

Frontiers in Cancer Prevention



Message from the Director

The Cancer Prevention and Control program is presently amidst an unprecedented season of growth. The arrival of Dr. K. Michael Cummings from Roswell Park Cancer Institute represents an entirely new stage in the development of cancer research in population health sciences at the Hollings Cancer Center and the Medical University of South Carolina. One of the “all-time greats” in tobacco control research, Mike is not only incredibly productive but brings a rich breadth of expertise and leadership experience that significantly bolsters the program across the board. Please join me in welcoming Mike to MUSC, and if you have not yet met him he would enjoy hearing from you as he charts his vision and looks for collaborators.

Mike’s arrival alone constitutes a major step forward. Remarkably, the New Year will also see the arrival of additional senior-level researchers, Dr. Chanita Hughes-Halbert from the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Cathy Melvin from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, who will be featured in future communications as they arrive on campus.

This transformative season of growth for the Cancer Prevention and Control program is providing an infusion of a rich and varied array of talent that will have a major impact not only on the program, but on our campus, in South Carolina, and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony J. Alberg".

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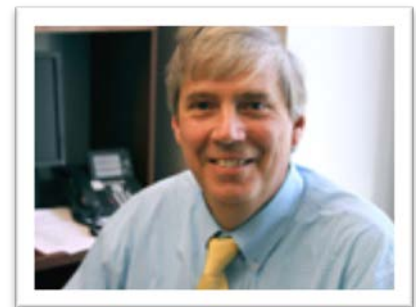
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Member Spotlight: Dr. Michael Cummings

The Hollings Cancer Center Cancer Prevention & Control Program is happy to welcome K. Michael Cummings, PhD, MPH to MUSC. Hailing from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Dr. Cummings is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. At HCC, Cummings will lead research on tobacco control, public policy, and smoking cessation. As one of the world’s leading authorities on tobacco policy, his arrival marks a formative moment in the growth and development of the CPC program.



“Hollings is already doing important research on tobacco and tobacco cessation,” said Cummings, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences. “With one-third of all cancer deaths linked to tobacco, South Carolina has a significant public health problem. My role will include building on and advancing all facets of the center’s tobacco research with the goals of changing health behaviors and redirecting public policy toward the same end.”

Cummings has already begun collaborations with faculty on campus for several projects. His plans include establishing comprehensive smoking-cessation services available to residents statewide and launching a large study using spiral CT scanning to screen heavy smokers and formerly-heavy smokers for lung cancer.

Member Spotlight (cont.): Dr. Michael Cummings

Recognized internationally for his work in tobacco epidemiology, Cummings has guided global public policy and regulations in the marketing and distribution of nicotine products. He has authored landmark reports for the Office of the Surgeon General and the National Cancer Institute. In the late 1990s, Cummings helped publish previously-secret tobacco industry documents detailing how product design affects nicotine addiction. He also has served as an expert witness against the tobacco industry in prominent legal proceedings that resulted in the Master Settlement Agreement.

Program Events

Research Meetings:

CPC Research Meetings are held in HCC, Room 120 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM.

These meetings are a platform for members to discuss current research, challenges, and ideas while providing opportunities for collaboration and feedback. To build collaboration with USC, the CPC program offers video-conferencing for these meetings. Upcoming 2011 - 2012 dates are listed below:

December 15th –

Research Meeting Open House, Suite 103, Bioengineering Building

January 19th – Presenter:

Joan Cunningham, PhD, MUSC. Title: "Massage Therapy for Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy: Update of Research and Plans"

Journal Club:

CPC Journal Club meetings are held in HCC Conference Room 121 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month. Lunch is provided as discussions on relevant journal articles are led by program members, trainees, or guests. To build collaboration with USC, the CPC program offers video-conferencing for these meetings.

For more information for these meetings, please contact **Erin Thacker**, Grants Administrator, at (843) 876-2444 or email her at thackere@musc.edu

New Facilities

The Hollings Cancer Center Cancer Prevention and Control Program moved into its new home this fall. Located on the first floor of the James Clyburn Research Center, the new space holds nine of the current program faculty along with their research staff, with the capacity to expand in the future. This suite is in close proximity to a number of state-of-the-art classrooms and conferencing rooms with built in videoconferencing so that faculty can easily communicate with colleagues at the University of South Carolina School of Public Health and other institutions. The program has access to a number of shared resources through the Hollings Cancer Center as well as MUSC's NIH-funded Clinical and Translational Science Award. These include, but are not limited to, biostatistics and cancer and population-based biorepositories.



