AACR American Association for Cancer Research
FINDING CURES TOGETHER℠

AACR Annual Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities

Special Program for High School Students: "The Conquest of Cancer and the Next Generation of Cancer Researchers"

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
9:30 AM-2:30 PM

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	**Registration and Refreshments**
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** Brian M. Rivers, PhD, MPH Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM	**Cancer Research "Mythbusters"** Brian M. Rivers, PhD, MPH Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
10:15 AM – 11:30 AM	**Lectures**

Understanding Cancer 10:15 AM – 10:35 AM
Jose G. Trevino, MD
VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, Richmond, VA

Cancer Prevention and Health Disparities 10:35 AM – 10:50 AM
LaKesha Tables, MD
Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Personal Message from a Cancer Survivor 10:50 AM – 11:00 AM
Alejandro Valdez
Wounded Warrior Foundation
AACR Cancer Disparities Progress Report Featured Survivor
AACR Scientist↔Survivor Program®

Why Cancer Research Needs You! 11:00 AM – 11:15 AM
Jabril Johnson, PhD
Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Mentor-Mentee Spotlight 11:15 AM – 11:30 AM
Krishna Chinchilla, PhD, Morehouse School of Medicine,
Ashley Gupta, Pope High School, and Manya Singh, Fulton
County Schools Innovation Academy, Atlanta, GA

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11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	**Meet the Cancer Researchers: Speed Mentoring Tables** Connect with scientists, physicians, and research professionals in this fast-paced, interactive networking activity. Rotate among mentoring tables, ask questions, gain career insights, and discover the many exciting paths to becoming a future cancer researcher.
12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	**Networking Luncheon with Mentors** Enjoy lunch, explore career possibilities, and be inspired by those who have turned their passion for science into a profession. Build connections that could help guide your own journey toward a career in cancer research.
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	**Student Poster Presentations and Visit with Exhibitors** Students share their research and discoveries during this exciting poster session, then connect with universities to explore programs, research experiences, and future careers in cancer research.
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	**Closing Remarks, Reflections, and Program Evaluation** Brian M. Rivers, PhD, MPH Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA