



STATEMENT BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM (UAB)/UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER (UMMC) MACS/WIHS COMBINED COHORT STUDY (MWCCS)

The phrase “Black Lives Matter” was introduced in the United States in 2013 and it quickly spread around the world. Since the senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many others, this phrase has been very important. It describes the racism and unfair treatment that many African Americans have experienced for hundreds of years. We have seen thousands of Americans from all walks of life protest in the streets and demand changes in many aspects of public life. Cries of “Enough is enough” can be heard from the east to the west coast of our nation. We wanted to say that we hear you and we support you. We commit to the long-term work of bringing about meaningful change for our communities in Alabama and Mississippi.

As faculty members and staff at the UAB/UMMC MWCCS, we stand in full support of our study participants, staff and leadership. Since 2013, we have been committed to improving the health of our communities. With most MWCCS participants being African American, we recognize the clear need to make sure that all people, regardless of race and gender, are treated fairly and receive the same benefits and rights as others. We do our best to support you with actions and not just words. For example, we work hard to ensure that all study participants are treated with the highest respect and standards of care. We do our best to communicate in unbiased and non-judgmental ways.

MWCCS has an important community advisory board (CAB). The CAB is made up of people who are encouraged to speak up and speak out to us about ways to improve. We also have an external advisory board with experts from around the country. This group helps us to make sure that our work is grounded in improving the health of our communities.

We **acknowledge** that **BLACK LIVES MATTER**.

If you want to make sure that your voice is heard about study issues, we encourage you to participate in the study’s CAB. To participate in Mississippi, please reach out to Venetra, 601-815-5187. If you are in Alabama, please reach out to Zenoria, 205-975-9128

In Support,

UAB-UMMC MWCCS Clinical Research Site