

# Community Dissemination Institute 2021

***“CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH,  
ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH TO ELIMINATE  
CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES”***

**NOVEMBER 14-16, 2021  
MARRIOTT SHOALS CONFERENCE CENTER  
FLORENCE, ALABAMA**

November 14, 2021

Dear Institute Attendees:

I am excited to bring greetings and to welcome each of you on behalf of the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. As I serve in my second year as Director, I'm even more excited to be here with you (in-person) for my very first Community Dissemination Institute 2021 hosted by the O'Neal's Office of Community Outreach and Engagement. This Institute is an innovative opportunity for academic, clinical, and research members to engage with community individuals and other partners to share the latest information in cancer information and research.

After spending more than 18 months in a pandemic during my first year as Director, this Institute will allow me with a long-awaited opportunity to meet many of you, our beloved Community Health Advisors (CHAs), Community Coordinators and other staff for the first time. I want to personally thank each of you for your commitment and work that you do each day to provide community education, to implement and participate in community research, and to advocate for better health for yourself and your community. To all of our collaborating partners and sponsors, thank you for your ongoing support.

Lastly, congratulations on providing 25 years of Community Outreach and Engagement to ensure that O'Neal better understands and serves individuals throughout our catchment area. This Office understood early on that we must address the medically underserved and those disproportionately impacted by cancer. The work that has been done here is known across the US and the beyond.

I look forward to these next couple of days together as we learn from each other and begin a meaningful relationship to continue the O'Neal's long-standing legacy in addressing and working to eliminate cancer disparities.

Sincerely,



Barry Sleckman, MD, PhD  
Director, O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology  
*Evalina B. Spencer Chair in Oncology*

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1720 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-3300



November 14, 2021

Dear Institute Attendees:

Welcome to our Community Dissemination Institute 2021!

We are extremely excited to host this in-person meeting after having to meet and engage with you in a virtual platform over the past 20 months. I want to personally thank each of you for being resilient and staying connected to the Office of Community Outreach and Engagement as we faced an unprecedented time during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic has been challenging and brought with it many changes, it offered us the opportunity to launch new ways to conduct community outreach and educational programs including virtual and electronic communications. The result has been that we have been able to reach more people than ever before.

Over the course of the next couple days, we hope to update you on the work that has been happening across the Office of Outreach and Engagement. We also want to hear from you about what you think is working or not working and where we need to go next. For this meeting, we will host our first Health Equity Town Hall. In my role as the first Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement for the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, I want to use this platform to help promote cancer health equity by advancing research and clinical care.

Lastly, this Institute is a time of celebration: 25 years of providing education, awareness and community-based research in communities that have experienced the worse burdens of cancer. We celebrate each of you: local community staff, CHAs, partners, CAB members, healthcare providers, researchers and others who have worked with us on this journey to eliminate cancer health disparities.

As you spend the next 2 days with us at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center, have fun while learning and meeting new people.

Let the celebration begin.....



Monica L Baskin, PhD

Professor of Preventive Medicine  
Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement

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**Office of Community Outreach and Engagement**

**Community Dissemination Institute 2021**

Marriott Shoals Conference Center

Florence, Alabama

*Celebrating 25 Years of Community Outreach,  
Engagement and Research to Eliminate Cancer Disparities*

**Guest Facilitator Francine Walton, MPH**

**AGENDA**

**Sunday, November 14, 2021**

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Hotel Check-In – Registration	<b>Marriott Shoals Hotel</b>
	Conference Check-in – Registration	<b>Marriott Shoals Conference Center</b>
	<i>*All sessions will be held in Conference Center*</i>	
	<i>Attendees enjoy Photo Booth</i>	
	<b>Opening Session</b>	<b>Singing River</b>
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Nathaniel Brooks, M. Div, D. Min</i> <i>Ethel Myles-Henderson, JD</i> <i>CAB Co-Chairs</i>	
	<b>Sponsorship Greetings</b> <i>Robin Demonio, GRAIL</i> <i>Elizabeth (Betsy) Brown, Genetech</i>	
	<b>Invocation</b> <i>Reverend Luther Edwards</i> <i>CHA Choctaw County</i>	
	<b>Dinner is Served</b>	
	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activity – “DSN 25 Years Ago”</b> <i>Kathy Levy, BA</i> <i>Choctaw County Coordinator</i> <i>Justin Pope, BA</i> <i>Community Advisory Board Member</i>	

