African Americans in Clinical Trials

AACT I and II Lecture Series
Prostate, Breast, Pancreatic, Multiple Myeloma
And NEW DRUG DISCOVERIES
Learn from Guest Physicians and their Clinical Trials Presentations

SPECIAL GUEST: Master of Ceremony: Zach Thompson
Zachary Thompson, Director of Dallas County Health and Human Services, Zach has served as an adjunct professor in Eastfield’s Social Work and Substance Abuse Counseling programs since 1991. He earned an associate degree from El Centro College and holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and a master’s degree from Amber University. He has more than 25 years experience in providing social services, and serves as consultant to educational and community-based programs. Zach will be retiring in 2017 so this is a very special opportunity for us to thank him and wish him well for his services to the Dallas County community.

INVOCATION: Dr. Lester Singleton is a doctor of ministry in Pastoral Leadership at Andersonville Theological Seminary. He received his PhD in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University Commerce. He is Vice Chairman of the Beautification and Environmental Sustainability Board with the City of Cedar Hill, Associate Pastor at Pearly Gate Baptist Church in Dallas, Communication Manager at Dallas ISD, Vice Chairman of Brookhaven College Advisory board and Author of Public School Students’ Worst Enemy. Dr. Singleton lives in Cedar Hill with his wife Maria, and the couple has one daughter. He has attended 50 Hoops events for many years and is always willing to lend a helping hand to pray or volunteer his services. It is an honor to have him provide the Invocation for this event.
What is The CALL TO ACTION?
The Dallas CALL TO ACTION Coalition will be part of a national strategy to reach and educate African Americans both about disease conditions and the importance of participating in new drug discoveries. In 2008, NPFR PROJECT, networking with over 103 partners from around the U.S, developed a national Field for African Americans. The collective national coalition, called The AACT (African Americans in Clinical Trials) Coalition partners with existing local medical groups to engage African American communities in health discussions and bring directly to the audience viable clinical trials that could impact their lives. Health advocates, church ministries and networks partner to address racial disparities in health care and actual clinical trials available to them in their community. Each city forms a replicable MODEL whose purpose is to provide ongoing education and a better understanding of critical diseases and how their participation in clinical research trials impact their health now and in the future. AACT I, II Cities include Tampa, Atlanta, Houston, Louisville, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, St. Louis, Charleston and Columbia, SC, Richmond, Raleigh, and Las Vegas.

AACT I Lecture Series- The Disease

Prostate Cancer in African American Men

Dr. Jeffrey Gahan, M.D., is an assistant professor in urology at UT Southwestern medical center and is the chief of robotic surgery at the North Texas VA. He attended Baylor College of Medicine for medical school and completed his residency at the University of Miami. He completed a robotics and minimally invasive fellowship at UT Southwestern. He specializes in the treatment of kidney cancer, prostate cancer and benign diseases of the ureter and kidney. He has clinical research interests in the early detection and treatment of renal cell carcinoma as well as clinical outcomes of prostate cancer treatment in high-risk patient groups like African-American men.

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Pancreatic Cancer in African Americans

Muhammad Shaalan Beg, M.D., has a lot of irons in the fire at UT Southwestern Medical Center. And his patients are the driving force behind everything he does. As a medical oncologist, Dr. Beg treats patients with esophageal, colon, pancreatic, liver, and anal cancer. He’s Assistant Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology, and a clinical scholar in the department of Clinical Sciences. Dr. Beg also conducts trials for new cancer treatments as a member of the Gastrointestinal Cancers Disease Oriented Team at Simmons Cancer Center. He’s currently working on a drug that will help pancreatic cancer patients gain weight, and he is developing a protocol for therapies for peritoneal disease, cancer that has spread into the abdomen. Dr. Beg believes in offering patients the best, most personalized care available. “We need to provide patients with more opportunities, and the best way to do that is through clinical trials,” Dr. Beg says. “My goal is to bring ideas from the lab and see how we can apply that to the clinic. We always think of clinical trials as something we are investing our time and money in, but if it’s not helping the patient, it’s not really a benefit at all.”

Breast Cancer in African Americans

Dr. Cheryl Harth is a medical oncologist in Dallas, Texas and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including Baylor University Medical Center and Medical City Dallas Hospital. Dr. Harth is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology. She received her medical degree in 1980 from Rutgers Medical School; residency at Methodist Medical Center, Dallas, Texas where she served as Chief Resident of Internal Medicine from 1982-1983 and received the Resident of the Year Award in 1983; fellowship in hematology/oncology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas, Texas in 1986. As a hematologist/oncologist she diagnoses and treats patients with blood-related disorders, malignancies, and cancers. As an internist she serves as a primary care provider for adults, and treats a wide range of conditions, including cross-system illnesses that may affect multiple organic systems. As an oncologist, Dr. Harth is trained to diagnose and treat all types of cancer.
Multiple Myeloma in African Americans

Dr. Larry Anderson, MD, PHD, is an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where he specializes in the treatment of Multiple Myeloma and other plasma cell disorders. He also has 13 years of experience with bone marrow and stem cell transplantation and runs an active clinical trial program for Myeloma patients. With the current treatments for myeloma, experts estimate the average survival is now eight to 10 years, Dr. Anderson explains. And the latest FDA-approved treatments are more effective and more manageable than traditional chemotherapy. In addition to offering patients the most innovative therapies and a range of clinical trials for plasma cell disorders, he delivers comprehensive, highly specialized care.

AACT II Lecture Series- The Trials

Dr. Michael Folkert: Prostate Cancer *
Dr. Muhammad Beg: Pancreatic Cancer
Dr. Cheryl Harth: Breast Cancer
Dr. Larry Anderson: Multiple Myeloma Cancer

Michael Folkert, M.D., Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology and the Medical Residency Program Director at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He specializes in brachytherapy, a type of radiation treatment that uses applicators to place a radioactive source or sources directly within or next to a tumor. Dr. Folkert earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in nuclear engineering at MIT, all the while thinking he would probably work in a nuclear power plant or in the waste disposal industry. It wasn’t until he was working on his Ph.D. that he was introduced to medical physics, a branch of general physics that specializes in applying radiation to the treatment of cancer. Dr. Folkert earned his M.D. from Harvard Medical School and went on to complete a radiation oncology residency at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, with an emphasis on brachytherapy. He joined the radiation oncology faculty at UT Southwestern in 2014 to develop a clinical research and educational program in brachytherapy and intraoperative radiation therapy.