



COMMUNITY DISSEMINATION INSTITUTE 2026

UAB MEDICINE.
O'Neal Cancer Center

AUGUST 23-25, 2026

RENAISSANCE BIRMINGHAM ROSS BRIDGE GOLF RESORT & SPA

UAB MEDICINE

O'Neal Cancer Center

August 23, 2026

Dear Institute Attendees:

Welcome to Community Dissemination Institute 2026! This will be a wonderful meeting with an exciting agenda. We are grateful to the O'Neal Office of Community Outreach and Engagement for their efforts in planning this meeting.

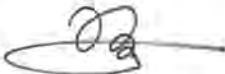
Our theme this year is "From Roots to Renaissance: Building Knowledge. Sharing Strength. Inspiring Hope." I hope that the opening night keynote and panel will give you both an understanding of how far we've come and how the research we are doing right now with the input and support of the community gives us hope for the future.

Let's use the 2026 Dissemination Institute to chart new heights and breadths in our mission: new heights driven by research advances in the cancer risks of greatest concerns to our community and new breadths through programs that make these advances accessible to everyone in our community.

We could not meet our mission without key partners who not only sponsor the Dissemination Institute but work tirelessly to provide new cancer advances to people in our community. We thank all our sponsors for these important commitments.

As Director, I am proud of the great work of the O'Neal Community Outreach and Engagement Office and the hundreds of committed Community Health Advisors, and I am personally committed to ensuring that the O'Neal integrates the critical conversations and lessons learned during this Institute into serving the citizens of Alabama, the Deep South, and beyond.

Sincerely,



Barry Sleckman, MD, PhD
Director, O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Office of the Director 202 Wallace Tumor Institute 1824 6 th Avenue South 205.934.5077 bps@uab.edu uab.edu/onealcancercenter	The University of Alabama at Birmingham Mailing Address: WTI 202 1720 2 nd Avenue South Birmingham, AL 35294-3300
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UAB MEDICINE

O'Neal Cancer Center

Welcome to the 2026 Community Dissemination Institute!

On behalf of the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement at the UAB O'Neal Cancer Center, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the beautiful Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa and to our annual Community Dissemination Institute.

This year's theme, "From Roots to Renaissance: Building Knowledge. Sharing Strength. Inspiring Hope.", reminds us that meaningful progress is built on a strong foundation. We honor the people, relationships, experiences and lessons that have brought us to this moment, our roots, while looking ahead to a renaissance of new ideas, stronger partnerships and renewed possibilities for improving cancer outcomes in our communities.

The Community Dissemination Institute has always been about bringing people together. Community members and advocates, Community Health Advisors, researchers, clinicians, health professionals, government leaders, community organizations and industry partners each bring something essential to this work. Our greatest impact happens when we listen to one another, learn from one another and work together. As we often say, there is power in PEOPLE!

Most importantly, thank you. Thank you for the work you do every day in neighborhoods, clinics, laboratories, churches, community organizations, universities and countless other spaces across Alabama and beyond. Thank you for educating your neighbors, connecting people to resources, asking important questions, advancing science, improving access to cancer prevention and care and making sure community voices help shape the work we do. Our progress is possible because of your commitment and the relationships we have built together.

Over the next few days, I encourage you to connect, share, learn and be inspired. Celebrate how far we have come, but also imagine what is possible when we take what we learn here back into our communities. Our mission is ambitious: to reduce the cancer burden across Alabama through evidence, education and empowerment. Achieving it requires all of us.

May this Institute leave you re-fired about our collective purpose and reminded that behind every statistic is a person, a family and a community. Numbers are our neighbors, and together, we have the power to change what those numbers look like.

Welcome to the 2026 Community Dissemination Institute. "Let the renaissance begin!"

Onward and upward together!


Timiya S. Nolan, PhD, APRN-CNP, ANP-BC, FAAN
Associate Director, Community Outreach & Engagement
UAB O'Neal Cancer Center



Welcome to Hoover, Alabama!

Dear Participants,

On behalf of the City of Hoover, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Hoover for the 2026 UAB O'Neal Cancer Center Community Dissemination Institute.