## Monday, November 15, 2021

6:45 am – 7:15 am

### **Morning Walk**

*Cordie Walker, Walk Leader  
Grenada County Coordinator*

***Interested walking attendees please meet in the lobby of the HOTEL***

### **Morning Yoga**

*Jennifer Bail, PhD, RN*

**Marriot Hotel Roosevelt Room**

### **Self-Guided Exercise**

*Follow QR code below on your smartphone using your camera for exercises.*



7:30 am – 8:30 am

### **Networking Breakfast**

*Enjoy breakfast while discussing an engagement topic*

**Shoals Ballroom C**

8:45 am - 9:00 am

### **Greetings**

*Barry Sleckman, MD, PhD, Director  
O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center*

**Shoals Ballroom C**

9:00am – 9:45 am

### **Community Outreach, Engagement and Research: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

*Claudia M. Hardy, MPA*

9:45 am – 10:15 am

### **Community Outreach Corner**

#### **Community Outreach and Engagement**

*Rochelle Wallace, MS*

10:15 am – 10:30 am

### **Stretch Break – Richard Simmons**

#### **“Sweating to the Oldies”**

*Pearlette Edwards, Coordinator  
Bullock County*

10:30 am – 11:15 am

### **Research Corner**

#### **Introduction to Community Engaged Research**

*Tara Bowman, BSW*

*Facilitator*

#### **Panel Presenters:**

##### **ALCASE**

*Kathy Levy, BA*

*Alabama Project Manager*

##### **DIAL**

*Sh’Nese Holmes, MHA*

*Program Manager*

##### **WIDSOM**

*Le’Andrea Anderson-Tolbert*

*Clinical Research Coordinator*

11:15 am – 12:00pm

### **COE Pilot Research Projects**

#### **Alterations of Fructose Metabolism in Obesity-Related Cancer**

*Sunil Sudarshan, MD*

#### **Determining the Role of the Human Gut Microbiome in a Mouse Model of Brain Tumors**

*Braden McFarland, PhD*

#### **Oral Microbiome Associations and Interactions with Oral and Oropharyngeal Cancer**

*Hope Amm, PhD*

#### **Using Digital Healthcare to Eliminate Pancreatic Cancer Survivorship Disparities**

*Sushanth Reddy, MD*

#### **ALCASE Ancillary/Lung Cancer Education**

*Soumya Niranjana, MS, PhD*

*Project Leader*

#### **Mike Slive Prostate Cancer Research Project**

*Meghan Tipre, MSPH, PhD*

*Project Leader*

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Invocation**

*Elder Angelia Walker*

*Madison County Coordinator*

**View Exhibits and Lunch**

**Atrium**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Breakout Sessions # 1**

- **“I need a Doctor. What do I do?”** **Florence**  
Useful tips for finding and accessing health care in your local communities
  - *Silvia Gisiger Camata RN, Pharm, MPH*
  - *Kimberly Robinson, LBSW*
  
- **Healthy Cooking from Our Garden:** **Muscle Shoals**  
Information on how to prepare meals straight from your garden
  - *Glenda Jones, BS Sc, Psy*
  
- **Clinical Trials and You: The importance of participating in research for prevention and care of disease** **Sheffield**
  - *Stacey Ingram, MEd, CHES*
  - *Rochelle Wallace, MS*
  
- **What the Clutter? Learning to Declutter for a Healthier Physical and Emotional living** **Shoals A**
  - *Deanna Fowler, MPH*
  
