



RURAL Heart and Lung Study



Dr. Suzanne Judd received her PhD Emory University in Nutritional Epidemiology before coming to UAB to begin a career studying nutrition and health. Her primary research interests are in dietary patterns and vitamin D as they relate to risk of heart disease and stroke. She is a multiple PI on the RURAL Heart and Lung Study.

Dr. Shauntice Allen serves as the State Principal Investigator for the RURAL Heart and Lung Study. Her research program has a strong prevention focus at both the individual and community levels where she explores the link between environmental exposures, race and place. The RURAL Study is important to her because what happens in the rural South impacts the entire country. It's important to understand the social and scientific causes of chronic health issues in rural areas.



J. David Rhodes is the Research Administrator for the study's Recruitment and Retention Core. He is also the Director of Clinical Operations for the RURAL Mobile Evaluation Unit. A native of Alabama, he has strong family ties in rural areas of Alabama and Mississippi. With 20+ years of nursing, research, and community outreach experience, David understands the problems that chronic health issues have on families within our region, state and country. He has dedicated his career toward providing a positive impact on the lives of everyone he encounters.



Marquita Brooks is a Statistician. She has seen how heart and lung diseases have impacted her family and community. She believes the study is important because it could help us to better understand how these diseases impact rural communities.

Megan Evans is a Program Coordinator for the RURAL Heart and Lung Study. She has worked in rural areas internationally developing health prevention programs and is excited to bring back the knowledge she has gained to her home state of Alabama.



Jawanza Foster is from Uniontown, AL. He holds an AS from Marion Military Institute and a BS in Public Health from UAB.

Mrs. Ethel Johnson, a native of Wilcox County, is our Community Engagement Coordinator. She has coordinated many health-related programs. Mrs. Johnson exhibits dedication to improving health and quality of life for the Black Belt region.



Sean McMahon is the program manager for UAB's Lister Hill Center for Health Policy. He works closely with Dr. Allen and Dr. Judd to coordinate communication across the team.

Meg Stewart is a Program Director at the UAB School of Public Health. She specializes in regulatory affairs to ensure the safety of our participants and the use of ethical and appropriate research practices.



Kaelin Vaughn serves as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the RURAL Heart and Lung Study in Wilcox, AL. The RURAL Study is important to him because he wants rural residents to be aware of their health and make healthier lifestyle changes. He believes that "When we are fully healthy individuals, we can be the best versions of ourselves." Because when we are the best version of ourselves, we can perform at our most optimal ability

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