



## PREMIER National MATCHMAKING Symposium/Workshop



**MODERATOR:** Dr. Maisha Standifer, Morehouse School of Medicine

**National MATCHMAKING SYMPOSIUM/WORKSHOP Special Guests**

**The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation**



**Ms. Mary DeRome, Senior Director, Medical Communications and Education**

Mary DeRome joined the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) as Research Manager in February 2014, and was responsible for managing grant programs and the CoMMpass Study. In 2017 Mary became Director of Medical Communications and Education and was promoted to Senior Director in 2022. She plans and oversees all MMRF patient and professional education initiatives and is responsible for scientific content on the MMRF website, press releases, and social media channels. Mary worked closely with Pat and Ed Sanders in 2018 and 2019, organizing impactful programs on disparities in multiple myeloma in 9 cities.



**Dr. Ola Banjo, MMRF, Director, Community Engagements and Partnerships**

Ola Banjo is the Senior Director of Community Engagements and Partnership at the MMRF. She is tasked with developing and implementing an organizational strategy to build trust, broaden reach, and inspire engagement in service of improved outcomes for all patients, especially those who have been traditionally underserved by the healthcare sector. Ola received her Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from Howard University and completed her pharmacy residency at UIC. She is a licensed pharmacist in three states and is an author on several peer-reviewed publications. She has lectured on addressing health disparities for at-risk populations.

## WE-CARE/REACHUP, Incorporated



**DEBORAH A. AUSTIN, PH.D., Stakeholder** **(50 Hoops LEGEND)**  
*Director of Community Engagement*

Dr. Austin serves as Director of Community Engagement for REACHUP, Inc./Central Hillsborough Start. In this capacity, she oversees the creation, implementation and management of communication strategies as well as a broad array of activities designed to identify, initiate, and deepen relationships with various community stakeholders. She also is responsible for researching, promoting and fostering innovative services and policies that promote health equity. Dr. Austin also is Affiliate Faculty, University of South Florida, College of Public Health, Department of Community and Family Health. She received her doctorate in Communication from the University of South Florida and her bachelors and masters at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her specialties include community engaged research, performance ethnography and community engagement and mobilization within a framework of humility.

### **SPECIAL GUESTS: Frank and Rosa Martin (Survivors)**

Legend Dr. Deborah Austin from WE-CARE (Workgroup Enhancing Community Advocacy and Research Engagement) in Tampa, FL, does a video interview with Frank and Rosa Martin, a Tampa couple in which both husband and wife walked the journey through cancer together. Rosa is completing her treatment for breast cancer and Frank has completed treatment for prostate cancer. They share details of their diagnosis and treatment, the impact on their family and loved ones, people and things that were important in their recovery and advice about prevention, screening, and treatment.

### **MODERATOR: Dr. Maisha Standifer, Director, Health Policy, 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.

## **SPECIAL GUESTS: Drs. Brian and Desiree Rivers**

### **Dr. Brian Rivers, Director, Cancer Health Equity Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine**



Dr. Rivers attended Vanderbilt University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Biology. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, where he received his Doctor of Philosophy in Health Behavior. He received his Master of Science in Public Health - Social and Behavioral Science at his alma mater, Morehouse School of Medicine. His research interests include Community-based participatory research, cancer health disparities, mobile health, integrated biological and behavioral science. His numerous contributions to medical and clinical publications date over two decades. Awards include Chair-Elect, Minorities in Cancer Research Council, American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and Health Disparities Scholar.

### **Dr. Desiree Rivers, Associate Professor, Cancer Health Equity Institute**



Dr. Rivers is the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education at the Morehouse School of Medicine. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a BS in Psychology, Honors, and a post graduate of the Moffitt Cancer Center and Fellow in Behavioral Oncology, Postdoctoral Fellowship. She received her PhD from Texas A&M University, Graduate of UAB at Birmingham School of Public Health with MSPH in Public Health in Healthcare Organization and Policy. Her research interests include Cancer Disparities and Lifestyle Interventions. Clinical Interests in Health Services Research, Cancer Clinical Trials and Biorepositories and Patient-Provider Communications.

## **WE-CARE/University of South Florida**

### **Dr. Angela Hill, Professor and Associate Dean of Clinical Practice at the USF College of Pharmacy.**



As Dean, Dr. Hill is also the pharmacy consultant at the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute where she is involved in comprehensive medication reviews, patient visits, drug-related research and community outreach. At the Byrd Institute, Dr. Hill works closely with the Memory C.A.R.E. Center, collaborates with clinicians on scientific research, and speaks to groups of medical professionals, caregivers, and students. She also provides clinical services at Royal Sun Assisted Living Memory Care Facility. Dr. Angela Hill was one of the pioneers for providing pharmacy services in

Memory Disorder Clinics in the State of Florida. She has provided medication evaluations for patients with neurological disorders like Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and Multiple Sclerosis for the Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Neuroscience Center and USF Byrd Alzheimer's Institute since the 90s. She received the "Living Legacy" award from the Alzheimer's Project for her commitment to Alzheimer's disease care, research, and community outreach.