- **Cancer Screenings during the Pandemic** **Shoals D**
  - *Kristi Lovell, BS*

3:00pm – 3:30pm

**Break**

**Atrium**

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

## Breakout Sessions # 2

*Attendees should select a second capacity-building session of their choice*

- **“I need a Doctor. What do I do?”** **Florence**  
Useful tips for finding and accessing health care in your local communities
  - *Silvia Gisiger Camata, RN, Pharm, MPH*
  - *Kimberly Robinson, LBSW*
  
- **Healthy Cooking from Our Garden:** **Muscle Shoals**  
Information on how to prepare meals straight from your garden
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- **Clinical Trials and You: The Importance of Participating in Research for Prevention and Care of Disease** **Sheffield**
  - *Stacey Ingram, Med, CHES*
  - *Rochelle Wallace, MS*
  
- **What the Clutter? Learning to Declutter for Healthier Physical and Emotional Living** **Shoals A**
  - *Deanna Fowler, MPH*
  
- **Cancer Screening During the Pandemic** **Shoals D**
  - *Kristi Lovell, BS*

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm

**COE Staff Meeting**

**Florence**

4:30 pm -8:00

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scavenger Hunt**  
**Explore Muscle Shoals Communities**

**Dinner on your own**



## Tuesday, November 16, 2021

6:45 am – 7:15 am

### **Morning Walk**

*Cordie Walker, Walk Leader  
Grenada County Coordinator*

***Interested walking attendees please meet in the lobby of the HOTEL***

### **Morning Yoga**

*Jennifer Bail, PhD, RN*

**Marriott Hotel Roosevelt Room**

### **Self-Guided Exercise**

*Please follow QR Code below on your smartphone for exercises*



7:30 am – 8:45 am

### **Breakfast**

**Shoals Ballroom C**

***Deep South Network Cancer Fight Video***

8:50 am -9:30am

### **The Ban on Menthol and Tobacco: What's the 411?**

*Michael Scott, CHES*

*The Center for Black Health and Equity*

9:30 am – 10:15 am

### **Advancing Health Equity Town Hall**

*Monica L. Baskin, PhD*

*Barry Sleckman, MD, PhD*

10:15 am – 10:30 am

### **Networking Stretch Break - Dance Moves 25 Years Ago**

*Pearlette Edwards, Coordinator*

*Bullock County*

10:30 am – 11:15 am

**Closing Keynote**

**Staying Well**

*Tammy Cauthen, LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH, ACS, CAMS II, CDVS II  
TC Counseling Services*

11:15 am -12:00 pm

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Finale**

*Marcus Glover, BS*

12:00 pm - 12:15 pm

**Closing Remarks and Evaluations**

**DISMISSAL (Box lunches provided)**

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

**Community Advisory Board Meeting**

**Shoals D**

*CAB Members and COE Central Office Staff ONLY*



# **MEET THE SPEAKERS**





## **Hope Amm, PhD**

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Hope Amm, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She received her BS in Biological Sciences from Saint Mary's College and Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from UAB with a focus on cancer biology and novel therapeutics. Dr. Amm completed the Dental Academic Research Training (DART) program as a post-doctoral scholar in the laboratory of Dr. Mary MacDougall at the UAB School of Dentistry and was a Mentored Experiences in Research, Instruction, and Teaching (MERIT) program Scholar-at-Large, which provided teaching experiences at minority-partner institutions. She has collaborated on projects related to the genetic and molecular basis of craniofacial diseases, particularly odontogenic tumors. She has characterized numerous cellular models of odontogenic tumors and developed new in vivo models. Dr. Amm was awarded a NIDCR K99/R00 to support her early research endeavors focusing genetics and signaling pathways in oral tumors. Particularly those that play a role in the pathogenesis of human oral cancers and odontogenic tumors with a goal to develop therapies and diagnostic tools, with an emphasis on targeted therapies. She works closely with oral surgeons on projects to provide better diagnostics and surgical outcomes. Her work has been funded by the Department of Defense, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, and the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation.



