

Dr. Ford is a tenured Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where she is the Associate Director of Cancer Disparities at the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI)-designated Hollings Cancer Center, led by Dr. Gustavo Leone. She completed her undergraduate training at Cornell University and she completed her graduate and postdoctoral fellowship training at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Ford has led several federally funded cancer disparities-focused research grants, including an NIH/NCI P20 grant, in collaboration with Dr. Judith Salley from South Carolina State University (SCSU). Most recently, in September 2017, Dr. Ford and Dr. Salley were awarded a \$12.5M grant from the NIH/NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. The title of the grant is "South Carolina Cancer Disparities Research Center (SC CADRE)." The overarching goals of the SC CADRE are to increase SCSU's capacity to conduct transdisciplinary cancer research and to further strengthen and extend a longitudinal research education pipeline that will catalyze a new diverse generation of biomedical researchers focused on cancer disparities. The SC CADRE has three major themes. The first focuses on evaluating the relationship between obesity and prostate and breast cancer disparities. The second theme emphasizes evaluation of advanced glycation endproducts (AGEs) as a novel biomarker related to cancer, cancer disparities, and obesity. The third theme highlights the inclusion of a population unique to the US southeastern coastal region, the Sea Island (SI)/Gullah population.

Additionally, Dr. Ford is a multiple principal investigator, with Dr. Chanita Hughes-Halbert and Dr. Carolyn Britten, on an NIH/NCI-funded Minority Based Community Oncology Research Program to increase the participation of diverse participants in cancer research. Dr. Ford is also a multiple principal investigator, with Dr. Nestor Esnaola, of an NIH/National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities grant titled "Improving Resection Rates among African Americans with NSCLC." The purpose of the study is to evaluate a strategy to improve rates of receipt of surgery among African Americans with early-stage lung cancer.

Dr. Ford has led several federally funded cancer research training programs in collaboration with three historically black colleges/universities (HBCUs) in South Carolina: Claflin University, South Carolina State University, and Voorhees College, as well as the University of South Carolina. The programs have been funded by the NIH/NCI and by the Department of Defense.

Dr. Ford is the author/co-author of more than 100 published scientific papers, several of which include undergraduates from HBCUs as co-authors. She is the co-editor of 2017 and 2020 *Advances in Cancer Research* volumes titled "Cancer Disparities" and "Cancer Health Equity," respectively. She has also published nine book chapters. She is an ordained Deacon at the Charity Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston, SC where the Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III is the Pastor.