We are honored that this important gathering is being held at the Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa, one of Hoover's premier destinations, bringing together community organizations, healthcare advocates, researchers, healthcare professionals, and public health leaders who share a common commitment to reducing the burden of cancer through education, outreach, and community engagement. Your work to strengthen connections between research and the communities it serves has the potential to improve countless lives across Alabama and beyond.

Hoover is proud to be a city that values innovation, collaboration, and community. As one of Alabama's fastest-growing cities, Hoover offers exceptional hospitality, beautiful parks and outdoor spaces, outstanding dining and shopping, and a welcoming atmosphere for visitors from across the country. Whether this is your first visit or you have been here before, I encourage you to take time to experience all that our city has to offer while you are here.

The Community Dissemination Institute represents the power of partnerships in advancing public health. By sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and engaging communities, you are helping ensure that lifesaving discoveries reach the people who need them most. Hoover is proud to host an event that reflects these values and supports the important mission of the UAB O'Neal Cancer Center.

Thank you for choosing Hoover as the host city for this distinguished conference. We wish you a productive, engaging, and enjoyable experience, and we hope you leave with new ideas, meaningful collaborations, and fond memories of your time in our community.

Welcome to Hoover and best wishes for a successful Community Dissemination Institute.

Sincerely,

Frank V. "Nick" Derzis

Mayor, City of Hoover, Alabama

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An Ode to the Harlem Renaissance

"Renaissance at the Renaissance" is more than a dress code, it is a celebration of rebirth, creativity, culture, and possibility.

The Harlem Renaissance was a remarkable period when music, art, prose, fashion, and new ideas flourished. Through bold expression and collective creativity, a generation honored its roots while creating something powerful for the future.

That spirit inspired our Institute theme, "From Roots to Renaissance: Building Knowledge. Sharing Strength. Inspiring Hope." Like the Harlem Renaissance, our work is rooted in the belief that progress happens when people come together, share their voices and talents, and imagine what is possible.

The vintage-inspired elegance you see throughout the Institute; fringe and feathers, pearls and fedoras, sharp suits and Art Deco flair, pays tribute to an era known for both substance and style.

Diane's Got Her Whole Life Ahead of Her and Our Entire Breast Cancer Team Behind Her.

O'Neal Cancer Center



PART
OF THE  **University of
Alabama System.**

At the UAB O'Neal Cancer Center we take a team approach to delivering cutting-edge cancer care. In our Breast Health Clinic, you meet with an expert team of doctors and nurses to discuss personalized treatment options. By utilizing the latest advances, we are able to precisely target cancer cells, delivering pinpoint treatments and the highest level of care possible.

onealcanceruab.org

UAB MEDICINE.

VIEW THE
ONLINE VERSION
OF THE PROGRAM BOOK



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to view the online version of
the CDI 2026 Program Book.

tinyurl.com/CDI-2026-about



AUGUST 23RD

Time	Session	Moderator	Speakers	Location
5:30-6:00	Welcome		Dr. Timiya Nolan, Associate Director of Community Outreach & Engagement, O'Neal Cancer Center Dr. Barry Sleckman, Director, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center Mayor Nick Derzis, Mayor of Hoover, AL Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama State Health Officer	Hoover Ballroom
6:00	Invocation		Pastor Alphonso Bowen, Greater New Heights Baptist Church	
	Dinner is served Voices in Harmony	OPOV Band		
6:20-7:00	From Roots to Renaissance: The Evolution of COE at UAB	Timiya Nolan, Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement, O'Neal Cancer Center	Dr. Mona Fouad, UAB Heersink School of Medicine Ms. Claudia Hardy, HelmsBriscoe	
7:00-8:00	Art in Motion (Dancing)	OPOV Band		
8:00	CHA Store pre-order forms due			Pelham Room

