

Sumter County Holds Prostate Cancer Screening Event on Public Health Day

Public Health Day was celebrated on Saturday, April 2, at the Sumter County Health Department in Livingston from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free prostate cancer screenings were provided to men by Urology Centers of Alabama, the Urology Health Foundation, Health and Wellness Education Center, and the Sumter County Health Department.

A record-breaking single day total of 168 men were screened for prostate cancer. Two urologists, Dr. Thomas E. Moody and Dr. Tom Holley, Urology Centers of Alabama; the Urology Health Foundation; Health and Education Wellness Center and Sumter County Health Department were involved in the screening process.

Screening for prostate cancer involved drawing blood for PSA that measures the level of protein called prostate specific

antigen in the blood. A physical examination was given to all men to detect prostate cancer. This examination is called DRE or digital rectal examination.

“The examination takes 10 minutes to perform and could save a man’s life,” Assistant Area Administrator Ashvin Parikh said. Last year 104 men were screened in Sumter County. Four men in the county were diagnosed with prostate cancer through the screening and received follow-up treatment. Area 7 Administrator Jackie Holliday said, “The partnership between the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Urology Health Foundation has improved the quality of life for countless persons in medically under-served areas of Alabama. This partnership is a testament to what can be accomplished when striving toward common goals.”

Honorable Mention Goes to Alabama for NDEP Campaign

The Alabama Diabetes Prevention and Control Program was recognized for innovative use and promotion of the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) campaign, “Reaching People Where They Are, For Good Health.”

The awards, called the “Frankies,” recognize innovative use of NDEP materials and resources as the cornerstone of diabetes prevention and control programs and initiatives, as well as exemplary promotion and

incorporation of NDEP materials and messages into existing programs and activities.

The Frankie Awards are named in honor of Frank Vinicor, MD, MPH, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT) and a founder of the National Diabetes Education Program.

The awards were presented April 11 in Minneapolis, Minn.

The National Diabetes Education Program was established in 1997. The federally funded program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. It includes more than 200 partners at the federal, state and local levels, working together to improve the treatment and outcomes for people with diabetes, promote early diagnosis, and prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.

John Wible Retires

General Counsel John Wible was honored with a large reception May 18 in honor of his retirement after nearly 37 years of service to the Alabama Department of Public Health. Wible led those attending in singing “Happy Trails” as he played his guitar. The State Committee of Public Health also praised his contributions to the department.



State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson presents a retirement certificate to Wible.



Karl Bryant Photos

Wible leads a farewell song.