Power in Partnerships

Communities Shaping Research and Change

Marnix E. Heersink Conference Center
Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine & Data Sciences Building
701 19th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35233

Welcome Dinner - Wednesday, November 11, 2026

5:30 – 7:30 PM **Welcome Dinner at the Marnix E. Heersink Conference Center**

Agenda for Thursday, November 12, 2026

7:30 AM **Registration & Breakfast**

Mingle and connect with others

8:30 AM **Welcome from UAB Leadership**

Opening remarks from UAB leadership to launch the day

Mona N. Fouad, M.D., MPH

Senior Associate Dean, Access and Engagement
Professor of Medicine, General Internal Medicine & Population Science
Director, UAB Comprehensive Healthy Living Research Center
CEO, Live HealthSmart Alabama

Anupam Agarwal, M.D.

Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean
UAB Heersink School of Medicine

8:45 AM **Partnership in Action: The UAB Comprehensive Healthy Living Research Center**

How the Center brings communities, researchers, and institutions together to turn community priorities into action across Alabama.

Tiffany Osborne, BA

Director, Partnerships & Engagement, UAB Comprehensive Healthy Living Research Center

9:00 AM **Panel Discussion - Energizing Your Community & Making Funding Work**

Community leaders share what it takes to energize a community and make funding work.

Moderator: Chianti Cleggett, BA

Hospitality Curator; Community Reviewer, Alabama CEAL Community Research Institute Curriculum

PANELISTS

Joanice Thompson, BS
Founder and President, Alabama Communities Together
Immediate Past Chair, Bush Hills Connections

Rose Irby-Wilkins, Ph.D.
Founder, City Blocks Wellness Centers

Ryan A. Coute, DO, FAHA, FACC
Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, UAB Heersink School of Medicine
Director of Research & Innovation, Birmingham Regional EMS System

Sgt. Richard "Tank" Bryant
Beastmode Fitness

10:00 AM **Break**

Agenda for Thursday, November 12, 2026

10:10 AM **CCTS Introduction**

An introduction to CCTS and its partnership with the Center.

Orlando Gutiérrez, M.D., MMSc
Director, Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS)

Clifford Kennon, EdS, MPA, CPP
Program Director, Community & Stakeholder Engagement, Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS)

10:15 AM **Community Science Commons Overview**

A look at the new CCTS Community Science Commons, with a live demonstration and a live poll on the health issues that matter most to you.

Lori Brand Bateman, Ph.D., RD
Associate Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine & Population Science, UAB Heersink School of Medicine

10:30 AM **ACTion Learning Partnership and Practice: A Seat at the Table**

An interactive session with live actors and a real-world scenario to explore voice, trust, and power in community-engaged work.

Cari Oliver, MPA
Evaluation and Special Projects, Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS)

11:30 AM **Research Support Spotlight: P3 EQUATE**

The P3 EQUATE Maternal & Infant Research, Engagement & Support Center offers support for maternal and infant health research, from study design to community engagement and grant development. Dr. Tita introduces EQUATE and the Service Center, and Dr. Rattan shares the service center details.

Alan Tita, M.D., Ph.D.
UAB Mary Heersink Endowed Chair of Global Health; Director, Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health; Senior Associate Dean for Global Health and Women's Health

Jesse Rattan, Ph.D., MPH, RN
Assistant Professor, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UAB

11:40 AM **Lunch**

Grab a plate and eat with good company

12:15 PM **Keynote Address - Charting the Research Agenda Together: Community Voice at the Foundation**

A keynote on what becomes possible when scientific knowledge and community knowledge work together.

George A. Mensah, M.D., FACC
Director, Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health (NIH)



Agenda for Thursday, November 12, 2026

1:10 PM **Panel Discussion - Nothing About Us Without Us: Community Partners at the Center of Research**

Community partners lead a candid conversation on what builds trust and what meaningful partnership looks like.

Moderator: Timiya S. Nolan, Ph.D., ANP-BC, FAAN

Associate Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine & Population Science; Associate Director for Community Outreach & Engagement, O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center

PANELISTS

Joel Simmons, BA
I AM BHAM

Michael Jackson, BA
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Aunt Katie's Community Garden

Talethia Cosby, BA
Founder and CEO, DRIFT Prep Inc.

2:00 PM **Break**

2:10 PM **Plenary Workshop: Practical and Appropriate Use of AI**

A hands-on session on using AI in practical, responsible ways.

Evelyn Nettles Hines, EdD

ELH Consulting, AI Strategy & Leadership Development; former Instructional Superintendent, Birmingham City Schools

Tiffany Whitlow

Co-Founder and Chief Development Officer, Acclinate

3:20 PM **From Partnership to Action**

Leave with clear next steps: join the Alabama CEAL Community Research Institute cohort, explore the Community Science Commons, and learn about the new Community Catalyst Grants.

Tiffany Osborne, BA

Director, Partnerships & Engagement Program, UAB Comprehensive Healthy Living Research Center

3:30 PM **Adjourn**

3:30 – 4:30 PM **UAB Live HealthSmart Alabama Mobile Market and Mobile Wellness**

Shop the market and tour the Wellness Mobile, and meet the teams bringing fresh food and care into Alabama communities.