**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO
COMPLETE OUR EVALUATIONS**





MONDAY

AUGUST 24TH

Time	Session	Moderator	Speakers	Location
7:30-8:00	Morning Glory	Mrs. Angelia Walker, Regional Lead, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center		Oxmoor Room
	Morning Energizer	Ms. Milinda King		Vestavia Room
8:00-9:00	Breakfast			Hoover Ballroom
8:45-9:00	Welcome	Dr. Timiya Nolan, Associate Director COE, O'Neal Cancer Center		
9:00-9:40	Nourish to Flourish: Connections between Food, Movement, and Health	Dr. Nashira Brown, UAB school of Public Health	Dr. Laura Rogers, UAB Heersink School of Medicine Mrs. Megan Ferrell, UAB Medicine Dr. Amanda Clark, From Roots 2 Harvest	
9:40-10:20	Art in The Art of Rest: Reclaiming Sleep for Mind and Body	Dr. Macy Stockdill, UAB School of Nursing	Dr. S. Justin Thomas, UAB Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology Ms. Kimberly Kirklin, UAB Arts in Medicine Dr. Puneet Aulakh, UAB Pulmonary Allergy & Critical Care Medicine	
10:20-11:00	Mini-Review	Ms. Maria Fernanda Vidal, UAB O' Neal Cancer Center Community Advisory Board Member	Dr. Blake Buchalter, UAB School of Public Health Dr. Andrea Comba, UAB Neuropathology Dr. Mary Kathryn Sewell-Loftin, UAB Biomedical Engineering Dr. Rachael Guenter, UAB Dept. of Surgery	



MONDAY

AUGUST 24TH

Time	Session	Moderator	Speakers	Location
11:00-11:10	Break			
11:10-11:50	Research Program Breakouts (Session A)			
	Cancer Biology & Immunology	Ms. Jeanette Anglin, Coordinator, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center	Dr. Mary Kathryn Sewell-Loftin, UAB Biomedical Engineering Dr. Natalie Gassman, UAB Molecular & Cellular Biology Dr. Sooryanarayana Varambally, UAB Molecular & Cellular Biology	Ballrooms A-C (Create)
	Cancer Control & Population Science	Mrs. Patricia Gullette, Coordinator, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center	Dr. Kelly Palmer, UAB Heersink School of Medicine Dr. Gabriela Oates, UAB School of Public Health & Heersink School of Medicine Dr. Chloe Taub, UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Ballrooms D-E (Inspire)
	Experimental Therapeutics	Mrs. Kathy Levy, Regional Lead, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center	Dr. Rachael Guenter, UAB Surgery Dr. Rebecca Arend, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center Dr. Mehmet Akce, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center	Vestavia-Helena Room (Elevate)
	Neuro-Oncology	Mrs. Carolyn Duncan, Coordinator, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center	Dr. Chris Willey, UAB Radiation Oncology Dr. Braden McFarland, UAB Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology Dr. Rebecca Brown, UAB Neurology	Ballrooms H-F (Empower)
12:00-12:40	Research Program Breakouts (Session B)	(Session A Repeated)		



MONDAY

AUGUST 24TH

Time	Session	Moderator	Speakers	Location
12:50-2:20	Lunch			
2:30-3:10	Themed Breakouts (Session A)			
	Cooking Demonstration	Mrs. Pearlette Edwards, Coordinator, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center		Ballrooms H-F (Empower)
	Nothing to Hide: A Conversation on Colorectal Health	Ms. Kimberly Parker Coleman, Coordinator, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center	Dr. Patricia Ajayi-Fox, UAB Gastroenterology Mrs. Jacky Turner, Rumpshaker Mr. Stephen Jaye, ADPH	Ballrooms D-E (Inspire)
	Roots of Care & Seeds of Prevention for Women's Health	Ms. Kimberly Braden, Coordinator, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center	Dr. Anne Kane, UAB ENT & Otolaryngology Dr. Isabel Scarinci, WipeOut Cervical Cancer Ms. Taliesha Cash, Sisters Cancervive	Ballrooms A-C (Create)
	The Art of Living On: Cancer Survivorship in Full Color	Mrs. Debbie Hill, Coordinator, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center	Dr. Nicole Henderson, UAB Hematology/ Oncology Ms. Janel A. Lowman, USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute Ms. Marshelle Harris, Patient Advocate	Vestavia- Helena Room (Elevate)
3:20-4:00	Themed Breakouts (B)	(Session A Repeated)		
4:00-5:30	Poster Session			ABC Foyer
	CHA Store Pickup			Pelham Room
5:00-6:00	Light refreshments/ coffee			Café McRae
6:30 PM	MOVIE: Albany Road			Hoover Ballroom



