

Mark Dransfield, M.D., Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine and medical director of the UAB Lung Health Center (LHC), works closely with numerous UAB and outside collaborators, including several large clinical trial networks, to conduct research and improve patient care in asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

As the LHC medical director, Dr. Dransfield oversees multiple research projects focusing on airway disease. Recently, Dr. Dransfield and the Lung Health Center, in partnership with Children's of Alabama, joined the American Lung Association Airways Clinical Research Centers (ACRC) Network. The ACRC conducts nationwide clinical trials to provide vital information which shapes the future of asthma and COPD patient care.

"We're excited to be joining the ACRC network and strengthening the collaborative efforts between UAB and other leading research institutions," Dr. Dransfield said, "We are committed to performing research that will benefit our patients and community, as well as furthering knowledge about mechanisms, therapies, and behaviors that impact lung disease and its care."

Dr. Dransfield has also been involved in a number of other large COPD-focused clinical trial networks. These involvements include being funded as one of the initial seven centers of the NIH COPD Clinical Research Network (CCRN) and subsequently being among the top three recruiting centers for all four of the CCRN clinical trials, the NIH sponsored COPD Gene study, the Subpopulations and Intermediate Outcome Measures in COPD Study (SPIROMICS), the Prostaglandin Inhibition for Emphysema (PIE) Study and the Long Term Oxygen Treatment Trial (LOTT). Dr. Dransfield was also the overall primary investigator and author of the pivotal CCRN trial, Pneumococcal Vaccine Response in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

Most recently, Dr. Dransfield, utilizing the established infrastructure of the CCRN, designed and secured an \$11 million Department of Defense grant to lead the network's multi-center clinical trial of Beta-Blockers for the Prevention of Acute Exacerbations of COPD. This trial examines the use of the β -Blocker metoprolol succinate on the rate of COPD exacerbations. In addition to these center grants for large scale clinical trials, Dr. Dransfield has been co-investigator or co-PI on multiple R01 and R34 awards (including 5 current projects), as well as numerous grants and contracts with the pharmaceutical industry for the performance of phase II-IV clinical trials and translational studies in COPD and asthma.

The industry-funded phase II-IV clinical trials include several bronchoscopic lung volume reduction device trials for the treatment of COPD. His involvement in clinical studies in asthma include trials examining the role of bronchial thermoplasty in severe persistent asthma, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) funded study Blacks and Exacerbations on Long Acting Beta Agonists vs. Tiotropium (BELT), the NIH funded multi-center clinical trial

evaluating c-kit Inhibition in Asthma (KIA), and the BE-WELL Mom Asthma (Cohort Support Contract) funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

Dr. Dransfield recently published “Meeting the Challenge of COPD Care Delivery” in *Lancet Respiratory Medicine* in 2016. In this paper, Dr. Dransfield and his colleagues summarized expert opinion from patients, caregivers, and medical professionals, as well as representatives from health systems, insurance companies, and industry to create potential solutions for current problems with COPD care delivery in the United States. Other recent publications by Dr. Dransfield include “Pulmonary Artery Enlargement and Cystic Fibrosis Pulmonary Exacerbations: A Cohort Study.” This study researches the association between pulmonary artery enlargement and pulmonary exacerbations. Dr. Dransfield aided in ivacaftor evaluation in “Pilot Evaluation of Ivacaftor for Chronic Bronchitis” and endobronchial coil evaluation in “Effect of Endobronchial Coils vs Usual Care on Exercise Tolerance in Patients with Severe Emphysema: The RENEW Randomized Clinical Trial.”

Dr. Dransfield’s efforts in improving pulmonary medicine, research, and patient care exemplify the innovative, highly-collaborative, and impactful work of all our colleagues in Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine.