



# FIREFIGHTER CANCER INITIATIVE

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## First Annual Firefighter Cancer Symposium

This year the first annual Firefighter Cancer Symposium was held at the Florida State Fire College in Ocala, FL on September 23, 2016. Firefighter Cancer Initiative (FCI) project leaders– Drs. Lee, Solle, and Harrison, along with Jeramy Baum, Environmental Health Sampling Lab chemist– presented an overview of Year 1 FCI accomplishments and findings along with goals and plans for expansion for Year 2. The FCI team presented the 14 projects that make up the initiative, whose aim is to address cancer in firefighters.



Attendees of the 2016 Firefighter Cancer Symposium raising their hand in response to “knowing someone diagnosed with cancer in the last year”.

In addition to the FCI team, over 30 departments covering the entire state of Florida and leadership from the State Fire Marshall’s office were in attendance of the symposium. The symposium served as a platform for feedback, evaluation, and collaboration between researchers, firefighters, and leadership to further propel the success of the initiative and inspire future collaboration and expansion.



From left to right: Dr. David Lee, Jeramy Baum, Dr. Tyler Harrison, Ret. Chief Keith Tyson, Dist. Chief Sam Eaton, Dr. Natasha Schaefer Solle & FL State Fire Marshall Division Director Julius Halas.



## Guardrails Project Update

Dr. Wesley Smith met with the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue FACE team, Local 2928 Executive VP Scott Bielecky, Mike Sedgewick, Dr. Villa, and the Benefits Clinic to present the Guardrails Project. This project utilizes a technology platform to provide nutrition and health consultation services to firefighters. The certified specialist works to create a wellness plan, and provide dietary and lifestyle recommendations to firefighters. At this meeting, the collaborators discussed the implementation of the study for PBCFR.



Dr. Wesley Smith meeting with PBCFR leadership & wellness clinic staff regarding the GUARDRAILS Project, September 2016.

## Health Communication Meeting with MDR

Dr. Tyler Harrison and the health communication team have expanded their gear cleaning education project to City of Miami and Miami Dade Fire Rescue, conducting ride a longs and observations at 7 stations. The team received feedback on their educational materials and filmed segments for their gear cleaning decontamination videos. The health communication team is looking forward to expanding to Broward County this upcoming month.

## Contact Us

For questions, concerns, or additions to the newsletter please email Katerina Santiago at k.santiago2@umiami.edu or Jessica Diaz at j.diaz21@med.miami.edu