Time	Session	Moderator	Speakers	Location
7:30-8:00	Morning Glory	Mrs. Angelia Walker, Regional Lead, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center		Oxmoor Room
	Morning Energizer	Ms. Milinda King		Vestavia Room
8:00-9:00	Breakfast			
8:45-9:00	Opening/Poetry	Dr. Mackenzie Fowler	Ms. Christina J. Wade The Write Wade	
9:00-9:40	The Architecture of Alliance: Designing Coalitions for Community Impact	Dr. Pauline Long, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center Community Advisory Board Member	Mr. Bryce Kahari, Center for Black Health & Equity Ms. Kimberly Braden, O'Neal Cancer Center Dr. Lori Bateman, UAB Heersink School of Medicine	Hoover Ballroom
9:40-10:40	The Unspoken Truth: Talking about Men's Health	Mr. Jerry Feagin, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center Community Health Advisor	Mr. John Ray, Prostate Cancer Awareness Network Senator Justin Pope, State of Mississippi Dr. Ian McKeag, UAB Family & Community Medicine	
10:40-11:20	Action Learning for Whole Person Engagement	Ms. Cari Oliver UAB Center for Clinical & Translational Sciences	CCTS	
11:30-12:00	Voices at the Table: Speaking Up and Out	Mrs. Raquel Smith, PinkTopps Incorporated	Dr. Tommy Watkins, UAB Department of Social Work Dr. Nick Odom, UAB School of Nursing Mrs. Christyna Malone-Frazier, UAB Medicine	



Time	Session	Moderator	Speakers	Location
12:00-1:00	Kahoot! Wrap- Up Evaluations Boxed Lunch Served	Ms. Kimberly Parker, Coordinator, UAB O'Neal Cancer Center		

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TO COMPLETE OUR EVALUATION SURVEY

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YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

Help us improve future events and continue making an impact in our communities.

Thank You!



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TOGETHER WE IMPACT HEALTH

Through ongoing collaboration with organizations like the University of Alabama Community Dissemination Institute and our Advancing Inclusive Research External Council, we are able to close care gaps and improve patient outcomes for more patients in more communities.

**ONE BREAKTHROUGH,
ONE PATIENT, ONE
COMMUNITY AT A TIME.**



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OF YOU & YOUR LOVED
ONES AWAITS

Edith A. Perez | MD

Professor Emeritus Mayo Clinic and
Chief Medical Officer Cornerstone
Specialty Network
Advancing Inclusive Research External
Council Member, Genentech



SPEAKERS



Timiya Nolan PhD, ANP-BC, FAAN
Associate Director, Community
Outreach & Engagement,
UAB O'Neal Cancer Center



Barry Sleckman, MD, PhD
Director,
UAB O'Neal Cancer Center



Nicholas Derzis
Mayor,
City of Hoover, Alabama



**Scott Harris MD, MPH, FACP,
FIDSA**
State of Alabama Health Officer



Alphonso D. Bowen
Pastor, Greater New Heights
Baptist Church Birmingham, Alabama



Mona Fouad, MD MPH
Professor,
UAB Heersink School of Medicine



Claudia M. Hardy, BA, MPA
Owner/Sr. Engagement Consultant,
INGAGE & Assoc. Consulting, LLC



Angelia Walker, BS
Regional Lead/ County Coordinator,
UAB O'Neal Cancer Center



Milinda L. King, MD
Founder/President,
Community Health is Wealth



Laura Rogers, MD, MPH
Professor, UAB Heersink
School of Medicine



Megan F. Word, MPH, RD, LD
Registered Dietitian, UAB Weight
Loss Medicine Clinic



Amanda D. Clark, Ph.D.
Founder & CEO,
Roots 2 Harvest



S. Justin Thomas, PhD
Associate Professor, UAB
Department of Psychiatry &
Behavioral Neuro-biology



Kimberly Kirklin, MA, ALC, NCC
Director,
UAB Arts in Medicine (AIM)



Puneet Aulakh, MD
Associate Professor,
UAB Pulmonology, Sleep Medicine



Blake Buchalter, PhD
Assistant Professor,
UAB School of Public Health



Andrea Comba, PhD
Associate Scientist,
UAB O'Neal Cancer Center



Mary Kathryn Sewll-Loftin, PhD
Assistant Professor, UAB
Biomedical Engineering



Rachael Guenter, Ph.D
Assistant Professor,
UAB Department of Surgery



Natalie R. Gassman PhD
Associate Professor,
UAB Pathology



**Sooryanarayana Varambally,
PhD, MBA**
Professor, UAB Molecular &
Cellular Biology



Kelly Palmer, PhD, MHS
Assistant Professor,
UAB Heersink School of Medicine



Gabriela R. Oates, PhD
Associate Professor,
UAB Pulmonary, Allergy & Critical
Care Medicine



Chloe J. Taub, PhD
Assistant Professor,
UAB Heersink School of Medicine



Rebecca Arend, MD, MPH
Associate Professor,
UAB Gynecology Oncology

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of cancer.