Collaborative Publication Award

The CPC program is proud to announce the recipients of the 3rd Collaborative Publications Award. The purpose of this award is to foster intra- and inter-programmatic research among members of the CPC program. Collaborative research is fundamental to the success of our program and this award emphasizes the value placed on collaboration. Recipients for the Winter 2011 Award are:

Drs. Matt Carpenter, Kevin Gray and Anthony Alberg for the article "Nicotine Therapy Sampling to Induce Quit Attempts Among Smokers Unmotivated to Quit"

P20 Awarded to Drs. Ford and Salley

Establishes research center studying Sea Island populations while training the next generation of scientists



Dr. Marvella Ford

Marvella Ford, PhD, MUSC, in partnership with Judith Salley, PhD, South Carolina State University (SCSU), was awarded a P20 grant from the National Cancer Institute this fall. This grant establishes the South Carolina Cancer Disparities Research Center (SC CaDRe), which is charged with investigating cancer disparities and training future researchers in the field. This project is among the first of its kind to support cancer disparities research that includes Sea Island residents.

“The more we know about how genetic make-up contributes to cancer onset and progression, the better we will be able to develop drugs targeted toward each person’s genetic profile. This will give us greater ammunition in our cancer-fighting arsenal,” said co-investigator Marvella Ford, PhD, Associate Director of Cancer Disparities at the Hollings Cancer Center.

The project will build infrastructure between the two institutions by funding three pilot research projects. Research will initially focus on breast and prostate cancers, two types of cancer that affect African Americans and Caucasians at markedly disproportionate rates. The study will explore whether genetic differences play a role in disparities. An advisory group, which will include Sea Island community advocates, will help select the research projects conducted.

Another unique feature of the study includes employing a triple-level mentoring program that pairs undergraduate and graduate students with research mentors on each project. This will create a pipeline of cancer disparity researchers trained at both MUSC and SCSU. The first pilot research project is currently in the beginning stages. Researchers will be asked to submit proposals for two additional pilot research projects over the remaining course of the 4-year grant.



Dr. Judith Salley

Grants Update

NIH Grants:

Optimizing Survivorship and Surveillance after Treatment for Colorectal Cancer – (PI: Ford, Co-PIs: Zapka, Sterba) The purpose of this R21 study is to systematically investigate the role of multilevel factors on participation of colon cancer survivors in guideline-based post-treatment surveillance and care. Specifically, the study will evaluate the role of personal factors (e.g., knowledge, attitudes and sociodemographics) and health care system factors (e.g., specialist-primary care communication, insurance) as contributors to a survivor’s care experiences and outcomes.

A Randomized Recruitment Intervention – (PI: Tilley, Site PI: Mainous; Co-Investigator: Ford) This project is a randomized trial of a recruitment intervention to increase racial/ethnic diversity. The intervention is derived from approaches to changing provider behavior and improving healthcare quality (specialists) and methods similar to those used in patient navigation to assist racially/ethnically diverse patients in navigating the healthcare system (coordinators).

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Grants Update (continued)

Race, Pathomolecular Signature and Colorectal Cancer Survival – (PI: Wallace, Mentor: Alberg) Kristin Wallace, PhD, was awarded a K07 Career Development Award from the National Cancer Institute. The primary goal of her research is to investigate the combination of age and pathomolecular markers as contributing factors to the racial disparity in CRC survival. Her central hypothesis is that the racial disparity is at least partially driven by younger AAs having a greater predisposition to develop more aggressive CRCs, which in turn result in poorer response to treatment.

DOD Grants:

Southeastern Virtual Institute for Health Equity and Wellness (SE VIEW) Phase II – (PI: Slaughter; Multiple PI: Ford). Partnering with Dr. Thaddeus J. Bell and Closing the Gap in Healthcare, Inc., this initiative will evaluate the impact of a communication strategy to deliver evidence-based health information to medically underserved, rural and urban African Americans, including a unique group, the Sea Island Gullah population.

The South Carolina Collaborative Undergraduate HBCU Student Summer Training Program – (PI: Ford) This grant will provide a biomedical research training experience to 12 students over a three-year period (2012-2014) from three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Undergraduate students from three HBCUs will participate as Student Fellows in research intensive summer internships in the laboratories/research units of senior prostate cancer research scientists at the HCC.

Foundation Grants:

Wells Fargo – \$50,000 to the Prevention and Control Program to help create a toll-free cancer information hotline that will serve the state.

Avon Foundation for Women – \$110,000 to support the Breast Patient Navigation Program at Hollings Cancer Center.

Avon Foundation for Women – \$10,000 to support the Hollings Cancer Center Mobile Health Unit.

The Point Is – \$20,072 for MUSC Hollings Cancer Center. These funds were funds raised at the 2012 Camp for a Cause.

Competitive Intramural Pilot Projects

A Pilot Translational Study of Sampling NRT for Cessation Induction: Is Motivation Necessary – Matthew Carpenter, PhD; *Cummings, Crospey (Univ. of Alabama), Wynne (DHEC), Silvestri, Gray, Jardin, Wahlquist*. Smoking cessation interventions, particularly pharmacotherapies, are traditionally reserved for treatment-seeking, motivated smokers. This pilot translational study will preliminarily test outcomes when active treatment is provided to smokers across the motivational continuum, to determine if wider dissemination of pharmacotherapy could have a meaningful public health impact.

