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## CANCER RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED AT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SYMPOSIUM



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**Tallahassee, Fla.** — Today, the Florida Department of Health hosted the 2015 Cancer Research Symposium, an event highlighting scientific innovation that is advancing the field of cancer research thanks to funding provided through the department.

“Our state’s biomedical research program is an investment in Florida’s health,” said Deputy Secretary of Health and Deputy State Health Officer for Children’s Medical Services Dr. Celeste Philip. “The research results presented today show progress in improving the lives of patients and their families dealing with cancer.”

Nine researchers provided oral presentations on how their work is advancing clinical trials, closing the gap on health disparities, enhancing prevention and screening, or improving research networks. Presentations featured researchers from H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Miami, Florida State University, University of South Florida and Mayo Clinic. Following oral presentations, 21 research poster presentations were made in the atrium.

Dr. Philip spoke on the success of Florida’s cancer research system and the importance of collaboration. Dr. Daniel Armstrong, chair of the Florida Biomedical Research Advisory Council, discussed the research process.

“We are committed to improving the outcome of all people affected by cancer through innovative research,” said Dr. Daniel Armstrong, Chair of the Biomedical Research Advisory Council. “Funding for research allows us to bring together the brightest minds to improve our studies on cancer and improve the lives of all affected by the disease.”

Through the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program and the James and Esther King Research Program, more than \$226 million in grants have been awarded to 23 institutions since 2001. The Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program focuses on research to cure cancer, while the James and Esther King Research Program concentrates efforts on curing tobacco-related diseases. Both programs work with the State Surgeon General to implement strategic goals and tactics created in 2014, which identified key focus areas including obesity, tobacco use and technology transfer feasibility.

For more information on cancer research click [here](#).

## **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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