## **Monica L. Baskin, PhD**

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Monica L. Baskin, PhD, is a Professor of Preventive Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine and Associate Director for Community Outreach & Engagement at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB. She received her Bachelor of Arts in psychology and sociology from Emory University, and a Master of Science in community counseling and Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Georgia State University. She is a licensed psychologist whose research focuses on minority health and health disparities. Her research utilizes community-based participatory methods to better understand and address individual, family, and environmental factors associated with the prevention and control of chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. Her research has largely focused on African American and rural communities in the Deep South. This work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), and other regional and local foundations. Dr. Baskin is a trained and authorized facilitator of nationally-recognized training programs on unconscious bias for health professionals and equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). She is also the immediate past president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM).



## **Jennifer Bail, PhD, RN**

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Jennifer Bail, PhD, RN is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) College of Nursing, as well as a certified Yoga Instructor and Health Coach. Her journey of wellness began in 2001, when her mother died of triple negative breast cancer at the early age of 55. The loss of her mother was a major wakeup call. Dr. Bail realized that she needed to take charge of her own health. After experiencing the benefits of Yoga and healthier eating, Dr. Bail developed a strong desire to help others on their journey of wellness by guiding them in making lifestyle changes to live happier, healthier lives. As a nurse scientist, Dr. Bail's research focus is cancer health disparities and developing nurse-led interventions aimed at advancing health equity in the Deep South.



## **Tara Bowman, BSW**

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Tara R. Bowman, BSW, is a Program Manager in the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB where she manages several community-engaged research programs. In this role, she is currently responsible for supervising local COE Community Coordinators and implementation of several cancer outreach and research programs that focus on increasing cancer screening and healthy life style efforts among the underserved in urban and rural communities in Alabama. In addition, Tara also provides community-based patient navigation for cancer screenings. She works tirelessly with individuals to lessen and remove barriers related to cancer screenings. Prior to this role, Tara managed health initiatives for OCOE and coordinated the Jefferson County CHA program for nearly 7 years. Tara received her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Talladega College.



## **Silvia Gisiger Camata, MPH**

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Silvia Gisiger Camata, RN, Pharm, MPH, leads the Prevention and Care Navigation program in the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement (OCOE) at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB. The program seeks to connect individuals in need for screening and cancer care services to existing resources within their community. Over 13 years at UAB, she has been involved with leadership and implementation of community-based health initiatives. Before joining the OCOE, she led the Young Breast Cancer Survivorship Network and SurviveAL, initiatives in the UAB School of Nursing. Her passion is to work with minorities and underserved populations and reduce cancer health disparities.



## **Tammy Cauthen, LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH, ACS, CAMS II, CDVS II**

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Tammy Cauthen is the owner and operator of TC Counseling & Consulting Services. She is an advocate for self-care and believes in making sure people feel comfortable when talking about mental health. Tammy is passionate about removing the negative stigma associated with counseling in the African American community. Recently, Tammy decided to open the TC Transformational Center in the heart of Ensley, a community in Birmingham, to make office visits more convenient in the “Magic City.” Tammy’s huge heart for her community inspired her to host an annual book bag drive for Birmingham City School students. Thanks to several sponsors and volunteers, Tammy managed to donate 800 book bag stuffed with supplies in 2019. TC Counseling & Consulting services also hosts quarterly TC Transformational Summits (TC Talks). These are small group sessions where attendees are encouraged to dig deep within to discuss a variety of important topics in a safe, confidential atmosphere. The Jacksonville State University graduate has a Bachelor’s of Social Work and a Master’s in Agency Counseling. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor – Supervisor (LPC-S), certified in the states of Alabama and Georgia. She is also a Licensed Bachelor Social Worker (LBSW) in the state of Alabama. Tammy has managed to acquire numerous certifications and degrees. She has more than 20 years of experience in treating individuals, families, couples and groups, plus twelve years as a school counselor.



