In Memoriam


Alfredo Morabia, Editor Emeritus, and Michael C. Costanza, Statistical Editor Emeritus

From March 1995–April 2009 Toni authored or co-authored seven PM articles on cancer screening (Yancey et al., 1995), overweight and depression (Siegel et al., 2000), overweight/obesity (Yancey et al., 2003), workplace physical activity (Yancey et al., 2004), cancer and diet (McCarthy et al., 2007), low-cost incentives for improving survey participation rates (Yancey et al., 2008), and adolescent health risks (Mistry et al., 2009).

In December 2008, PM published her poem “A Momentous Occasion” dedicated to the election of President Barrack Obama, in which she sensed that this realization of African American “highest aspirations,” after “JFK Martin Malcolm Medgar Bobby,” was an event of universal significance that would translate into (among other aspirations) “A more substantive commitment to combat health disparities” (Yancey, 2008).

In October 2009 she served as an author/co-author and Co-Guest Editor (with James F. (Jim) Sallis, right side of photo) for a themed issue of PM motivated by a lack of focus on funding for physical activity research by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (Dorfman and Yancey, 2009; Yancey, 2009; Yancey and Sallis, 2009; Yancey et al., 2009). Toni was especially interested in promoting public–private partnerships via a dynamic “meta-volition” modeling approach to integrating brief bouts of physical activity into organizational routines across sectors and types of organizations for achieving and maintaining active lifestyles (Yancey, 2009).

We miss her.

Conflict of interest statement
None for both authors.

References


Picture legend: Toni Yancey and Jim Sallis, with the October 2009 issue of PM they had guest edited.

“I was diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer earlier this year. I’m a 54-year-old never-smoker academic, a former local health officer and Division I college basketball player actively involved in the practice as well as the study of physical activity promotion and obesity prevention and control”.

These were the poignant words of our cherished Preventive Medicine Editorial Board member and Guest Editor, Toni Yancey, MD, MPH, a Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and Co-Director of the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity, in her essay “Creating a healthy milieu for all. Essay on the current state and future of preventive medicine”, written between sessions of chemotherapy and published just last December (Yancey, 2012). She was still hopeful that her “tremendous reserves” – physical, moral, and social – would help her overcome the dire strait. Sadly, those reserves did not suffice.

Toni was an impressively accomplished person, in addition to having a genial personality. She had been a Division I basketball player during her undergraduate years at Northwestern University, a former model, and was a poet/spoken word artist/author as well as a physician. PM was very fortunate to have benefited from these latter two multifaceted sides of her personality.

0991-7435/ – see front matter
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2013.05.024


