

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES CONNECTED AND ENGAGED

From the Director's Desk

Issue 27, July 2022



Summer, summer, summertime! Summer is here, and that means good times with friends and family.

July is National Family Reunion Month. We encourage you to take time at family gatherings and talk with your family about their health history. Consider talking with family members one on one. Some family members may be more comfortable writing down their health history. Share your family's health history with your doctor.

This summer, the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement welcomes Isabel

Scarinci, Ph.D., MPH, to the team. Scarinci is the senior advisor for Globalization & Cancer and will also serve as the interim associate director for Community Outreach & Engagement. She is a behavioral scientist committed to the elimination of cancer disparities in the United States and abroad. Welcome, Dr. Scarinci!

Enjoy the summer with family and friends, stay cool, wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water. Be well,

*Francine*



**Isabel Scarinci, Ph.D., MPH**  
Interim Associate Director,  
Community Outreach & Engagement  
Senior Advisor, Globalization & Cancer

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**O'NEAL** COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER

**UAB** THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

# NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION MONTH



Family reunions are times set aside for family members to come together, catch up on life and reconnect with loved ones. As many people plan to see family members or attend family reunions again this summer, these gatherings provide an opportunity to bring up your family's health history. The information you learn could be lifesaving.

Knowing and acting on family

health history can be an important part of staying healthy. Family health history may help doctors decide what screening tests and other interventions a person may need and when these screenings are necessary. For example, if a person has a parent, sibling, or child with breast cancer, their doctor might recommend they start breast cancer screening earlier than the average person.

Their doctor also might refer them for cancer genetic counseling, especially if their relative with cancer was diagnosed before age 50.

Keep in mind that these conversations may not be easy and that family members may not be comfortable talking openly about their health. However, starting these conversations is important for the entire family and will raise awareness of health issues that are common within the family.

Remember that you're not only asking to improve your own health, but also to improve the health of everyone in your family. If you have a medical condition, such as cancer, heart disease or diabetes, be sure to let your family members know. Early detection can save lives.

For more information, contact the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement by phone at 205-975-0003 or email [coeinfo@uab.edu](mailto:coeinfo@uab.edu). Source: CDC

## REAL CONVERSATIONS: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

A Health Equity Series



The Office of Community Outreach & Engagement has partnered with Genentech to host a series of four health equity webinars. The first of these webinars will focus on breast cancer and will be held on July 26 at 5:30 p.m. Panelists will include breast cancer survivors, doctors and community partners who will respond to questions and perspectives from the community and other stakeholders on how to achieve health equity as it relates to breast cancer.

## Genentech

*A Member of the Roche Group*

The webinar series is designed to develop recommendations driven by the community to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to achieve optimal health. OCOE is excited about this engagement and thanks Genentech for its support.

**REGISTER:** [go.uab.edu/HESbreast](https://go.uab.edu/HESbreast)

*Patricia (Pat) Stiles was an amazing woman who was passionate about her family, friends and community. Ms. Pat always had a beautiful smile on her face and a heart of gold. She served as the Lowndes County coordinator for two years with the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement and was very creative with her community outreach efforts.*

*Ms. Pat wore many hats and loved serving children and families in Lowndes, Choctaw, Marengo, Dallas and Wilcox counties for more than 30 years as a teacher and as the director of the Black Belt Community Foundation's Head Start program.*

*Ms. Pat, we thank you for your contagious smile, tireless dedication and overwhelming love of serving others.*

*Rest well,  
Your OCOE family*

## Celebrating the Life of Patricia Stiles



*Patricia Diane Wagner Stiles*  
November 3, 1960 - June 16, 2022

## OCOE WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS



**Dudley Long**  
Hale County, AL Coordinator

*My first name is Eleanor but I go by Dudley. I am from the small town of Uniontown, Alabama where I am raising a three-year-old and my teenage niece. I currently work for Hale County Hospital Clinic and The Shack in Marion, Alabama.*

*I am very involved in the community and support the communities around me. My passion to create a better place to live is my motivation to serve in the position as the Hale County program coordinator.*

*I have witnessed firsthand the needs in our area while living in rural Alabama. Working in the medical field, I also realize the need for cancer outreach and engagement. I look forward to providing and connecting people to cancer screening resources and information.*

*I look forward to serving as the Hale County program coordinator to create a better place to live and reduce cancer risk.*



**Ada Webb**  
Greene County, AL Coordinator

*I am a hardworking, creative, energetic and open-minded person who is ecstatic to be a part of a team that focuses on eliminating cancer burdens. My experience as a community liaison includes working for United Way of West Alabama with the 211 program. I also volunteer with the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama and Volunteers of America by assisting seniors in Hale County. I am an active member of New Generation Community Outreach Center, a board member of the Hale County Black Belt Foundation and an advocate for Tornado Readiness. I work as a community health worker with Rural Alabama Prevention Center and its Shot on the Spot vaccination efforts and continue to seek opportunities that allow me to use my skills while serving my community.*

*I look forward to being on the OCOE team!*

# SAVE THE DATE

Office of Community  
Outreach & Engagement  
**Community  
Dissemination  
Institute**

## 2022

August 28-30, 2022  
The Westin, Huntsville, AL  
Opening Session @ 5PM

Invitations will be sent closer to  
the date of the event.

**O'NEAL** COMPREHENSIVE  
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