

# “Honorary Biomedical Sciences & Health Information Lecture Series”



## **CANCER INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY IN MISSISSIPPI**

### *A Distinguished Lecture*

By

**Dr. Lucio Miele**

*Director & Ergon Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology  
Cancer Institute  
University of Mississippi Medical Center  
Jackson, Mississippi, USA*

**Abstract:** Mississippi ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the Union for cancer incidence, but 5<sup>th</sup> for cancer mortality. This disproportionately high cancer mortality burden is unevenly distributed across the State, with some counties experiencing far higher mortality rates than others. Incidence and mortality do not completely overlap, with areas of relatively low cancer incidence showing high mortality. Some cancers that are highly prevalent among African-American, such as prostate cancer, have very high mortality rates in Mississippi (the highest in the nation). The University of Mississippi Cancer Institute, in collaboration with the Mississippi Cancer Registry, is mapping the incidence and mortality from different cancers in the State. Additional data come from American Cancer Society surveys. Multiple factors that may contribute to the high cancer mortality in Mississippi: health care disparities, shortage of health care professionals, environmental factors and genetic factors may all play a role. The study of the interplay between environment and genome, which is the focus of this Symposium, is central to identifying environmental causes of cancer and genetic risk factors for specific cancer subtypes.