## **Deanna Fowler, MPH**

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Deanna Fowler is a professional organizer and productivity coach who supports busy women - from stay-at-home moms to corporate leaders and everyone in between - in creating calm, organized spaces and lifestyles that allow them to reduce their stress, increase their productivity, and achieve their goals without feeling overwhelmed. She is the owner of DeeCluttered Professional Organizing and uses her background and experience as a nonprofit program director to incorporate evidence-based goal setting practices into the everyday life of her clients. She is passionate about helping others realize their maximum potential while remaining true to their unique selves. DeeCluttered Professional Organizing is a full-service home, business, and lifestyle organization company offering in-home and virtual space organizing services, custom vinyl organizing labels, digital productivity tools, and personalized productivity coaching.



## **Claudia M. Hardy, MPA**

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Claudia M. Hardy, MPA, is the Program Director for the Office of Community Outreach and Engagement at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Ms. Hardy has over 25 years of experience as a senior level administrator, consultant, and strategist in health disparities initiatives and community engagement. She provides strategic planning and guidance to researchers, clinicians and others conducting outreach and research programs in medically underserved minority communities. Ms. Hardy has utilized a Community Health Advisors (CHA) model in much of her work, training over 1500 CHAs across the country. She has vast knowledge in program developments and initiatives. In addition, she has extensive experience serving on non-profits board of directors, advisory boards, leadership development and volunteer training. Her work has fostered collaborations with local and international organizations. Ms. Hardy holds a BA in Communication Arts specializing in Public Relations and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) specializing in organizational management and behavior from UAB.



## **Sh'Nese Holmes, MHA**

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Sh'Nese Holmes is a clinical research coordinator in the Department of Health Behavior at the UAB School of Public Health. She has worked at UAB for the past 10 years on research programs focused on improving health and reducing health disparities among rural and minority populations. Sh'Nese has a love for her community and a passion for helping people access the resources needed to meet their mental, physical, and spiritual needs. She currently serves as Program Manager for the DIAL Study. The DIAL Study is a research study that aims to support men and women living Alabama Black Belt counties who are currently inactive become more active through a telephone-based physical activity program.



## **Stacy Ingram, MEd, CHES**

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Stacey Ingram, MEd, CHES is a Manager of Clinical Research Administration working with oncologist Dr. Gabrielle Rocque in the UAB Division of Hematology and Oncology. She is currently responsible for managing a health service research team focusing on healthcare delivery and improving care for cancer patients. Stacey, along with their research team, conduct research regarding the value in cancer care, such as patient financial toxicity, shared decision-making in regards to patient preferences, and supportive care interventions for cancer patients, such as the implementation of home-based symptom management to improve the patient experience. Stacey received her Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health and her Master's in Health Education from UAB. She also is a Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES).



## **Chef Glenda A. Jones, BS Sc, Psy**

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Chef Glenda A. Jones is an author as well as Nutrition, Wellness and Kitchen Coach, Natural Foods Educator, Instructor/Proctor for the National Restaurant Association. She also serves on the Community Advisory Board for the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB. Ms. Jones has over 18 years of experience sharing her passion for teaching others how to enjoy eating while maintaining and/or improving their health and overall lifestyle. Ms. Jones's passion has led her to be featured in several local publications: Valley Magazine, Faith, and Family Matters, to name a few. Her enthusiasm and deep community ties have guided her work as Camp Lead Chef, for summer camp programs as well as healthy cooking and eating classes at local churches, schools and multiple community events. Ms. Jones's desire to serve extends into consulting many entities including Madison County Health Department, Marriott Hotels, Embassy Suites, Restaurants, Day Care Centers, Nursing Homes, Food Trucks, and the list continues to expand. Ms. Jones's personal life challenges, through her husband's health issues and pain, were the catalyst that drove her to implementing a balanced lifestyle, through a whole food, plant-based diet without sacrificing taste. She takes great pride in each unique and personal touch, as well as attention to detail, attending to the varying needs of each client albeit business, corporate, community, family, and/or individual. Ms. Jones believes that the plant-based diet is the best, but she also believes you can choose the best of the best quality meats, fruits, vegetables, grains, and carbohydrates for you.



