

## The Prostate Net

Virgil H. Simons founded the Prostate Net in 1996 to help prostate cancer patients and their families make informed treatment decisions. Furthermore, Mr. Simons wanted to educate black men, who bear a much greater risk for prostate cancer, both in regard to incidence and mortality. In response to these two crucial needs, The Prostate Net came into existence.



<http://www.prostate-online.com/>



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**



ROBERT H. LURIE  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER  
OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



NU-NUH-UC SPORE in Prostate Cancer

2P50CA090386-06A2

[http://cancer.northwestern.edu/research/prostate\\_spore.cfm](http://cancer.northwestern.edu/research/prostate_spore.cfm)

The Prostate Net

**In the Know Award**

**2008**

**Rick Kittles, PhD**  
**Genetic Research Excellence**

**July 15, 2009**  
**2:15 PM**

**Presented by:**

**Walter Stadler, MD, FACP**

Fred C. Buffett Professor  
Department of Medicine  
Associate Dean of Clinical Research  
University of Chicago

**Chung Lee, Ph.D.**

John Grayhack Professor  
Department of Urology  
Northwestern University

**Virgil Simons**

Founder & President, CEO & CFO  
Prostate Net



Rick Kittles, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Medicine

Rick Kittles received a B.S. in Biology from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1989 and a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from George Washington University in 1998. He then went to Howard University where he helped establish the National Human Genome Center at Howard University. As co-director of Molecular Genetics he directed large-scale, high throughput genotyping and DNA sequencing projects. From 1997 to 2004, Dr. Kittles helped establish and coordinate a national cooperative network to study the genetics of hereditary prostate cancer in the African American community. This project, called the AAHPC study network, successfully recruited over 100 multiplex African American hereditary prostate cancer families and serves as a model for recruitment of African Americans in genetic studies of complex diseases.

Dr. Kittles is well known for his research of prostate cancer and health disparities among African Americans. He has also been at the forefront of the development of ancestry-

informative genetic markers, admixture mapping theory, and applications for disease gene mapping in admixed populations, such as African Americans and Hispanics. Currently, Dr. Kittles is funded to perform admixture mapping analysis for finding susceptibility genes for prostate cancer in African Americans and breast cancer in Hispanics. His work on tracing the genetic ancestry of African Americans has brought light to many issues, new and old, which relate to race, ancestry, identity, and group membership. Dr. Kittles' high profile research and his strong ability to communicate genetic concepts and issues eloquently and understandably to the lay public has been featured over the past decade in five PBS and BBC network documentaries related to human biological diversity, race and disease. His work has been featured on CNN and the CBS show '60 Minutes' where he was interviewed by Leslie Stahl. Dr. Kittles has published numerous articles and book chapters on prostate cancer in the African American population, Race, and Health Disparities.