

**Dr. Sam Pace receives 2018 80% By 2018 National Achievement Award** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

RJD



Many Mississippians know that Samuel C. Pace, MD, has spent his entire professional career fighting colorectal cancer. Many also know that, even though he is allegedly "retired", Dr. Pace continues to fight this disease every day, both as a gastroenterologist and as a survivor. In 2015 he received the first annual SCOPY Award (Service Award for Colorectal Cancer Outreach, Prevention and Year-Round Excellence) from the American College of Gastroenterology. In 2016 he received the first and only Mississippi Colorectal Cancer Champion of the Year award.

Now the rest of the nation will have the opportunity to learn about Dr. Pace's passionate commitment to the prevention and cure of colorectal cancer as he receives the 2018 80% By 2018 National Achievement Award from the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable! The award ceremony will be part of the "Colorectal Cancer Screening Coast to Coast: Driving to 80%" blue carpet event set for March 8th in Los Angeles, CA.

I asked a few people to help me write this article by sharing their reactions to the news. Here's what they had to say.

"Dr Pace has been an example as a physician throughout his life. His belief in improving the health of Mississippians has been steadfast, and not impaired but strengthened by his own bout with colon cancer. He is a terrific example of how caring and motivation can move colon cancer screening forward for our patients" - Stephen Amann, MD FAGC, Tupelo, MS

"As Sam's partner for years, I witnessed his passion for screening exams for colon cancer. When his screening colonoscopy uncovered his own lesion, he intensified his efforts on all fronts and is most deserving of this honor. His efforts are obviously making a difference." - Dr. Barney Guyton, gastroenterologist (retired), Tupelo, MS

"I am so excited about this award for Dr. Pace! He is so deserving. His passion for colon cancer awareness is very inspiring! I am blessed to have him as a mentor and also a friend." - Cindy McDaniel, BSN RN CGRN, GI Oncology Nurse Navigator, Tupelo, MS

"I have known Dr. Pace before he was Dr. Pace. We grew up in the same small Mississippi town of Coffeeville. His success and passion remind me that all true public health is from the community and no community is too small to give birth to big dreams and giant leaders. Sam thanks for inspiring us to look for the leader inside each of us." - Ms. Letitia Thompson, xxx of the American Cancer Society (ACS)

"When I heard about Dr. Pace's work on my visit to Mississippi, I knew we had to get the word out to a broader audience. Congratulations Dr. Pace for all you do for Mississippians and the example you set for us all." - Lisa C. Richardson, MD, MPH, Director, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control

"Congratulations on this well-deserved honor. Dr. Pace has been an outstanding champion and leader for colorectal cancer screening in Mississippi, and an inspiration for those of us working on this issue across the country." - Durado Brooks, MD, MPH, Vice President of Cancer Control Interventions, American Cancer Society, Inc.

"The hallmark of a great physician is the ability to pivot from unexpected, and all too often bad news, to see, communicate, plan and then take action to make the patient feel better and live longer. What we see from Dr. Pace nationally and through his leadership in Mississippi is an extension of what he does everyday and who he is. Magnolia State, you have one great Doc in Sam Pace, thanks for sharing." - Dr. Whitney F. Jones, gastroenterologist, Louisville, Kentucky

"Dr. Samuel C. Pace, M.D., An extraordinary skilled physician, an unforeseen colon cancer survivor and leader in the fight against colorectal cancer. He Really! Does Get It!" - Ms. Trisha Mouzon, Advocate and Stage 3B Colon Cancer Survivor, West Columbia, South Carolina

Finally, I asked Dr. Pace to share some thoughts about his daily motivation and about his reaction to receiving this award. I'll give him the final word:

"July 2013 was a the month of despair and rejuvenation all combined into one. My Stage IIA colorectal cancer diagnosed in 2011 had become Stage IV. The shock I felt needs no further explanation or discussion. My faith, family and friends helped me through that time. I began chemotherapy and the very first day a voice in the adjoining cubicle said, 'Dr Pace is that you?'. I went around the partition and the person said, 'I know you don't remember me but you diagnosed me 20 years ago with colon cancer and I am still alive. Thank you.' ... In baseball parlance, 2011 was strike 1 and in July 2013 I had strike 2. However, seeing a former patient on my first day of chemotherapy in an adjoining cubicle made me realize I had not been 'struck out'. I knew that there would be other opportunities for me to spread the message about the importance of screening for colon cancer. Being a gastroenterologist who was found on screening to have colon cancer might influence others to be screened and save lives. That is my continued motivation! I am ... so thankful for all my colleagues and co-workers, in Tupelo and throughout the state of Mississippi that made this happen. For this individual award to me would not have been possible without so many individuals and organizations in Mississippi 70x2020 who have worked tirelessly to spread the message that Colorectal Cancer is preventable by screening." - Dr. Sam Pace, gastroenterologist (retired), Tupelo, MS

[READ MORE](#)**Run for Your Buns on Saturday, March 3rd** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

RJD

The 4th Annual Run for Your Buns 5K is scheduled for Saturday, March 3rd in downtown Tupelo, and it will have a NEW RACE ROUTE!! This year's route will not go over the railroad tracks! Register now to get the Early Bird discount at \$25.00. Beginning February 1, 2018, registration will increase to \$30.00. Race day registration will be \$35.00 and begin at 7:00 am. For children 17 and younger, there is a \$5.00 discount. Participants will be chip timed. Race time is 8:00 am, but come early to warm up with George Stone at 7:30 am!

