



LIVING WITH LUPUS VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

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FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
MID-SOUTH CHAPTER

Dr. Pamela Payne-Foster

Pamela Payne-Foster, MD, MPH, is a preventive medicine/public health physician and professor of community medicine and population health. She is also deputy director for Community Outreach for the College's Institute for Rural Health Research. Payne-Foster teaches medical students in the College's Community Rural Medicine Clerkship, its Community Rural Medicine Ambulatory Acting Internship, and is a frequent Special Topics and Co-Enrolled Elective Instructor. She also teaches and interacts with undergraduate and graduate students at The University of Alabama in her role as coordinator of health-related service learning activities, and in research endeavors in rural and underserved communities in Alabama. Payne-Foster has research interests in: health disparities, including HIV/AIDS, obesity and diabetes; bioethics and medical ethics; and diversity and cultural competency issues in health care.

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Gretchen Spetz

Gretchen Spetz, MS, RDN, LD is a registered and licensed dietitian nutritionist who specializes in integrative and functional nutrition. She uses a food first approach to address the food- and lifestyle-related root causes of chronic disease and bring client's bodies and minds back into balance. Gretchen received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame and her Master's Degree in Public Health Nutrition from Case Western Reserve University. She has worked as an outpatient dietitian specializing in weight management, diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, and autoimmune disease at the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals prior to launching her private practice, The Functional Kitchen. Gretchen has been quoted as an expert source in publications like Prevention, Everyday Health, and Every Day with Rachael Ray. When Gretchen isn't talking about the benefits of a healthful diet, she can be found at CrossFit, running, or cooking new dishes for her family. Gretchen is the proud mother of two girls who love to eat, cook, and stay active.

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Arnita Christie

Arnita Roberts Christie, RN, BSN, MS holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Widener University and a Master of Science Degree in Human Resource Development with a certificate in counseling from the University of Bridgeport. For more than 34 years, Arnita has worked in multiple medical settings and disease states, including academic hospitals, occupational health, insurance and the pharmaceutical industry. Arnita is currently employed by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) as a Patient Engagement Liaison. She has a passion for educating patients, families and health care practitioners about Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), and Severe Asthma as well as raising awareness about the impact these diseases have on patients and their families. She is a long time Connecticut resident, married to husband Michael for the past 26 years and mother to a 20-year-old son, Michael and a 17-year-old daughter, Nia . Arnita is an active member of the Fairfield County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and is also an active member of WOCIP-Women of Color in Pharma. Arnita is a certified track and field coach and a certified track and field official. She enjoys listening to music, spending time with her family, and mentoring the young women Union Baptist Church, Stamford, CT, where she also serves as one of the health and wellness champions for the nurses ministry.

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Tori Black

Tori Black, MA, PHR, is Human Resources Manager – Health Access at FedEx in Memphis. In May 2006, tests confirmed that Tori indeed had Lupus. Then age 29, she began her journey of learning to live with the disease. She was placed on medication and bedridden for almost a year. When she got back on her feet, she was ready to get her symptoms under control. Tori is a board member of the Mid-South Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America and was also a board member of the former Memphis Chapter.

Alicieé Griffith

E. Aliciee Griffith RN, BSN, BS is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She began her nursing career over 30 years ago as a medical surgical staff nurse. She has worked in many other capacities, most recently in the pharmaceutical industry for 16 years. Whether in a professional or personal situation, she operates within her values and beliefs. She believes each opportunity to teach, listen and exchange knowledge on auto immune diseases is an opportunity to help improve a life or lives. Aliciee currently resides in her home town of Knoxville, TN and has two sons. She is a member of the American Nurses Association and the Tennessee Nurses Association. She is an active member of her church where she serves on the usher board and teaches Sunday School. During her leisure time she enjoys snow skiing, writing poetry, reading, and cycling.

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Dr. Winn Chatham

W Winn Chatham M.D. is Professor of Medicine and is the Lous W Heck Clinical Scholar in Rheumatology. He is the Associate Division Director for Clinical Services and has served as the director of clinical services for the Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology since 1996. He has received America's Top Doctors and Best Doctors in America recognition for over 20 years, and in 2018 was recipient of the American College of Rheumatology Distinguished Clinician Scholar Award. He has over 80 peer-reviewed publications and has authored over 12 textbook chapters on topics that include traditional-disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, biologic response modifiers, macrophage activation syndromes in the setting of rheumatic disease, vasculitis occurring in the setting of microbial infections, and management of autoimmune disorders in the setting of infections and immune deficiency. He has been local Primary Investigator on over 30 clinical trials in systemic lupus, including pre-clinical studies and phase I, II, and III trials of belimumab, the first new therapy approved for lupus in over 50 years. In addition to SLE clinical trials he has recently led investigator-initiated randomized trials of anakinra for management of macrophage activation syndrome as well as anakinra for patients with severe Covid-19 infection and features of cytokine storm.

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