

News Release

For Immediate Release

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March of Dimes Foundation

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Melanie Mooney
State Director

STATE HEALTH OFFICER TO RECEIVE MARCH OF DIMES AWARD FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN NEWBORN SCREENING

February 24, 2012, Birmingham, AL: Dr. Donald Williamson, State Health Officer, Alabama Department of Public Health, will be recognized by the March of Dimes for his leadership in newborn screening. In 2011 Alabama added the screening test for Tyrosinemia 1 bringing the total screening tests to 29 treatable metabolic and functional disorders as recommended by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and endorsed by the March of Dimes and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"The March of Dimes applauds Dr. Williamson, State Health Officer, for his unwavering commitment to newborn screening," said Melanie Mooney, March of Dimes State Director. "Screening for treatable conditions immediately after birth can mean the difference between a healthy life or a severe disability or even death for a newborn. Tragedy can be avoided by quickly identifying a problem and providing the necessary medical treatment—which brings immeasurable relief to the families of more than 64,000 babies born in Alabama every year."

Dr. Donald Williamson, State Health Officer, said, "I am honored to accept this award on behalf of all those whose work has improved the lives of our children. This would not have been possible without the commitment of ADPH staff and our partners. Our combined efforts have resulted in the early identification of children at risk for metabolic or genetic diseases so that they can reach their full potential."

Monday, February 27, 2012

10:00 a.m.

The RSA Tower

201 Monroe Street, Suite 940

Montgomery, AL 36104

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. Its mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.com or nacersano.org.