LEGEND: Dr. Cynthia Berfect-Shelby, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church New Orleans

WAGING WAR on CANCER
Colon, Prostate CANCER-LIVING Better!

Dr. Cynthia Berfect, DNP(c), MSN, APRN, BC, FNP

Dr. Cynthia Berfect-Shelby is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). She has been a practicing Registered Nurse for 27 years. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Dillard University in 1992; a Master of Science in Nursing from Southern University A&M College in 1999; and a Doctor of Nursing Degree from Abilene Christian University in May 2019. Dr. Berfect-Shelby is a member of the American Nurses Association, The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and New Orleans Veteran’s Affairs Nursing Organization, the Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society and Alpha Chi National Honor Society. Moreover, she is the Co-Chair of the Research and Evidence Based Practice Committee at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System.

INVOCATION

Reverend Jamaal Weathersby, Senior Pastor, New Hope MBC

Rev. Jamaal Weathersby is Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA. A native New Orleanian, he is a graduate of Loyola University in New Orleans, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Psychology, with a minor in Religious Studies. He has been guest lecturer for the Faith and Values component of the Black Man Peace by Piece workshop hosted by Tulane University in New Orleans, and the keynote speaker for various Loyola University New Orleans, collegiate and community events. He served on the Board of Directors of the Dryades Street YMCA in New Orleans, the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the IC3, Church Growth and Development Conference.
Presenting LEGEND

LEGEND: Mr. Tom Dillon, Founder
North Texas Prostate Cancer Coalition (NTxPCC)

Tom Dillon
Founder Prostate Cancer Survivor Support Group in Plano, TX

Tom Dillon is a 10-year prostate cancer survivor, the founder and facilitator of a prostate cancer support group in Plano Texas. He serves as vice president of the north Texas prostate cancer coalition. Tom worked for IBM for 30 years, and followed his IBM career with 20 years in executive recruiting. Tom is an All-American Masters Relay Swimmer, now retired he spends his free time volunteering for Collin County Meals on Wheels and the Mini Food Pantry in Plano Texas.

LEGENDS GUEST MODERATOR: Ms. Eleanor Chapital

WAGING WAR ON CANCER

Colon Cancer Prevention and Screening

Dr. Leonel Lacayo, Gastroenterologist

Dr. Leonel Lacayo is a practicing Gastroenterologist with over 30 years of experience. He has over 25 years of experience in private practice and 3 years in Academics as the Chief of Gastroenterology in the Veterans Health Administration. He is currently part-time faculty and is pursuing other healthcare ventures as well as a Master’s in Public Health with an emphasis in Public Policy. He loves teaching and he is passionate about patient care. He has been recognized for numerous medical contributions including the Tulane Medical Alumni Award in 2020. Dr. Lacayo is a 1989 graduate of Tulane University. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at Mount Sinai and a residency in Gastroenterology and Liver Disease at Emory University.
**Prostate Cancer Prevention**

Mr. Eric Taylor, RN, Researcher, Critical Care and Primary Care Practitioner

Mr. Taylor is a graduate of Auburn University where he holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a graduate of The University of South Alabama with a Master of Science in Nursing. He has been an RN for over 24 years, of which the last 12 years he has worked as a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner. Mr. Taylor has served in various clinical/administrative roles, including Critical Care Registered Nurse, Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, GI/Hepatology Nurse Practitioner, Telehealth, and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Council Chair. He has several presentations, research projects, and publications to his credit. He has served as NP Faculty in the Primary Care Center of Excellence (1 of only 7 centers in the nation) at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and clinical instructor at the University of Texas Cizik School of Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner program. He is also a loving husband, proud father, and Life Member in the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, where he has held multiple leadership positions in his local chapter. He’s Founder of Pryority Male LLC, health and wellness education service in Houston market.

