raise awareness for colorectal cancer prevention and screening.

We invite you to **view the submissions and vote for your favorite** to help select the **People's Choice Award**. In addition to the People's Choice winner, first-place winners from each division will be recognized at the **2026 North Dakota Cancer Coalition Annual Meeting**.

Check out the submissions and cast your vote: www.ndcancercoalition.org/turnndblue/submissions/

Your vote helps celebrate creativity, advocacy, and the shared commitment to turning North Dakota blue for colorectal cancer awareness.

FEATURED RESOURCES

Jackie Farland, Colorectal Cancer Survivor, Spreads Awareness

Jackie Farland a colorectal cancer survivor, shared with the Good Day Dakota crew that she initially postponed her colonoscopy appointment — something many people do without much thought. However, she later learned that delaying the screening could have had serious consequences.

Farland said, "Life gets busy, gets in the way of things. I didn't take that time to call them back, but finally I did – and I'm glad I did. Doctor Mengesha, who is a wonderful gastroenterologist at Sanford, called me up and said that he had taken three polyps and one of those was one millimeter. Very tiny. One millimeter polyp that came up as cancer. And I was elated that he caught the cancer, and he goes, this really is serious." See her interview [here](#).

View ACS National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable's [3-year Strategic Roadmap](#)

Registration Open: "How to Talk to Kids About CRC" from the Pickles Group

The Pickles Group Focuses on Resources for Children Living With or Affected by Cancer. Pickles Group is collaborating with ACS NCCRT members Fight Colorectal Cancer, Colorectal Cancer Alliance, and Man Up To Cancer to bring you a [free live webinar and family panel](#) focused on the unique experiences of navigating colorectal cancer while parenting.

Telling kids about a parent or guardian's CRC diagnosis can be hard, but research shows that open, age-appropriate conversations help reduce children's worry and support their social-emotional wellbeing.

The webinar, held on Wednesday, April 1st at 7pm ET, will share practical guidance on how to talk with kids about CRC, followed by a panel of parents and youth sharing their lived experience moderated by GI Oncologist, Dr. Shruti Patel. [Register](#)

BREAST AND CERVICAL PREVENTION

New Option Available: Cervical Self-Collection

We're excited to share that cervical self-collection is now available as a screening option. This approach allows patients to collect their own sample in a clinical setting using a simple swab—providing a comfortable, flexible alternative while still supporting high-quality HPV testing. We continue to expand screening access through the use of HPV testing that includes extended genotyping—an important advancement as about 90% of cervical cancers are caused by HPV. Self-collection can help reduce barriers, increase screening rates, and empower patients to “Test on Your Terms.”

As we promote comprehensive cancer prevention across colon, breast, and cervical cancer, cervical self-collection offers another tool to support early detection and patient-centered care.

In North Dakota, clinics have implemented two cervical self-collection options:

- Sanford offers the Roche cobas HPV self-collection test, and clinics that already send their laboratory work to Sanford may contact their Sanford laboratory representative to discuss adding this option to their workflow.
- Other clinics have implemented the BD Onclarity HPV Assay, which includes extended genotyping and is supported for use with self-collected samples.

For questions or support in Implementing BD Onclarity HPV Assay, please contact:
Sara Gregorich, Regional Lab Outreach Specialist Sara.Gregorich@bd.com

Pap Fest
Read about a **Pap Fest at CresscentCare** in Louisiana and how it improved cervical cancer screening rates over 3 years time! [After-Hours Care Increases Cervical Cancer Screening in Louisiana | NBCCEDP | CDC](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Every Screen Counts:** A Practical 3-part Webinar Series to Improve Colorectal Cancer Screening
Session 3: [Register](#): March 24 | 12:00 pm-1:00 pm CT

Past Session Information

Session 1: Implementing Evidence-Based CRC Screening Strategies in Rural Communities
[Presentation](#) [Recording](#)

Session 2: Beyond the Numbers: Understanding Rural Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening
[Presentation](#) [Recording](#)

Session 3: From Data to Action: Leveraging State Resources and Population Health Tools to Improve Colorectal Cancer Outcomes
[Presentation](#) [Recording](#)

2. 2026 National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Webcast

WEBCAST REPLAY & SLIDES: The webcast recording and slides have been posted to the [ACS NCCRT Resource Center](#).

3. **Registration Open:** Turning Data Into Action from Early-Age Onset CRC Insights and Best Practices for Community Health Centers

The ACS and the ACS National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) are hosting a [webinar focused on Community Health Centers \(CHCs\)](#). Tuesday, March 31st from 1-2 PM ET.

[Register Now](#) [View the Flyer](#)

4. **Extended Genotyping for HPV+: Clear, Convenient, Guideline Supported - 1753182**

When? Friday April 10th, noon EST | 30 min + Q&A

Who? Healthcare Providers, Existing and Targeted New Labs, You!

Goal? Accelerate provider adoption of BD Onclarity™.

[REGISTER](#)

5. **ND Cancer Coalition and ND Colorectal Cancer Roundtable Meetings**

April 29-30, 2026 | Fargo, ND

[Register](#) (Will lead you to become member - which is free, and if already a member will just allow you to update your info)



Quality Health Associates of North Dakota (QHA) is in the process of joining Mountain Pacific.

Quality Health Associates of North Dakota (QHA) is in the process of joining Mountain Pacific, strengthening a shared mission to improve health care quality and access while continuing to serve North Dakota. ([Full press Release](#))

As part of the transition, some QHA staff and contracts have already moved to Mountain Pacific, with additional transitions expected over the coming months.

Throughout this process, QHA and Mountain Pacific remain fully dedicated to ensuring no interruption in services or ongoing work. Both organizations are working closely to provide continuity and maintain strong relationships with partners and stakeholders. Contact information will be updated as changes occur, and clear communication will be shared throughout the transition.

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