**SPECIAL GUEST: Dr. Renee Reams, Florida A&M University**



**Dr. Renee Reams, Professor Biochemistry, Florida A&M University**

Dr. Reams received her BA Biology, Grambling State University Research Trainee in first funded MBRS Program ( at Grambling)PhD. Biochemistry/Brigham Young University Postdoctoral Fellow, UCLA Molecular Biology Institute Tenured Professor of Biochemistry Florida A&M University ( 1991-present)contact PI for NCI U54 Health Equity Center ( triad partnership: FAMU-UF-USC). Dr. Reams is a basic science researcher, her laboratory was the first to report that aggressive prostate tumors harbored immune signatures (genes). Today, immunotherapy is being used to help the body fight off cancer. She will give us an overview of her prostate cancer research focus and update us on her findings.



**Valarie Worthy, Patient Navigator Manager, Duke Cancer Institute, Co-Founder, TOUCH**  
*(African American women's Breast Cancer Advocacy)*

Valarie Worthy's Bio Valarie Clark Worthy, a registered nurse for over 40 years and a 23-year breast cancer survivor, is a Patient Navigator Manager at the Duke Cancer Institute. She manages teams to facilitate seamless care for cancer patients. In 2003, she along with five breast cancer survivors founded the local chapter of Sisters Network, Inc.; (Triangle NC.). Currently, Valarie is the co-founder of TOUCH, a nonprofit breast cancer advocacy organization for African American women. Valarie is very active in the community (River Durham) and her hometown church, ( New Ahoskie Baptist) raising awareness about cancer and clinical trials. Valarie received the American Cancer Society's Lane Adams Quality of Life Award, which recognizes the unsung heroes of cancer care and are referred to as the "warm hand of service.

**SPECIAL GUEST: Ricki Farley, TOUCH Breast Cancer Alliance**



**Ricki Farley, CEO, TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance, Black Data Matters**

Ricki Farley is a Stage 3A Triple Negative Breast Cancer Survivor/Thriver. Ricki co-founded and serves as CEO of TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance, with the overall goal of reducing the mortality rate for Black women. She founded and serves as co-host for "The Doctor Is In," a weekly live web series on the BlackDoctor.org Facebook page. She's founding member of #BlackDataMatters, in partnership with Breastcancer.org, Morehouse School of Medicine and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Ricki serves on the Board of Trustees for the Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation, board member for the Center for Healthcare Innovation; and Ambassador and Advisor for the Live Humanly Campaign.



## Director, Project IMPACT



**Dr. Doris Browne, President Browne and Associates, Director PROJECT IMPACT**

**LEGEND** Dr. Browne is past President of the National Medical Association (NMA) and president/CEO of Browne and Associates, LLC (BAI), a health consultancy company that provides comprehensive wellness programs to its clientele. Among her specialties is sickle cell, HIV/AIDS, women's health issues. Featured in many news articles including Ebony, Washington Post and PBS News hour, her education and training includes Tougaloo College (BS), University of California at Los Angeles (MPH), Georgetown University (M.D.); Walter Reed Army medical Center in hematology-Oncology. Dr. Browne retired as a Colonel from the U.S. Army Medical Corp and the national Institute of health. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and a recipient of the 2018 Top Blacks in Healthcare.

**Dr. Robin Kelley, Chair of the Health Education Ministry of the Mount Airy Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.**

Dr. Kelley, as Chair of Health Education Ministry has received multi-year grants for community health and wellness activities. She has worked closely with both community and church ministries on youth and women's issues, such as domestic assault and health and nutrition. She is employed full-time at a nonprofit health organization and has received a cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division. Robin received her BA from Vassar College, her MSSW from Columbia University and her PhD in Public and Community Health from University of Maryland, College Park.



## **SPECIAL GUEST Mr. Frederick Johnson, Stand Up To Cancer**



**Mr. Frederick Johnson, Stand Up To Cancer's (SU2C)**  
*Advocacy and Strategic Collaborations Manager*

Frederick represents Stand Up To Cancer/SU2C's patient advocacy to external audiences by building relationships with key stakeholders in the cancer community to increase awareness, education, engagement, and equitable access to care in cancer research and clinical trials. Along with raising awareness of SU2C's various public service campaigns and funding opportunities, Frederick is the project manager for the SU2C Health Equity Committee, comprised of top cancer researchers, advocates, and thought leaders who provide formal guidance related to SU2C-supported clinical trials, ensuring and increasing opportunities for diverse participation in cancer clinical trials. Frederick is a Board Certified Patient Advocate having received his BCPA certification from the Patient Advocate Certification Board in 2018



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