African Americans in Clinical Trials

AACT II Series

What our community should know about:

NEW DRUG DISCOVERIES in Cancer & Alzheimer’s

Clement K. Gwede, PhD, MPH, RN- Clinical Trials

Dr. Clement Gwede is Associate Member of Population Sciences and Health Outcomes and Behavior at Moffitt Cancer Center. He is also Associate Professor of Oncologic Sciences at the University of South Florida, College of Medicine. His research focuses on reducing cancer health disparities and improving minority participation in clinical research. He is co-director of the Tampa Bay Community Cancer Network (TBCCN) located at Moffitt and leads two large community-based research projects addressing colorectal cancer screening in underserved communities. His research also includes innovative ways of educating men about prostate cancer, and the importance of discussing risks of the disease.

Jill Smith, MA, CCRC

Jill is the assistant director for clinical research at the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer’s Institute. She is a certified research professional and has worked on Alzheimer’s clinical trials for 10 years. She oversees the study activities of at least a dozen clinical trials at any given time and works with pharmaceutical companies such as Eli Lilly, Merck, and Pfizer. She and her team of clinical researchers have been studying a number of medications to find new treatment options for Alzheimer’s disease. She also teaches Alzheimer’s Disease Management in the Aging Studies program for the University of South Florida.

The AACT I and II Lecture Series

“The AACT I and II Lecture Series*” Lectures are designed to bring community leaders, doctors, church ministers and survivors together for an educational dialogue about diseases and health care disparities within our communities. The Series addresses diseases that critically affect African Americans and to better understand the importance of clinical trials in new drug discoveries. The Educational Component provides information about diseases and treatment options available. The Site Component provides participants an opportunity to learn about clinical trials first-hand, and to query physicians on the pros and cons of participating in certain clinical trials.

Tampa Lecture Series Partners:

What is the CALL TO ACTION?

The Tampa CALL TO ACTION Coalition will be part of a national strategy to reach and educate African Americans about disease conditions and the importance of participating in new drug discoveries. In 2008, NFP’s PROJECT, networking with over 103 partners from around the U.S., developed a national Field Research called C.E.D.R.I.C.T. (Coalition to Eliminate Disparities and to Research Inclusion in Clinical Trials) 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 WORKSHOP whose purpose is to provide ongoing education and a better understanding of critical diseases and how there participation in clinical research trials impact their health now and in the future.

CELEBRITY Mistress of Ceremony: Veronica Blakely is a native of Tampa, Florida where she is an Instructor at a Community College teaching Public Speaking, Business, and General Education courses. Veronica is also a published author and she facilitates Communication workshops on a consultant basis through her company, V’s Voice Communications. Veronica has a Bachelors Degree in Speech Communication, a Masters Degree in Management, and an Education Specialist Degree in Education Leadership. Website: www.VeronicaBlakely.com

INVOCATION- Rev. John T. Warren is a member of the ministerial team of Bible-Based Fellowship Church. He has served the ministry as a part of Pastoral Care, Outreach, Visitation, Men’s Ministry, Married Couples and Salvation Army Outreach Initiative. In addition to his work at Bible-Based Fellowship Church, He’s active in the community and has served on several boards. He is a graduate of Troy University with a BS in Criminal Law and a minor in Business Administration. He served in the U.S. Army and his business professional career spans 20 plus years. He’s a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
African Americans in Clinical Trials

AACT I Lecture Series

What our community should know about Cancer and Alzheimer's Disease

Nagi B. Kumar PhD, R.D., FADA - Colon Cancer and African Americans
Dr. Nagi B. Kumar is a Senior Member in the Population Sciences Division, Director, Cancer Chemoprevention at the Moffitt Cancer Center and a Professor in Oncologic Sciences at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. Dr. Kumar is a Fellow of the American Diabetic Association, obtaining her clinical training at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and Doctoral training at the University of South Florida College of Medicine. Funded by the National Cancer Institute and Department of Defense, her exciting cancer research focuses on evaluating nutrient derived products in cancer prevention, treatment and survivorship in high-risk populations.

Brian M. Rivers, PhD, MPH - Prostate Cancer & African American Men
Dr. Rivers is a Faculty Research Member in the Department of Health Outcomes & Behavior at Moffitt Cancer Center. Dr. Rivers' program of research is focused on addressing prostate cancer disparities among African Americans. Dr. Rivers is exploring the use of iPads and have developed several mobile health applications (apps) to assist with the delivery of salient and tailored cancer information to African Americans. Currently, Dr. Rivers is leading a large randomized controlled trial to evaluate these applications in clinical settings. The trial is being funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and was 1 of 2 of the first awards in the state of Florida. More recently, Dr. Rivers received $1 million funding from the NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to conduct a large community-based trial to further evaluate the impact of these applications specifically among African American men diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Dr. Angela M. Hill, Pharm.d.,BCPP,CPH,FAACP - Alzheimer’s Disease and African Americans
Dr. Hill joined Florida A&M University’s College of Pharmacy in 1992 as an Assistant Professor and progressed to the rank of full professor. During her tenure at Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy, she provided pharmacy services and experiential education at Florida State Hospital, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Tallahassee Veterans Administration, and Apalachee Health Center in Tallahassee, Florida. Dr. Hill joined Florida A&M University’s College of Pharmacy in 1992 and during her tenure; she provided pharmacy services and experiential education at Florida State Hospital, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Tallahassee Veterans Administration, and Apalachee Health Center in Tallahassee, Florida. She has been involved in research in the areas of epilepsy, Alzheimer’s disease, patient safety and adherence, and other clinical areas. She is currently providing pharmacy services at the USF Dementia C.A.R.E. Center at the USF Alzheimer’s Byrd Institute at the University of South Florida.