## **Kathy Levy, BA**

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Kathy Levy joined GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer in September 2018 as ALCASE Project Manager, in 7 counties in Alabama. She received her BA from Faulkner University in Montgomery, AL. Prior to joining LCA, Kathy has 30 years of experience in Healthcare and Community Relations. She also works as Community Coordinator for the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has extensive community awareness knowledge to navigate patients through health issues and educated patients on health disparities related to cancer. In her spare time, she enjoys shopping, reading, antique cars, traveling and spending time with her family.





## **Kristi Lovell, BS**

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Kristi Lovell is the Senior Manager of Strategic Partnerships for the South Region of the American Cancer Society (ACS) and she has been with the organization since 2012. In this role, Kristi develops, trains and mentors a team of Health Systems Strategic Partners, each managing a large portfolio of health system accounts spanning the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Kristi proactively oversees the team's account planning processes and responsibilities for delivering the most effective and appropriate evidence-based strategies to advance cancer prevention, early detection and overall patient quality of life. Kristi began her career in a clinic setting as a Patient Care Technician in Children's of Alabama's operating room while obtaining her Health Care Management degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After graduation, Kristi's passion for understanding and assessing a patient's barriers to care led her to join one of the largest urgent care facilities as the lead of an EMR implementation team training over 30 clinics across the nation.



## **Braden McFarland, PhD**

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Braden McFarland, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, obtained her Ph.D. in Neurobiology with a focus on Neuro-Oncology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 2009. During her doctorate training, she pursued efforts in understanding the migration and invasion of glioblastoma (GBM) cells, and extensive training in anti-angiogenic therapy. She then completed her postdoctoral fellowship studying aberrant protein signal transduction and tumor immunology in GBM at UAB under the mentorship of Dr. Ety (Tika) Benveniste. In 2015, she was promoted to Instructor in the Cell, Developmental, and Integrative Biology Department at UAB, and as of 2019 was promoted to Assistant Professor. She is also co-Director of the new Undergraduate Program in Cancer Biology. Her research interests are centered around discovering new therapies for patients with GBM, which include pharmacological inhibition of the JAK/STAT pathway in patient-derived xenograft models, exploiting inflammatory (anti-tumor) macrophages to enhance standard of care in immunocompetent models, and understanding how the gut microbiome is altered by the diet as well as by certain drug therapies in mouse models of glioma. Currently, she has established a humanized microbiome mouse model, in which human fecal samples are transplanted into gnotobiotic (germ-free) mice to successfully colonize the mouse GI tract with human microbes. This model is critical because it allows the study of the relationship between the human microbiome among different human samples (and potential GBM patients), and the responsiveness to therapies in a mouse model used for GBM studies. These studies will determine how various human gut microbiota profiles can influence tumor growth and responsiveness to therapy.



## **Soumya J. Niranjana B Pharm, MS, PhD**

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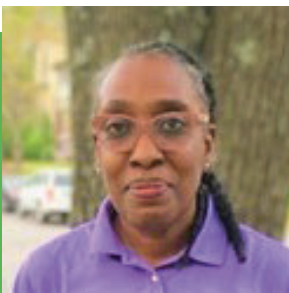
Soumya Niranjana is an Assistant Professor of Health Professions in the Department of Health Services Administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She completed her undergraduate degree in Pharmacy at the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (India) and doctoral degree in Medical Sociology from UAB. She has also completed a Master's of Science in Clinical Investigation Sciences from University of Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Niranjana's research interests are in health inequalities in cancer care and outcomes. She is particularly interested in understanding key contributory factors for these disparities and shaping policies that improve patient health outcomes in medically underserved communities.



