

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES CONNECTED AND ENGAGED

From the Director's Desk

Issue 24, April 2022

Observing Minority Cancer Awareness Month

Spring is officially here! April is a time of renewal and rebirth. April allows us to celebrate the beauty that spring brings – flowers blooming, green grass that has been dormant all winter and opportunities for outdoor activities.

April is also recognition of National Minority Health Month and National Minority Cancer Awareness month.

African Americans have higher death rates than any other race or ethnic group for many types of cancer. Hispanic and Latina women have higher rates of cervical cancer than non-Hispanic women. Differences in cancer cases and death rates are considered disparities. A major role of the Office of Community

Outreach & Engagement is to increase awareness about steps you can take to reduce disparities. Each of you plays an important role in closing these gaps by sharing messages regarding annual screenings such as a mammogram, colonoscopy and Pap test.

As we continue throughout April and this spring, the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement is growing along with

the season! Highlights of new staff members are featured in this edition with additional information.

As the old saying goes, “April showers bring May flowers.” Enjoy the April showers in preparation for the beautiful flowers we will enjoy in May and throughout the summer months.

- Claudia

APRIL IS NATIONAL
MINORITY CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH



O'NEAL COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CENTER
UAB THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

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MINORITY CANCER FACTS

- Hispanic/Latinx and Black women have higher rates of cervical cancer than women of other racial/ethnic groups, with African American women having the highest rates of death from the disease.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives have higher death rates from kidney cancer than any other racial/ethnic group.
- Rates of smoking and alcohol consumption are higher among lesbian, gay and bisexual youths than among heterosexual youths, which can increase cancer risk.
- Blacks/African Americans have higher death rates than all other racial/ethnic groups for many cancer types.

-The American Cancer Society

A HEARTFELT WELCOME: Office of Community Outreach & Engagement grows with the addition of three new staff members



Francine Walton
Director, Outreach & Engagement

It is great to be back at UAB! I am a passionate servant leader with more than 25 years of experience in advancing health equity through community and stakeholder engagement. I grew up in Montgomery and Birmingham. As a proud Howard University graduate with a B.S. in biology, I earned my Master of Public Health at Emory University. My most valued roles are mother, daughter, sister, aunt, friend and community servant.

Most of my career has been devoted to cancer prevention and control, which was divinely inspired by the personal cancer journeys of several family members; notably my mother who is a thriving cancer survivor having battled two primary breast cancers, stage 4 Hodgkin's and endometrial cancer. She received most of her treatment and care at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Prior to my current role, I was the assistant health director of population health in Charlotte, NC and served as a program director at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. I worked at UAB for eight years and consider my role with the Deep South Network the most impactful and treasured professional experience because of the amazing women and men who were trained as community health advisors throughout Alabama and Mississippi.



Carolyn Duncan
Coordinator, Marengo County, AL

I am honored and excited for my new position as a program coordinator for Marengo County with the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB.

I have worked many years in the accounting field and recently retired. I like to stay busy and this position will be perfect for me. I enjoy meeting people and look forward to encouraging our program participants to do all they can to have a better, healthier lifestyle.

I have a lot of interests and hobbies; baking, crafts, gardening and my most recent endeavor is camping with the women's group, "Sisters on the Fly." My favorite form of exercise is walking, and we do a lot of hiking, as well as kayaking, antiquing and craft projects. We also do fundraiser events and have teams that go out after hurricanes and tornadoes to help in the relief work.

I have five grandchildren, all who play sports, so I am always going to their games. Keeping active truly does improve our minds and bodies! Five years ago, I never would have believed that I would be able to do some of the things I have learned to do in the last two years!

Thanks for welcoming me and supporting me as a new team member! I look forward to the journey!



Priscilla Smith
Coordinator, Marengo County, AL

My name is Priscilla Smith and I am from Nanafalia, Alabama, located in Marengo County. I am a graduate of Sweet Water High School and an alumna of Concordia College Alabama where I obtained an A.A. in early childhood education and a B.S. in preschool education.