A Transdisciplinary Prospective Cohort Study to Understand the Root Causes of the Racial Disparity in HNSCC Survival – Terry Day, MD; *Rosenzweig, Ogretmen, Alberg, Carpenter, Ford, Gillespie, Sterba, Garrett-Mayer*. The overall goal of this study is to determine the genomic, clinical, psychosocial, lifestyle, sociodemographic, and host susceptibility factors that contribute to the racial disparity in HNSCC survival in relation to racial disparities and tobacco use. This pilot study will begin developing the foundation for larger-scale studies that could eventually lead to new insights about the genetic alterations and root causes of the racial disparities in HNSCC survival.

Hollings Cancer Center Translational Research Award: Feasibility Study of Breast Cancer Candidate Genes in Three Population Groups in South Carolina – Marvella Ford, PhD; *Alberg, Brown, Cunningham, Bryant, Esnaola, Kistner-Griffin, Jefferson, Kramer, Spruill*. The long-term highly translational research goal of this 1.5-year feasibility study is to test the impact of genetic polymorphisms on the profound and persistent racial disparities in breast cancer incidence and mortality. Polymorphisms will be tested in three population groups: African Americans with Sea Island ancestry, African Americans without known SI ancestry, and European Americans.

Upcoming Events:

- **CPC Program Special Seminar:** John A. Baron, MD, MS, MSc, Professor, Cancer Epidemiology, Cancer Prevention and Control, University of North Carolina and Dartmouth Medical School presents "Aspirin: Prevention Wunderkind?" on **Friday, January 13, 2012, 12:00 - 1:00 PM** at Hollings Cancer Center Room 120
- **Black History Intercollegiate Consortium's Annual King Holiday Observance: January 17, 2012**
Dr. Marvella Ford has been selected as the Medical University of South Carolina 2012 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award recipient in recognition for her service and contributions to the Tri-county community. She will be honored during this event along with recipients from other local colleges.
- **Call to Action: A Gospel Concert Raising Awareness and Action: January 21, 2012** at the Royal Baptist Church in North Charleston. The concert begins at 5:00 PM, admission is free.
- **Cancer Education Guide (CEG) Training: February 13, 2012**, Williamsburg County
- **Community Health and Wellness Fair/Health Forum: Saturday, February 18, 2012** at the Arthur W. Christopher City Gym, 265 Fishburne Street, Charleston SC.
- **Community Compass Annual Event: April 20, 2012**, Trident Technical College Conference Center
- **South Carolina Tobacco Research Interest Group (SC TRIG) Retreat: April 27, 2012**, HCC Room 120
- **Mobile Health Unit Screenings:** For more information about Mobile Health Unit Screenings, visit our calendar at the following web site: <http://www.mushealth.com/activecalendar> or call Hollings Cancer Center outreach program at: (843)792-0878.

Community Compass:

The Community Compass project continues to work towards its mission to increase opportunities for individuals and organizational members to consume a nutritionally balanced diet, engage in physical activities, and support a smoke-free environment. Work continues on developing our text messaging intervention that will deliver healthy lifestyle tips to participants. An asset mapping meeting was held on Thursday, October 27, 2011 with stakeholders to help identify needs within the community. We look forward to launching our text messaging intervention within the coming months.

In the meantime, we continue to build our community partnerships with like-minded individuals and organizations such as the American Cancer Society, the Charleston Trident Urban League, and the Tri-County Black Nurses Association. Please take note of an upcoming Community Health and Wellness Fair/ Health Forum on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at the Arthur W. Christopher City Gym, 265 Fishburne Street and the Call To Action Gospel Concert on January 21, 2012. This concert will feature live gospel entertainment while promoting healthy lifestyles to families across the Lowcountry. Admission is free! We hope to see you there!

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND NETWORKS PRODUCTIONS PRESENT
THE PARTNERING FOR LIFE HEALTH AND WELLNESS TOUR

Call to Action

A Gospel Concert Raising Awareness and Action

Featuring:

- Gospel Recording Artist Beverly Crawford
- Gospel Recording Artist Michah Stampley
- John Lakin and Band of Worshipers

Saturday • January 21, 2012 • 5:00 p.m.
The Royal Baptist Church • 4761 Luella Avenue, North Charleston, SC (off of Montague Ave)
Admission is Free!

Tour Elements: Health Ministry Trainings • Health Forums • Wellness Chats

For more information about this initiative and/or to get involved, contact us at SAIvent@partnershipforlifecancer.org or call us at 888-202-7604.

Logos at the bottom include: American Cancer Society, NETWORKS (eliminating racism, empowering women), TCBNA, MUSC, and Charleston Trident Urban League.