Mehmet Akce, MD
Chief of Oncology,
UAB Heersink School of Medicine



Christopher D. Wiley, MD, PhD
Vice Chair, Research,
UAB Radiation Oncology



Braden McFarland, PhD
Associate Professor,
UAB Cell, Developmental and
Integrative Biology



Rebecca Brown, MD
Associate Professor,
UAB Neurology



Patricia Ajayi-Fox, MD
Assistant Professor
UAB Gastroenterology



Jacqueline Turner
Program Coordinator,
Rumpshaker Inc.



Stephen W. Jaye, MBA
Health Services Administrator,
Alabama Dept. of Public Health



Anne Kane, MD
Associate Professor &
Surgeon-Scientist,
UAB Otolaryngology



Isabel C. Scarinci, PhD, MPH
Director, UAB Division of Global &
Rural Health, Dept. Obstetrics &
Gynecology



Taliesha L. Cash
Executive Director and Founder,
Sisterscancervive Org.



Nicole Henderson, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor,
UAB



Janel Lowman, MHA
Sr. Manager, Community Outreach,
USA Health Mitchell Cancer Institute



Marshelle Harris NBC-HWC
Founder and CEO,
Wellness 4 Life LLC.



Christina J. Wade, MaEd
Owner & Founder,
The Write Wade



Bryce Kahari, BA
Cancer Program Manager,
The Center for Black Health & Equity



Kimberly Braden, MPPM
Program Coordinator,
UAB O'Neal Cancer Center



Lori B. Bateman, PhD., RD
Associate Professor,
UAB Medicine, General Internal
Medicine & Population Science



Jerry L. Feagin, RDH
Community Health Advisor,
UAB O'Neal Cancer Center



John Ray, BA

Cancer Awareness Advocate,
Prostate Cancer Awareness Network



Justin Pope, BS

Senator, District 24,
State of Mississippi



Ian D. McKeag, MD, MS, CAQSM

Associate Professor,
UAB Department of Family &
Community Medicine



Cari Oliver, MPA

Dir., Evaluation & Special Projects,
UAB Center for Clinical & Translational
Sciences



Raquel Smith, BS

Executive Director,
Pinktopps Inc.