I have two amazing sons, Damane (2) and Jermame (3). My hobbies include spending time with my family, creating baskets throughout the holidays, decorating learning boards, fishing, arts & crafts and lawn care.

My favorite quote is from my great aunt: "I may give out, but I will not give up." I truly live by this quote because sometimes we're introduced to challenging situations which are not always meant to pressure us, but to make us stronger and wiser.

Welcome!

THE RESEARCH CORNER

Alabama Lung Cancer Awareness, Screening and Education (ALCASE) Project Results: Data and Conclusions



The ALCASE project is a joint project between the GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer and the O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB. The project was made possible with a grant from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation.

The ALCASE project targeted Jefferson, Choctaw, Marengo, Greene, Hale, Sumter and Dallas counties in Alabama. With the exception of Jefferson County, these counties are predominantly African American, generally rural and medically underserved areas with higher smoking and death rates from lung cancer.

The three main goals of the ALCASE project are to increase awareness of lung cancer risk and screening, increase access to quality lung cancer screening and assist those at high risk for lung cancer through the screening process.

Eighty six participants in the ALCASE project between the ages of 51 and 81 years underwent lung cancer screening. Of the total, 46.5 percent were women (n=40), and 53.5 percent were men (n=46). The majority of the participants who underwent screening identified as Black or African American (n=75, 87%), while 10 identified as Caucasian.

Most of the participants screened had health insurance coverage. Of these participants, 44 had Medicare, 18 were covered by Medicaid and 22 had private insurance. Only four participants had no insurance.

The results of the lung cancer screening found six participants who tested positive, 21 who had negative

results and were asked to come for a follow-up visit after six months and 50 participants who had negative results with no follow-up visit with the doctor. Results of nine participants are currently pending.

Minority Disparities

N H U W J R H Q Y C A R E T I L H T L A E H U S
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|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Technological Barriers | Clinical Trials | Transportation |
| Financial Barriers | Demographics | Health Literacy |
| Insurance | Access to Care | Culture |

When the quality of health care differs between people because of racism or other forms of discrimination based on their income, health insurance coverage, race/ethnicity, gender identity, age, disability status, health insurance coverage, or where they live, it's called a health disparity.

Health care disparities can affect every step of cancer care — from prevention and screening to the quality of life after cancer treatment, which means disparities in care can affect who develops and dies from cancer.

- The American Cancer Society

UPCOMING EVENT

The O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB
Office of Community Outreach & Engagement presents

Cancer Disparities in Minority Populations

A CONVERSATION WITH LEADERS
IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES



Michael Scott
Center for Black
Health and Equity



Jean Hernandez
Alabama Latino
AIDS Coalition



Kyle Gregg
Alabama Institute for the
Deaf and Blind

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022
5:30 - 6:30 PM (CST)

REGISTER

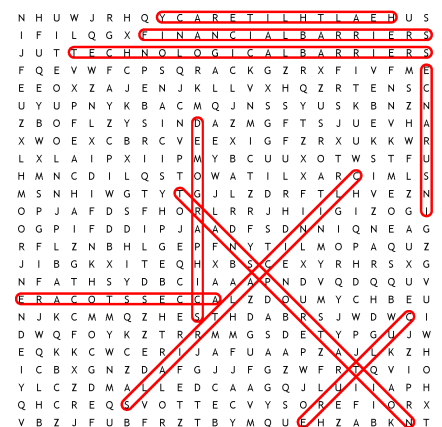
[GO.UAB.EDU/COE-MINORITY](https://go.uab.edu/coe-minority)

Moderated by Rochelle Wallace, MS

O'NEAL COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CENTER

UAB MEDICINE

Minority Disparities



- Clinical Trials
- Demographics
- Access to Care
- Technological Barriers
- Financial Barriers
- Insurance
- Transportation
- Health Literacy
- Culture