## **Sushanth Reddy, MD**

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Sushanth Reddy, MD is Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology. He also serves as Associate Director of the Division of Surgical Oncology, Surgical Head of the UAB Pancreatobiliary Disease Center, and Alabama State Cancer Chair for the American College of Surgeons. He is an active clinician and researcher. He treats patients with GI cancers and benign conditions focusing mainly on liver, bile duct, and pancreatic diseases. His clinical research centers around disparities and access to care for cancer patients. His basic science research involves studying molecular mechanisms in the pathogenesis of neuroendocrine cancers. He has received intra- and extra-mural grant funding for his work.



## **Kimberly Robinson, LBSW**

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I am moved by the quote of George Washington Carver that states, 'It is simply service that measures success.' I have learned the best way to improve or learn anything valuable is service to others. I believe to make major improvements and eliminate injustices is service to humanity. I want to work on improving the understanding and treatment of people that are deemed vulnerable. I want to help build trust to those that are marginalized. It is only when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable that change can take place. The people that are in need of help get the services they need. The people in organizations of leadership can get the knowledge, training and understanding they need. Working together is how important changes for all are made. Kimberly received her Bachelor's in Social Work and Sociology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



## **Michael Scott, CHES**

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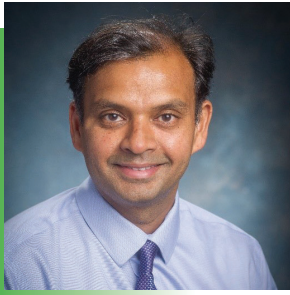
Michael Scott, CHES was hired at The Center for Black Health & Equity in October 2015. He currently serves as a Senior Program Manager at The Center, overseeing Tobacco and Cancer prevention and education programming. He has 18 years of public health experience on the national, state and local levels. His work has focused on disease prevention in the areas of HIV, diabetes, cancer, and tobacco use prevention. Prior to his position at The Center, he served as a Health Education Specialist at both the Durham County Department of Public Health and Duke University Medical Center. Mr. Scott holds a BS degree in Health Education from North Carolina Central University and is a Certified Health Education Specialist.



## **Barry Sleckman, MD, PhD**

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Barry Sleckman completed his M.D. and a Ph.D. in immunology at Harvard Medical School, followed by a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in infectious diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital. After completing his post-doctoral training in molecular immunology in the laboratory of Dr. Frederick Alt at Boston Children's Hospital, Sleckman started his own laboratory in 1998 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Immunology at the Washington University School of Medicine and moved to Weill Cornell in 2015. Dr. Sleckman held numerous leadership positions at Washington University including Chief of the Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine, Director of the Graduate program in Immunology and Associate Director for Basic Science at the Siteman Cancer Center. At Weill Cornell Medicine, he was Vice Chair for Experimental Pathology and Co-Chair of the Weill Cornell – Memorial Sloan Kettering Immunology Program. In 2020, Sleckman relocated his laboratory to UAB, where he now serves as the Director of the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Sleckman's laboratory has focused on elucidating the molecular pathways required for normal lymphocyte development and on understanding how DNA repair and DNA damage response pathways regulate lymphocyte development and function, preserve genome stability and prevent lymphocyte transformation. His laboratory was the first to show that DNA damage responses provide signals that regulate cell-type specific processes that are not required for DNA repair. In addition, his lab discovered DNA damage response pathways that do not function in normal DNA repair. Rather, they function to prevent unrepaired DSBs from being aberrantly repaired as potentially dangerous chromosomal translocations and deletions. Sleckman has been elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians, and he is a fellow in the American Academy for the Advancement of Science.



