



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Lung Cancer Stigma in Primary Care

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Most importantly...

- Thank you to all the participants who shared their story and provided their thoughts and opinions about this important topic in our research studies.





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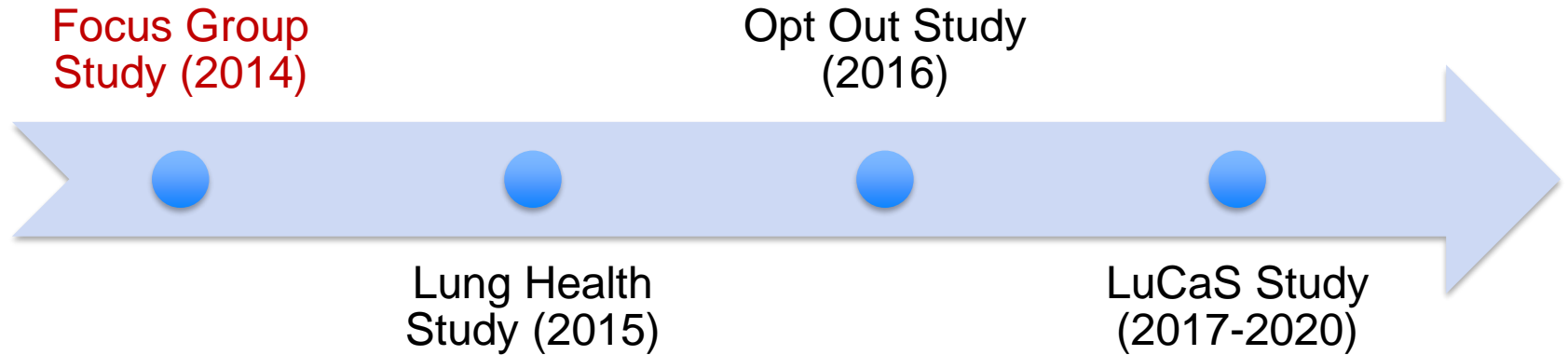


What do both of these patients stories have in common?