Tommie L Watkins Jr., PhD.,

M.Div., LMSW

Founder, The Watkins Group



J. Nicholas Odom, PhD., RN

Associate Professor,
UAB School of Nursing



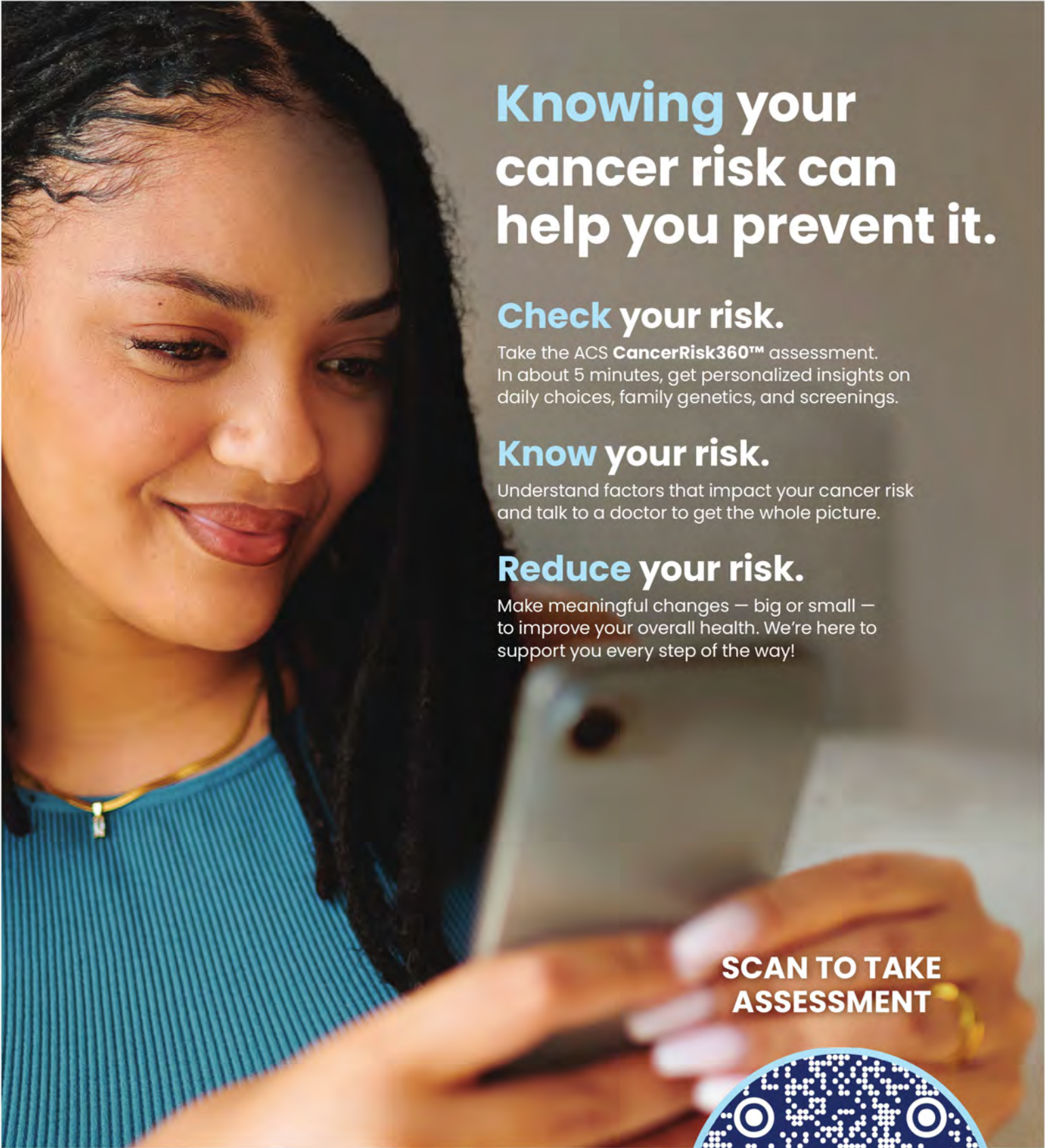
Christyna Malone-Frazier MPH,

BSN, RN, OCN

Oncology Nurse Navigator,
UAB Medicine

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POSTER PRESENTERS



**Mary Aboraa Aboagye,
MBA**



**Oluwagbemisola
Agunbiade, DDS, MPH**



**Nicole Caviness-Ashe,
PhD, MSN, RN**



Dhruva Dave, M.B.B.S.



Nneka Ijeli, BA



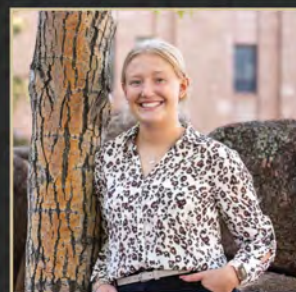
Ella Nichols, BA



Tanvi Padalkar, MA



Purva Pawar, BDS, MPH



Erin Ryerson, BS



Jacquelyn E. Speer, BS



**DeBran Tarver, PhD,
MPH**



Charlotte Tauss, BA

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CCTS

Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Where Research Meets Impact

The CCTS fosters authentic collaborations between researchers and communities, creating opportunities for learning, trust-building, and shared research goals to accelerate health improvements for all.

- **Community Engagement Institute (CEI)** - Forums and events, including CEI Perspectives and the annual CEI Symposium, where community health priorities shape research.
- **A seat at the table** - The Community and Scientific Action Board (CSAB) gives community members a real voice in guiding research.
- **Partner Network Community Coalition** - Cross-institutional partnerships tackling shared health priorities region-wide.

