About the Health Advocates in-Reach and Research Campaign

The Maryland Center for Health Equity (M-CHE), with funding from the Cigna Foundation, trains barbers and stylists within Black barbershops and salons across metropolitan Washington, DC, as lay health advocates. In this capacity, barbers and stylists can communicate with their clients about colon and prostate cancer risk, while encouraging age-appropriate health screenings and healthy lifestyle changes.

The M-CHE’s Health Advocates in-Reach and Research (HAIR) campaign mobilizes these barbershops and salons as venues for health promotion. They serve to set best practice standards for raising awareness about and encouraging participation in biomedical clinical trials, especially for prostate, colon and other cancers that disproportionately impact African Americans.

Dr. Stephen Thomas, director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity since 2010, first established a HAIR network in Pittsburgh, Pa. in 2002, with support from the National Institutes of Health-National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Learn more about HAIR at sph.umd.edu/HAIR

This event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors:

Advancing Cancer Treatment
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

WHAT BLACK BARBERS & STYLISTS SAY TO SCIENTISTS: NO RESEARCH ON US WITHOUT US!

An Innovation Design Studio on Biomedical Clinical Trials and the Role of Black Barbershops and Salons in Recruitment and Retention of African Americans

Monday, December 9, 2019

The Hotel at The University of Maryland
7777 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20742
Schedule of Events

7:30AM - 8:30AM  
Registration and Breakfast

8:30AM - 8:40AM  
Welcome Remarks  
Dr. Stephen B. Thomas

8:40AM - 8:50AM  
Conference Introduction  
Dr. Stephen B. Thomas and Dr. Laura Linnan

8:50AM - 9:05AM  
Insights Beyond the Syphilis Study Done at Tuskegee  
Mr. Omar Neal

9:05AM - 10:05AM  
Presentation I: My Journey with Myeloma: Survivorship and My Role in Myeloma Link  
Mr. Kelvin Yates

10:05AM - 10:20AM  
BREAK

10:20AM - 10:50AM  
Presentation II: History Matters  
Cutting Along the Color Line: Black Barbers and Barbershops  
Dr. Quincy Mills

10:50AM - 11:20AM  
Presentation III: Overview of the Literature  
Dr. Stephen B. Thomas and Dr. Laura Linnan

11:20AM - 12:00PM  
Presentation IV: PROMISE Trial  
Ms. Katie Stoll

12:00PM - 1:00PM  
LUNCH  
Awards Presentation Honoring Barbershops and Beauty Salons

1:00PM - 2:00PM  
Health Advocates In-Reach and Research (HAIR)  
Mr. Omar Neal, Moderator  
Mr. Lorenzo Lewis: The Confess Project  
Mr. Andrew Suggs: Live Chair  
Mr. Fred Spry, Mr. Michael Brown and Dr. Stephen B. Thomas: HAIR (Health Advocates in Reach and Research Campaign)

2:00PM - 3:00PM  
Concurrent Breakout Sessions:  
Group A: Speak Your Truth Group Discussion  
Group B: Commitment to Action: Interactive Brainstorming Session  
Mr. Robert Gold

3:00PM - 3:15PM  
BREAK

3:15PM - 4:15PM  
Concurrent Breakout Sessions:  
Group B: Speak Your Truth Group Discussion  
Group A: Commitment to Action: Interactive Brainstorming Session  
Mr. Robert Gold

4:15PM - 4:45PM  
Plenary Summary  
Dr. Craig S. Fryer, Dr. Kevin Roy and Ms. Amelia Jamison

4:45PM - 5:00PM  
Closing Remarks  
Dr. Stephen B. Thomas

Schedule of Events (cont.)

Speakers

Dr. Stephen B. Thomas is a professor of health policy and management and director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity at the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

Dr. Laura Linnan is a professor of health behavior, director of the Carolina Collaborative for Research on Work and Health and senior associate dean at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Mr. Omar Neal is the former Mayor of the city of Tuskegee, Alabama.

Mr. Kelvin Yates is a survivor of multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood’s plasma cells, who is committed to raising awareness about the disease.

Dr. Quincy Mills is a associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Maryland. He specializes in the history of African American businesses and social movements and is author of Cutting Along the Color Line: Black Barbers and Barber Shops in America.

Mr. Lorenzo Lewis is the founder of the Confess Project, an organization committed to building a culture of mental health for boys and men of color through capacity building, advocacy, organizing and movement building.

Mr. Andrew Suggs is the founder of Live Chair, an organization dedicated to improving the health of African-American men by addressing chronic health conditions through their trusted barbers and barbershops.

Mr. Fred Spry is a master barber and owner of The Shop in Hyattsville, MD. He is a lay health advocate with the HAIR Project and president of the National Association of Black Barbershops and Salons for Health.

Mr. Michael Brown is a barber and manager of The Shop in Hyattsville, MD. He is a lay health advocate with the HAIR Project and vice president of the National Association of Black Barbershops and Salons for Health.

Mr. Robert S. Gold is chief behavioral technologist and founder GoMo Health. He has more than 20 years experience in applied research and development in the science of human motivation with a specialty in the human factors of precision health and care coordination leading to increased activation of patients and clinicians.

Dr. Craig S. Fryer is an associate professor of behavioral and community health and associate director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity at the UMD SPH.

Dr. Kevin Roy is an associate professor of Family Science at the UMD SPH.

Ms. Amelia Jamison is a faculty research assistant with the Maryland Center for Health Equity at the UMD SPH.