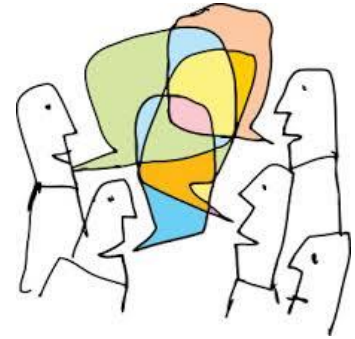




Common Thread



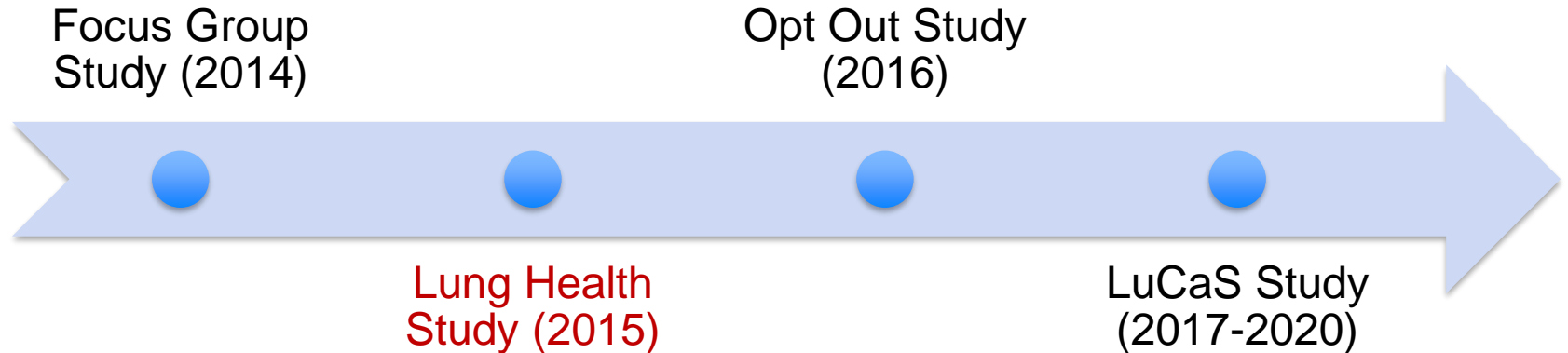
Focus Group Study



- 4 groups (screening-eligible long-term current and former smokers)
 - 2 groups screened
 - 2 groups unscreened
- Explored knowledge and beliefs about lung cancer risk and lung cancer screening
- Major Findings:
 - Confusion about risk factors
 - Unaware lung cancer screening existed or confused about how it is performed
 - Smoking-related **stigma** as a **barrier** to screening
 - Distrust of the healthcare system



Common Thread



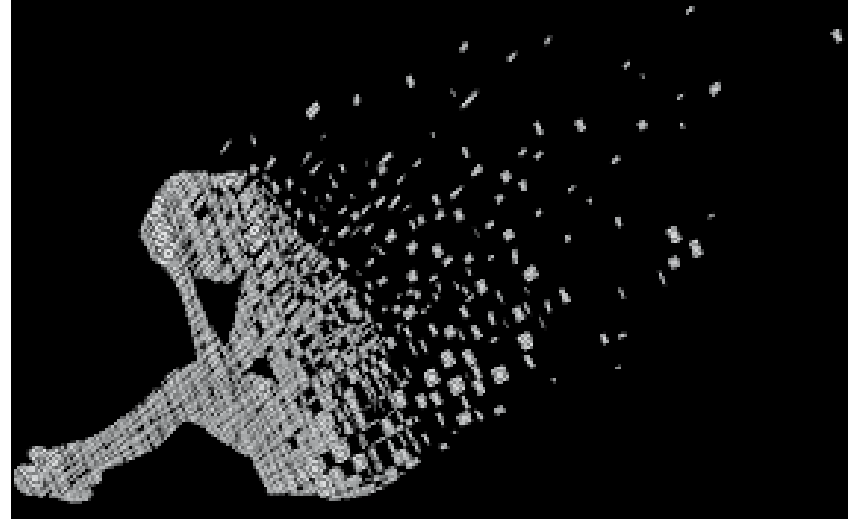
Lung Health Study

- Survey study with 497 screening-eligible people nationwide
- Examined different variables related to lung cancer screening
 - Health Beliefs (perceived risk, perceived benefits, perceived barriers, self-efficacy)
 - Stigma
 - Healthcare provider recommendation
 - Social influence
 - Knowledge



What Seems to Matter

- **Stigma**
- Perceived Benefits, Perceived Barriers, & Self-efficacy
- Healthcare provider recommendation
- Knowledge
- Age



Carter-Harris L, Slaven J, Monahan PO, Rawl SM. (2016). Development and psychometric evaluation of the lung cancer screening health belief scales. Cancer Nursing: An International Journal for Cancer Care, 1-8 (ePub ahead of print 05.17.2016).

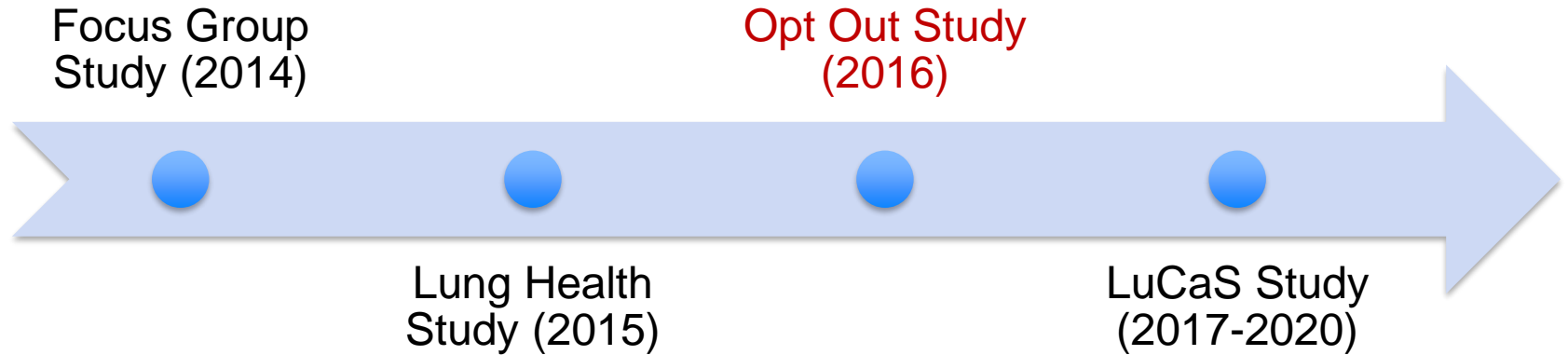
doi:10.1097/NCC.0000000000000386



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Opt Out Study

- Qualitative Study (N=19)
- 1:1 Interviews with screening-eligible patients who received a recommendation from PCP to screen and opted out
- Reasons for opting out:
 - False Positives
 - Stigma / feeling blamed for having a smoking history
 - Perceived Low Value
 - Knowledge Avoidance

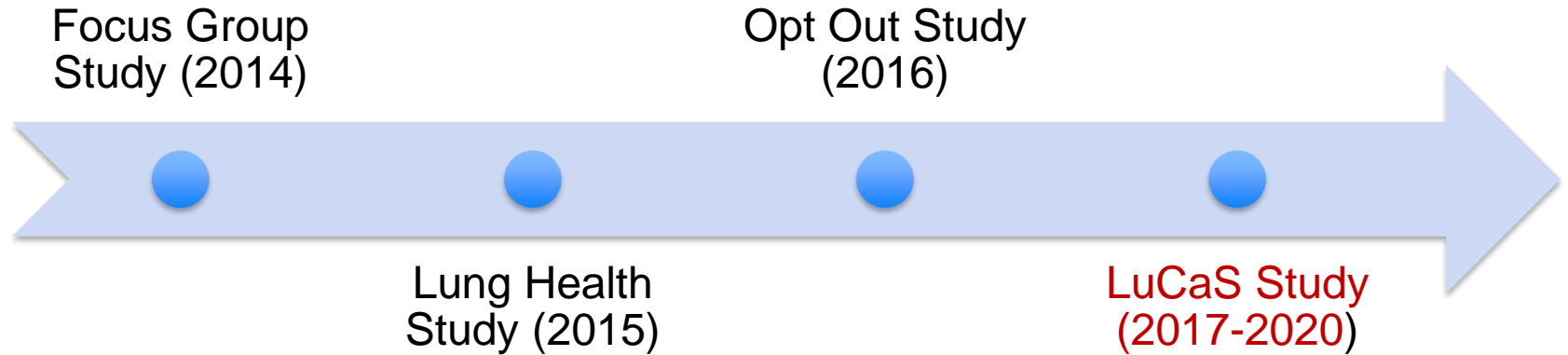


Carter-Harris L, Brandzel S, Wernli KJ, Roth JA, Buist DSM. (2017). A qualitative study exploring why individuals opt out of lung cancer screening. *Family Practice*, 31(2):239-244. PMID: 28122849. doi:10.1093/fampra/cmw146





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LuCaS Study



- **Mixed Methods Study**

- Survey (N=551)
 - Multiple variables including perceived stigma
- 1:1 Interview (N=40)
 - Tailored interviews based upon scores on specific variables

- **Preliminary Findings**

- **Stigma** associated with decision not to screen for lung cancer regardless of race, gender, or age
- Participants who scored high on stigma scale described being blamed by their healthcare provider and/or family and friends

What do patients say about lung cancer?

- *“My doctor would literally sniff me...I would go in for a sore throat and she’d open the door and say ‘still smoking’? Well hello, doctor, good to see you too.”*
- *“My doctor made me feel like a social outcast...like an idiot or stupid or something for smoking. Made me feel like I deserved lung cancer. I don’t deserve lung cancer.”*
- *“I went to my primary care doctor shortly after being diagnosed with lung cancer and when she found out she said ‘why didn’t you tell me you smoked?’ I didn’t smoke, but the look in her eye...she didn’t believe me.”*



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