August 17, 2020

Dr. L. Scott Chavers returns home to share experience in epidemiology

MOBILE, Alabama — According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “epidemiology” is the method used to find the causes of health outcomes and diseases in populations. In this field, the patient is the community and individuals are viewed collectively.

When a new infectious disease is discovered, scientists called epidemiologists work with other scientists to find who has it, why they have it, and what public health can do about it. From the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, epidemiologists around the world have been working to identify the source of the outbreak, monitor and track the disease, study the disease, and develop guidance for actions to slow the spread of the disease and lessen its impact.

Fortunately for the Mobile County Health Department, a new staff member has joined the ranks in battling COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. He is Mobile native Dr. L. Scott Chavers.

Dr. Chavers has more than 23 years of professional experience in epidemiologic research in both academia and industry. His research has included work on the epidemiology of infectious diseases, oncology, immunology, respiratory, birth defects, pharmaceutical products and vaccines, and methodological, conceptual, and ethical issues in epidemiology and global public health.

“Specific projects have included research on HIV transmission and treatment, prevention of vertical transmission of HIV from mother to baby, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, drug development for Crohn’s disease and psoriasis, and vaccine development for various cancers, Ebola, E. Coli, and influenza,” he said.

These projects have included both national and international research. He has served on numerous advisory boards focused on drug safety. Dr. Chavers is the author of more than 40 peer-reviewed articles, abstracts, and book chapters and is a member of International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology.

“We are elated to have Dr. L. Scott Chavers join our Prevention & Wellness team,” said Dr. Stephanie Woods-Crawford, the Executive Director of Prevention & Wellness at MCHD. “As a seasoned Global Epidemiologist, he brings a level of multi-disciplinary knowledge that will assist with leading the COVID team initiatives. Dr. Chavers is an excellent addition to the MCHD team.”

Dr. Chavers received the Standard in Leadership award from Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals, Outstanding Science Award from GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals, and the Best Paper Award from the Journal of Public Health Dentistry.

He completed his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of South Alabama in 1996. He earned his Master of Public Health and Doctorate of Epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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