

# Weisbach Lectureship in Prostate Oncology

Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
12:00 PM  
Ford Amphitheatre  
University of Michigan Hospital



*A complimentary lunch will be available inside the auditorium lobby at 11:30 AM*

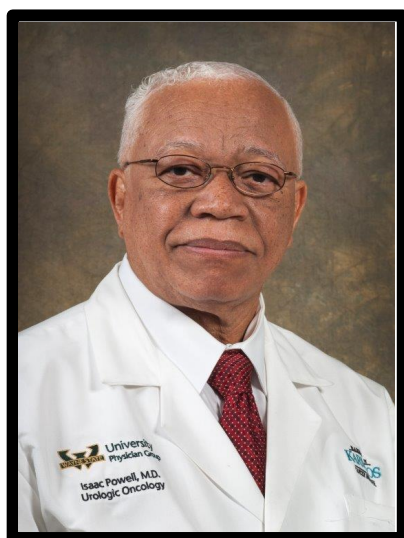
**"Proinflammatory Cytokines and Chemokines expression, Prostate cancer progression and metastasis, and Racial disparity among African Americans and European Americans."**

*Presented by*

**Issac J. Powell, MD**

*Professor, Department of Urology Wayne State University and Karmanos Cancer Institute*

The focus of my research is on the many ways prostate cancer impacts African Americans in comparison to other ethnic groups. My past research has included a community-based education, health care behavior modification and early detection study of prostate cancer among African American men (AAM). I was recently funded to examine Metabolic Syndrome and Prostate Cancer (PCa). We studied environmental and life style factors such as diet, obesity and hypertension in correlation to clinical outcome. I was principal investigator of the African American Hereditary Prostate Cancer (AAHPC) study to recruit families to identify genes associated with hereditary prostate cancer. We continued our study with the International Consortium Prostate Cancer Genetics (ICPCG) group as we compared hereditary prostate cancer genetic results among African American men from our AAHPC families to other ethnicities and with other centers around the world. I also collaborated with Harvard University (The Broad Institute) and Cornell University and we have reported our whole exome sequencing of prostate cancer and potential racial differences. In 2010 we reported that Prostate cancer among AAM grew faster than among other ethnicities. At our institution we have recently published our research regarding differential gene expression between AAM and European American men using DASL and microarray analysis from radical prostatectomy specimens. We have identified genes associated with advanced prostate cancer that are more expressed among AAM than European American men and are responsible for the faster PCa growth rate. After establishing an interactive network of these functional driver genes, we unraveled the network to establish biologic pathways that impact the androgen receptor, cell adhesive molecules and genes associated with metastasis. We are translating these functional driver gene expressions into personalized gene signatures and their impact on clinical outcomes. I have established a research team to develop a drug to inhibit genes that drive PCa growth and metastasis.



## Jerry A. Weisbach, PhD

The Weisbach Lecture in Prostate Oncology is dedicated to the memory of Jerry A. Weisbach, who died of prostate cancer on May 24, 2002. Jerry was a longtime resident of Ann Arbor and an active supporter of the University of Michigan. Jerry had a distinguished career in the pharmaceutical industry, first at Smith Kline Glaxo, and then at Warner Lambert Parke Davis. His main focus was on drug research and development and included numerous medical disciplines and cancer. Under his direction, Lipitor was discovered at Warner Lambert. Subsequent to that, he became one of the leading practitioners of technology transfer and served as a consultant, board member and scientific advisor to many biotechnology companies. After developing prostate cancer in 1991, he became particularly interested in, and encouraged research on, a variety of treatments, thereby facilitating production of new, safer and more effective therapies.



RSVP to Katey Sullivan by April 6 - [skatey@med.umich.edu](mailto:skatey@med.umich.edu)