For more info, please call Ms. Cindy McDaniel at 662-377-4627 or email her at [cmcdaniel@nmhs.net](mailto:cmcdaniel@nmhs.net)

Please make checks out to:  
Health Care Foundation  
830 South Gloster Street  
Tupelo, MS 38801  
Attention: HCF Run for Your Buns 5K

For online information (including online registration), follow the "READ MORE" link below.

[READ MORE](#)**Vessel of Mercy Church event on Saturday, March 10th** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

RJD

Ms. Remelda Lewis, one of the 70x2020 Community Champions of Greenville County, is leading a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Event in Greenville, Mississippi. I (RJD) am looking forward to participating in this community engagement activity which will be held at the Vessels of Mercy Church, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 10th. Ms. Lewis and other members of her congregation are very active in promoting colorectal cancer prevention and other community health initiatives. If you're in the Delta, I hope to see you there!

**Butts and Guts 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, March 31st** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

RJD

Runners in the greater Jackson Metro area have a great new way to raise funds and awareness in the fight against colorectal cancer!

This year, GI Associates has joined forces with Stinky Feet Athletics to raise awareness during Colon Cancer Awareness Month. The first annual Butts and Guts 5K Race And Walk will take place on Saturday, March 31, at 4pm in Liberty Park. Our goal is to raise awareness for colon screenings, celebrate cancer survivors, and raise money for colon cancer research. All proceeds will benefit Mississippi's 70x2020 Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative. Registration is open to everyone aged 8 and up, and if you register by March 16, Stinky Feet Athletics has some great gifts for you.

You can help us spread the word through social media. The race has a Facebook page which you can share:  
[https://www.facebook.com/events/401521930299311/permalink/410865112698326/?notif\\_t=feedback\\_reaction\\_generic&\\_if\\_id=151976639770530](https://www.facebook.com/events/401521930299311/permalink/410865112698326/?notif_t=feedback_reaction_generic&_if_id=151976639770530)

The Outback Steakhouse in Flowood is helping to raise funds, and has generously offered to donate 20% of their sales the evening of March 1st, 2018 (that's this Thursday, which is either tomorrow or today, depending on how quickly you opened this newsletter). You can find the Facebook event page here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/402445103550631/>

Please join me in thanking GI Associates and Stinky Feet Athletics for helping raise awareness and for providing generous financial support to our efforts.

To register, click on the "READ MORE" link below.

[READ MORE](#)**Governor Bryant Proclamation Signing Ceremony on Friday, March 16th** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

RJD

For several years, Dr. Christina Granderson has persuaded Governor Phil Bryant to sign a proclamation of March as colon cancer awareness month. This year, for the first time ever, she persuaded the Governor to publicly sign the proclamation designating March, 2018 as colon cancer awareness month throughout the state of Mississippi.

The signing will take place on Friday, March 16, at 11:00 a.m. This will be in the Walter Sillers Building, 19th Floor. Please note that due to space limitations, the Governor's Office has limited the number of individuals who will be able to attend the indoor signing ceremony.

**Merit Health Biloxi sponsors March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Event on Thursday, March 22nd** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

RJD

Merit Health Biloxi has organized a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Event from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 22nd. The event will be held at Peresich Park, 150 Reynoir St., in Biloxi, MS. I will speak about the 70x2020 Initiative, including some of the major statewide activities we are beginning this year. I am very excited by the opportunity to meet another of the guest speakers, Ms. Linda Dawe, the 2017-2018 FIGHT CRC Ambassador from the Gulf Coast. This will be a "Dress in Blue" event. For more information, contact Stephanie R. Dambrino (228) 436-1644 or [stephanie.dambrino@mymerithealth.com](mailto:stephanie.dambrino@mymerithealth.com)

You can register online for this FREE event by clicking on the "READ MORE" link below.

[READ MORE](#)**3rd Annual Blue Tie Affair on Friday, March 23rd** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

RJD

The third annual Blue Tie Affair will be held at the Summit Center in Tupelo, Mississippi on Friday, March 23rd. The Blue Tie Affair includes music by Bonfire Orchestra and a silent auction. The tickets, which are \$75 per person, include two drink tickets and heavy hors d'oeuvres. This fun night will benefit the NMMC Cancer Care fund, which helps cancer patients in need in north Mississippi. For more information or to buy tickets, call (662) 377-3613 or (662) 821-1464.