Learn More

go.uab.edu/cctscommunity



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@cctsnetwork





COMMUNITY — STARTS WITH — YOU



The most meaningful change
begins with people who choose to serve.

Thank you for sharing your time,
expertise, and compassion as we work
together to improve health across
Alabama and beyond.

YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS.
YOUR WORK MATTERS. YOU MATTER.



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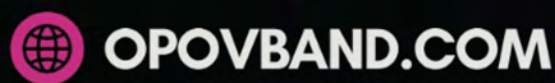
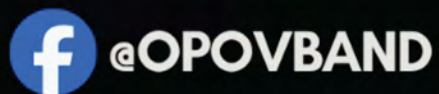
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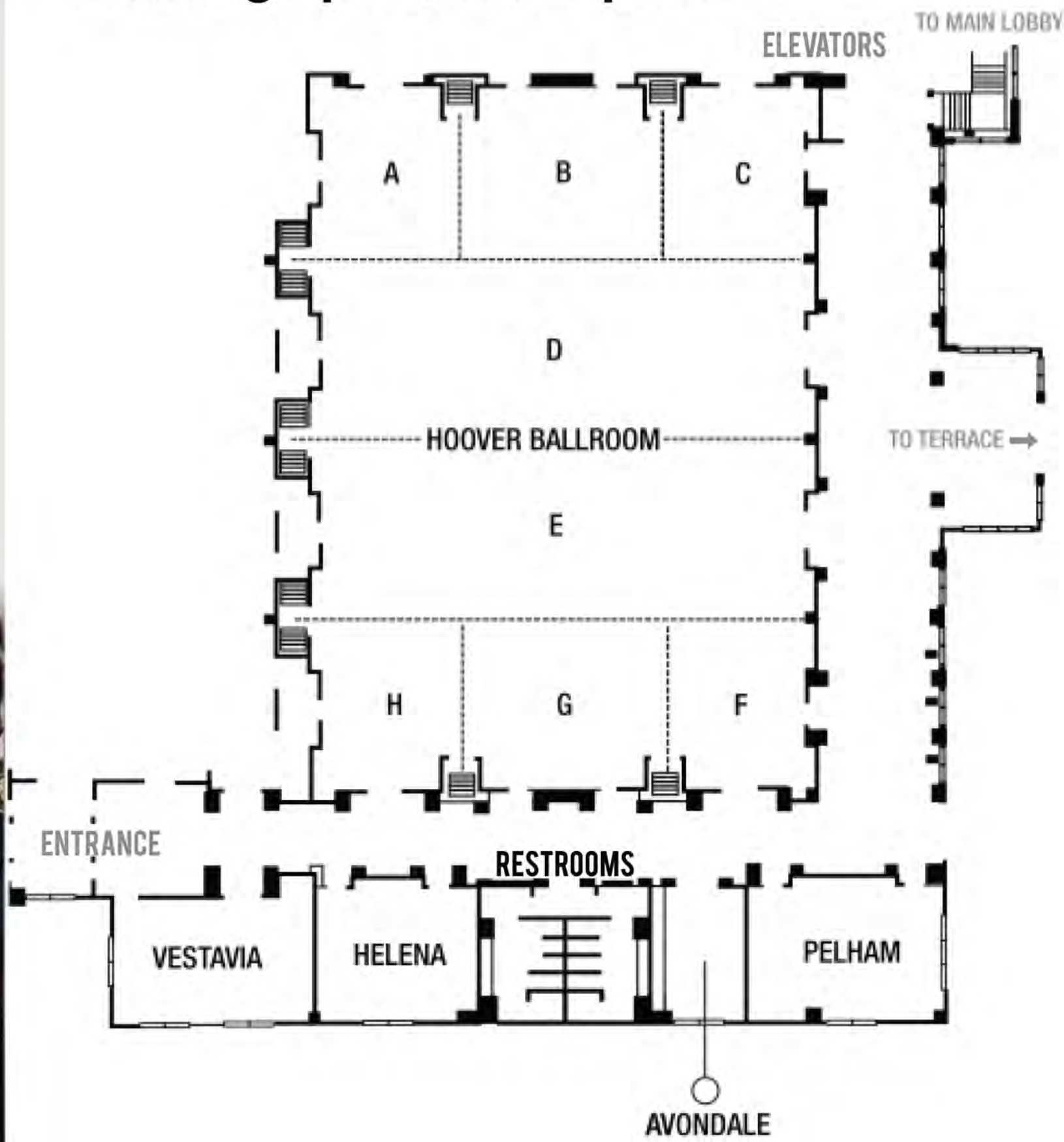


