Project ECHO 2026 Schedule

Event Objectives and Speaker Bios

January 7, 2026

Strategies to Enhance Receipt of Tobacco-Related Lung Cancer Care in South Carolina

Objectives:

- Describe differences in receipt of surgery for early-stage lung cancer in different population groups in South Carolina.
- Discuss issues and potential solutions for identifying Black patients with early-stage lung cancer for referral to cancer treatment.
- Present patient navigation as a potential solution to the clinical workflow process of identifying patients upstream who require lung cancer screening, with the goal of promoting early detection and referral for diagnostic evaluation and treatment.

Speaker: Dr. Marvella Ford, PhD, MSW, MS

Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Speaker Bio: Dr. Marvella Ford is an Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) at the Medical University of South Carolina Hollings Cancer Center

(MUSC HCC). From 2017-2023, she co-led a $12.5M NIH/NCI U54 SC Cancer Disparities Research Center grant (U54CA210962) with Dr. Judith Salley at South Carolina State University. Dr. Ford is also the MPI, with Drs. Robert Winn, of a current $4M, multi-state, multi-institutional Stand Up to Cancer grant (funded in February of 2022). The first aim of the study is to initiate and evaluate a high-impact, multi-modal, and multilevel navigation intervention to promote lung cancer screening among priority populations from both rural and urban medically underserved communities in Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

February 4, 2026

Tobacco as a Co-Factor in Cervical Dysplasia: Synergistic Relationship Between Smoking and HPV in Cervical Carcinogenesis

Objectives:

- Describe the biological mechanisms
- Understand the epidemiologic evidence
- Examine clinical and public health implications for prevention

Speaker: Dr. Trisha L. Amboree, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences
Division of Epidemiology
Medical University of South Carolina
Hollings Cancer Center

Speaker Bio: Dr. Trisha Amboree is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina and a member of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Hollings Cancer Center in Charleston, South Carolina. Her research expertise is in cancer epidemiology, with a primary focus on advancing prevention and outcomes for HPV-associated cancers, especially cervical cancer. Her work encompasses the full continuum of cancer prevention and care, aiming to elucidate and address gaps, with particular emphasis on medically underserved populations.

March 4, 2026

Curbing the Impact of Early Onset Colorectal Cancer (CRC) and Recommending Appropriate Screening Modality by Conducting Regular Risk Assessments

Objectives:

- Understanding the landscape of early onset CRC and its impact.
- Understanding the importance of conducting regular risk assessments to determine when to start screening.
- Understanding how risk of CRC influences the selection of screening modality.

Speaker: Annie Thibault, BSc, MSc

Executive Director
Colorectal Cancer Prevention Network at the University of South Carolina

Speaker Bio: Ms. Thibault graduated with a Masters' Degree of Medicine from the Université de Montréal. Her 22+ years in organizational management is anchored on setting and achieving a vision and mission based on collaborative engagement. Her passion in care delivery is driven from professional and personal experience in enhancing access to services using evidence-based strategies and scientific research. As the Executive Director for the CCPN she has fostered the development of a robust statewide colorectal cancer program. She developed a robust patient navigation program to address health barriers in colorectal cancer screening in low income, medically uninsured or underinsured individuals.

April 1, 2026

Targeted Therapy Treatment Utilization in South Carolina-Implications for Clinical Practices

Objectives:

- Understand the distribution of the utilization of targeted therapy for breast cancer treatment in South Carolina.

- Understand the distribution of utilization of targeted therapy for breast cancer treatment among subgroups in South Carolina.
- Understand the impact of targeted therapy utilization on breast cancer survival in South Carolina.

Speaker: Dr. Swann Arp Adams, PhD, MS, FACE

Professor, College of Nursing and the Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

Speaker Bio: Dr. Adams has been conducting research in South Carolina for over 20 years. As a cancer epidemiologist, she has a deep understanding of research study design and methods. Much of her work has been conducted using a community-based participatory research approach in which she partners with African American community members to translate research findings into meaningful change. Her research has predominately focused on understanding the determinants of cancer health disparities experienced by African Americans and ways to intervene to improve these inequalities. She has received grant funding from multiple sources including the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the South Carolina Cancer Alliance, and the South Carolina Cancer Center among others. She has served as an expert consultant to nationally-recognized public health organizations including the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. Her work has been recognized with awards from the Arnold School of Public Health, the Vice President for Research of USC, and the College of Nursing.

May 6, 2026

Understanding Lung Cancer Screening: Guidelines, Evidence, and Patient Impact

Objectives:

- Describe the current USPSTF lung cancer screening recommendation
- Explore the evidence to support lung cancer screening

- Discuss lung screening risks, benefits, and limitations

Speaker: Hiren Mehta, MD, MBA

UNC Health – REX
Medical Director of Bronchoscopy and The Lung Nodule Program
Lung Cancer Initiative

Speaker Bio: Dr. Hiren Mehta is a graduate of Ross Medical School and completed his Internal Medicine–Pediatrics residency and Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship at Vidant Medical Center and East Carolina University. He now serves with UNC Rex Pulmonary Specialists, working alongside REX Thoracic Specialists and UNC REX Cancer Care to advance early lung cancer detection and treatment, as well as care for sarcoidosis, asthma, and interstitial lung disease. A recognized Medical Director of Bronchoscopy and The Lung Nodule Program at UNC REX, he is specially trained in advanced technologies such as ENB and EBUS and has helped establish UNC Rex as a national teaching center for advanced bronchoscopy. Board certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Critical Care, Dr. Mehta also has extensive experience in end-of-life care and patient advocacy, serves on the board of the Lung Cancer Initiative of NC, and has earned multiple teaching awards. Outside of medicine, he enjoys traveling with his wife and two daughters, exploring new cuisines, running, and experimenting in the kitchen.

June 3, 2026

Important Advances in Treatment of Lung Cancer

Objectives:

- Identify recent changes in the treatment of lung cancer.
- Understand the implications of changes for treatment timeline and outcomes, such as survival.
- List ways these advances change care for patients, especially their non-oncology care

Speaker: Dr. Adam Fox, MD, MS

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Medical University of South Carolina, College of Medicine

Speaker Bio: Dr. Adam Fox is a pulmonologist and health services researcher at the Medical University of South Carolina who has a clinical and research focus in thoracic oncology. His research focuses on biomarker testing and improving diagnosis and treatment for patients with lung cancer.