Tickets can be ordered online using the "READ MORE" link below.

[READ MORE](#)**Dr. Sonja Fuqua endows UMMC Nursing Scholarship** [\(Back to Top\)](#)

RJD

It is my honor to end this issue with a story about another amazing and generous member of the 70x2020 Partnership, my friend and colleague Dr. Sonja Fuqua. On Monday I noticed a news story (please click on the "READ MORE" link below for details). Many of you may know of Dr. Fuqua's work through her role in the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association. She and I have collaborated with many 70x2020 projects, such as the recent PCORI-sponsored Community Engagement project in the Delta. One of the challenges that Dr. Fuqua recognizes is that Mississippi does not have enough health care professionals to handle all of our health care needs, whether we are considering colorectal cancer screenings, diabetes management, or any of the myriad other health care problems in desperate need of primary care providers.

Rather than wring her hands over the problem, Dr. Fuqua chose to take definitive action. In addition to her day-to-day work in tackling Mississippi's health care challenges, she recently endowed the Sonja R. Fuqua, Ph.D., R.N. Sigma Theta Tau Endowed Scholarship in Nursing. This scholarship "will be awarded to University of Mississippi School of Nursing students who are members of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, Theta Beta Chapter, at UMMC. Dr. Fuqua also requested that the scholarship give preference to students who are from diverse and historically underrepresented communities and who have an interest in clinical practice."

Please take a moment to join me in thanking Dr. Fuqua for her extraordinary generosity and for her ongoing legacy of service to all Mississippians.

[READ MORE](#)**In this Newsletter:**

Dr. Sam Pace receives 2018 80% By 2018 National Achievement Award

Run for Your Buns on Saturday, March 3rd

Vessel of Mercy Church event on Saturday, March 10th

Butts and Guts 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, March 31st

Governor Bryant Proclamation Signing Ceremony on Friday, March 16th

Merit Health Biloxi sponsors March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Event on Thursday, March 22nd

3rd Annual Blue Tie Affair on Friday, March 23rd

Dr. Sonja Fuqua endows UMMC Nursing Scholarship

Is your organization ready for the 80% by 2018 Hall of Fame?

New FaceBook Group for 70x2020

[Contact Details](#)

[Subscription Details](#)

**Is your organization ready for the 80% by 2018 Hall of Fame?**

Throughout the year, we'll be reporting on various Mississippi organizations that are competing to attain 80% colorectal cancer screening compliance before the end of THIS YEAR (2018). So far, no Mississippi organization has made it to the 80% by 2018 Hall of Fame. For those of us who work for organizations which have signed the 80% by 2018 pledge, ... well ... our reputations are on the line!

So I asked Emily Butler Bell, MPH, Associate Director of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable and manager of the 80% by 2018 Hall of Fame, to discuss the criteria for admission into this prestigious Hall. Here's her response:

"We ask all organizations that have reached an 80% screening rate (among patients, members, constituents, employees, etc.) to submit their success through the "Submit your screening rate success form" on the webpage: <http://nccrt.org/80by2018/hall-of-fame/>. This allows us the chance to ask who the screening rate applies to, and the method by which they came up with the rate (EHR, employee survey, etc.).

We've determined a couple of rules to guide acceptable submissions, but we may develop additional criteria as issues arise. For example, we've decided that for any submission the denominator (number of people eligible for screening) must be at least 25 in order to avoid privacy concerns (e.g. an employer must employ at least 25 people ages 50+). Regarding the method of assessing the rate, the form lists a few acceptable sources, but we encourage anyone to apply even if their method is not listed. We will then review and get in touch should we have any questions or concerns. In summary, please encourage all partners of at least the minimum size to submit their success."

There you have it, folks. The race is on! Good luck to everyone!

**New FaceBook Group for 70x2020**

In order to improve our ability to exchange information without creating another e-mail avalanche, we recently established a new FaceBook group. Enter 70x2020 Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative in your FaceBook search box, and it should take you to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1553261748103916/>

This group is new, with only 5 members. Since we have over 640 Partners receiving this newsletter, our FaceBook group should be able to grow quickly if each of you joins. IF YOU'RE ON FACEBOOK, PLEASE JOIN.

As time allows (and as interested people volunteer to help), we should be able to use this as a rapid way to notify people about local events and to work together on colorectal cancer screening projects.

**Contact Details**

c/o Dr. Roy J. Duhe  
UMMC Cancer Institute  
2500 North State Street  
Jackson, MS 39216

1-601-984-1625  
[rduhe@umc.edu](mailto:rduhe@umc.edu);  
[@70x2020Guy](#) (Twitter);  
[70x2020 Guy](#) (YouTube Channel)  
<https://www.umc.edu/cancerinstitute/For-Students-and-Trainees/70x2020/Overview.html>