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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Alabama at Birmingham Joins the ECD Care Center Network *The ECD Global Alliance welcomes Dr. Gaurav Goyal and UAB as an Emerging Care Center*

DeRidder, LA – January 25, 2020 – The Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD) Global Alliance welcomes the [O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham](#) (UAB) into the referral care center network that serves Erdheim-Chester disease patients worldwide.

[Gaurav Goyal, MD](#), an assistant professor in the UAB Division of Hematology and Oncology, has committed many years not only to Erdheim-Chester Disease research, but also to the ECD Global Alliance. His time and dedication to Erdheim-Chester Disease can be seen during his fellowship at another ECD Care Center; Mayo Clinic, under the supervision of Dr. Ronald Go.



Dr. Goyal explains the importance of an ECD Care Center. “The diagnosis and management of Erdheim-Chester disease and other histiocytic disorders often requires a highly specialized multi-disciplinary approach. At UAB, we have established a team of physicians to advance patient care, education, and research for patients affected with these rare disorders.”

For questions regarding the ECD Care Center, you may reach Dr. Goyal at ggoyal@uabmc.edu. For an appointment with Dr. Goyal at the O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB, call [205-934-5077](tel:205-934-5077).

ECD is a challenging illness that requires physicians across specialties to diagnose and treat patients. This disease, which is a type of slow-growing blood cancer, can affect the brain, bones, lungs, heart, and kidneys in dissimilar ways from patient to patient. Referral care centers provide the most up-to-date treatment available from doctors interested in helping ECD sufferers.

The ECDGA has facilitated the ECD Referral Care Center network since 2015. Including the new UAB care center, there are now 33 centers willing and able to treat ECD patients. These institutions are committed to having a team of specialists available to provide the best care to ECD patients. This network serves help ECD patients directly and will also work with a patient’s local medical team. Patients and local doctors are urged to reach out to the contacts at these centers for help in diagnosing, treating, and monitoring ECD patients.

To learn more about the ECD Referral Care Center network and how to contact them, visit www.erdheimchester.org/care-centers.

[Erdheim-Chester Disease](#) is an ultra-rare condition that is believed to be under diagnosed. It is considered a histiocytic neoplasm (type of blood cancer). The illness is characterized by the accumulation of histiocytes, cells that normally fight infections, in tissue and organs. The tissue and organs become dense and fibrotic due to the infiltration of the histiocytes and can lead to organ failure unless a successful treatment is found.

The [ECD Global Alliance](#) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to awareness, support, education, and research related to Erdheim-Chester Disease.

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