## **Sunil Sudarshan, MD**

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I am a urologic surgeon-scientist dedicated to further understanding of the molecular basis of renal cancer and to translate these findings to treatments that may impact the care of affected patients. I provide urological care for patients with kidney cancer. Our work on kidney cancer has led to lead/corresponding authorship in several well-respected journals including Molecular and Cellular Biology, PLoS One, Oncogene, Oncotarget, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Clinical Cancer Research, Molecular Cancer Research, and Cancer Discovery. Our laboratory's principal focus has been to study the metabolic alterations of this malignancy, both in rare hereditary forms of RCC as well as in sporadic kidney cancer. We are interested in hereditary forms of renal cancer, as we believe the study of these disease variants can provide insight into more common, sporadic forms of this disease. Our studies also examine alterations in kidney cancer metabolism in sporadic tumors at the transcriptional, protein, and metabolite levels. In particular, our focus is to determine the cellular events that mediate these changes and their effects on tumor metabolic and epigenetic remodeling. In turn, we are interested in how this remodeling contributes to tumor formation, progression, as well as response to therapy. The overarching goal is to perform mechanistic studies that will advance our current knowledge base of aggressive kidney cancer in order to develop better methods to treat patients with advanced disease through epigenetic, metabolic, and/or signaling approaches.



## **Meghan Tiple, DrPh, MSPH, BDS**

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Meghan Tiple, DrPH, is a Research Scientist in the Division of Preventive Medicine and the Office of Community Outreach & Engagement at the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center where she leads the efforts on evaluation and cancer health needs assessment. She is also the methods expert and provides statistical and data management support for several ongoing research projects at OCOE.



## **Le'Andrea A. Tolbert**

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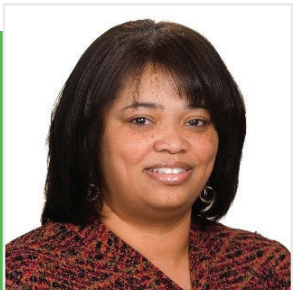
Le'Andrea A. Tolbert, is a Coordinator of Clinical Research working with breast surgical oncologist Dr. Rachel B Lancaster in the UAB Division of Breast & Endocrine Surgery. She is responsible for coordinating the recruitment and retention for Alabama women in The WISDOM Study (Women Informed to Screen Depending On Measures of risk), a national clinical trial that is evaluating the safety, efficacy and acceptance of a personalized screening strategy for mammograms. She is a native of Birmingham, Alabama & a graduate of Tuskegee University and has been actively involved in Cancer research & public health for years prior to assuming this position.



## **Rochelle Wallace, MS**

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Rochelle Wallace is the Health Initiatives Manager in the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center Office of Community Outreach & Engagement. She is an integral part of the team responsible for developing health education resources and implementing strategic health initiatives for a diverse population. Rochelle, currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Center Coalition's Prevention Committee. Before joining OCOE in 2020, Rochelle, worked in community health education and outreach in the non-profit sector for over 12 years. Rochelle received her Bachelor's degree in Social Psychology and Master's in Health Law and Policy.



## **Francine Walton, MPH**

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Francine Walton is a passionate servant leader with more than 25 years of experience in advancing health equity through community and stakeholder engagement. She grew up in Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama. As proud Howard University graduate with BS in biology, she earned her Master of Public Health at Emory University. Her most valued roles are as mother, daughter, sister, aunt, friend, and community servant. Most of Ms. Walton's career has been devoted to cancer prevention and control, which was divinely inspired by the personal cancer journeys of several family members, notably her mother who is a thriving cancer survivor having battled two primary breast cancers, stage 4 Hodgkin's, and endometrial cancer. Her mother received most of her treatment and care at UAB Cancer Center. Prior to her current role as a public health consultant, Ms. Walton 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. She worked at UAB for eight years and considers her role with the Deep South Network for Cancer Control as THE most impactful and treasured professional experience because of the staff, community partnerships and, most of all, the amazing women and men who were trained as Community Health Advisors throughout Alabama and Mississippi.

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