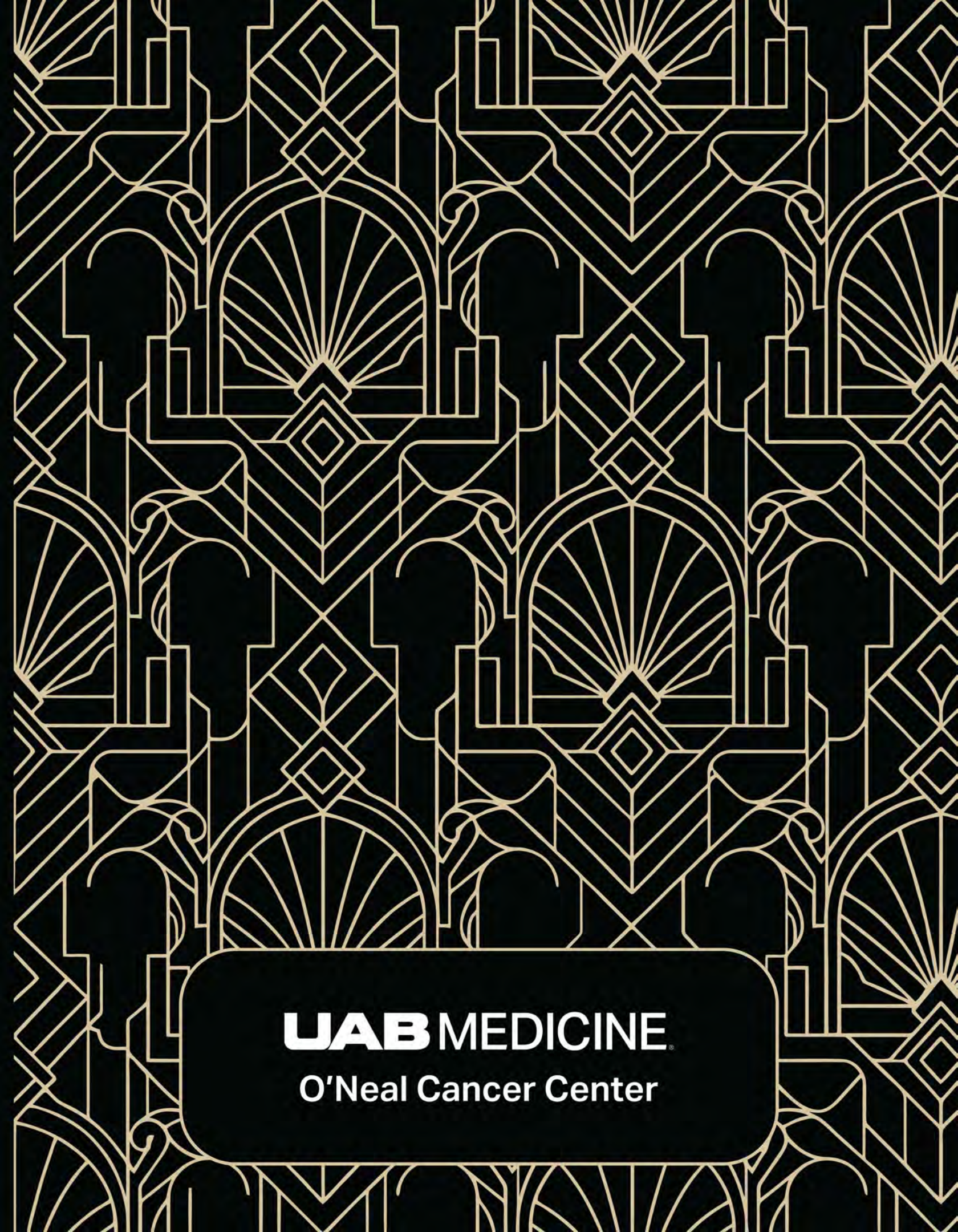
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Meeting Space Floor-plan





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O'Neal Cancer Center