**Coping strategies for dealing with a diagnosis of cancer or Covid**

Dr. Arnold James, Clinical Psychologist

Arnold H. James is a Clinical Psychologist at Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health care System in the Home Base Primary Care. He provides in-home services to our aging Veterans and provides post-doctoral supervision to the Rural and Underserve resident. He received his education from The University of South Carolina. He has worked as an inpatient and outpatient psychotherapist, in and around the New Orleans Metro area, employing brief and long-term psychotherapy modalities for nearly 30 years. Dr. James loves sharing and promoting psychology with next generation” of providers. He currently serves as Director of Training for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dr. James has recently been selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.
LEGEND: Dr. Maisha Standifer
Director, Health Policy, Morehouse School of Medicine

“Exploring Research and Clinical Trials with Cancer in African Americans”

Dr. Maisha N. Standifer, Morehouse School of Medicine

Dr. Standifer is the Director of Health Policy in the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine. In her role, Dr. Standifer conducts studies and administers evidence-based prevention initiatives that effectively employ targeted strategies to reduce negative health outcomes throughout under-resourced, racially and ethnically vulnerable populations. She brings her wealth of experience including health program administration, evaluation and research expertise, health policy development and analysis, mixed methods research and examining social and political determinants of health. Dr. Standifer is also an Assistant Professor, and a Co-Investigator on multiple federally funded studies. Her research portfolio furthers community-based participatory research to create culturally-tailored interventions which empowers disenfranchised populations to make healthy and informed decisions. Dr. Standifer received her Bachelor’s degree at Spelman College, her Master’s degree in Public Health from Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, and with a concentration in Medical Anthropology from the University of South Florida.

INVOCATION

50 Hoops LEGEND Pastor Donald R. Parish

Pastor Donald R. Parish Sr. True Lee Missionary Baptist Church, Dallas, TX

Pastor Donald R. Parish Sr. has been a member of True Lee Missionary Baptist Church all of his life. He was raised as the seventh of eight children from the blessed union of Pastor Robert Lawrence Parish Sr. and Louise Marie Wagner-Parish. He was drafted into the United States Army, and served in the Vietnam War for two years, at the rank of Sergeant. After Vietnam, he continued his membership at True Lee Missionary Baptist Church and accepted his calling into the ministry, under the leadership of his father Pastor R. L. Parish Sr. He eventually became and worked as special assistant to his Father for 10 years.
LEGEND: Lady Deborah Parish, Dallas, TX

Lady Deborah Salone Parish and Pastor Donald Ray Parish, Sr.
True Lee, Baptist Church, Dallas TX

Deborah Salone Parish entered the Non-Profit sector in June of 2000, with the American Cancer Society where she began as the Program Coordinator for the “We Care About Kids” Program. She later became the Metro Area Manager for the Mabel Meshack White South Dallas office of the American Cancer Society. She was primarily responsible for outreach in the southern sector of Dallas with the mission of saving lives through research, advocacy, education and service. Deborah’s Affiliations; Member of True Lee Missionary Baptist Church, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Xi Omega Chapter, Bertrand Neighborhood Association, Breast Cancer Advisory Coalition of Non-Profits to help the South Dallas and Southern Dallas Communities.

“Exploring Research and Clinical Trials with Cancer in African Americans”

Lung Cancer, Pulmonary Disorders

Dr. Morhaf Al Achkar, Survivor

Morhaf Al Achkar, MD, Ph.D. was born in Aleppo-Syria and migrated to the United States in 2006 after finishing medical school. He also obtained a Ph.D. in Education from Indiana University. Currently, he is a practicing family physician and an Associate Professor at the University of Washington. In 2016, Morhaf was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Since then, his research has focused on the experiences of patients living with lung cancer and on racial disparity.

Dr. Eugene Manley, Jr.

“Eugene Manley, Jr., was born in Detroit and has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Technological University, MS in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and PhD in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology & Biochemistry from Boston University. He is well-versed in stem cells, musculoskeletal biology, and cancer biology. He has identified new testing procedures, developed new therapies and identified novel Angiogenesis pathways in lung cancer. He has been passionate about recruitment, retention, and advancement of minorities in STEM at all stages. His work centers on awareness in minority communities about lung cancer and create funding for minority lung cancer researchers to increase representation.”
Dr. Diane S. Allen-Gipson, Researcher

Diane S. Allen-Gipson, a McKnight alumna obtained her doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Florida A & M University and Masters degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology in 1997. She is an Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy and have courtesy appointments in the Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the Department of Bio-engineer at USF. She is also a Collaborative Member at Moffitt Cancer Center and Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Critical Care Sleep and Allergy Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She has served as the principal investigator for numerous grants, including the National Institutes of Health and is currently the Chair of the Taneja College of Pharmacy Research Committee.