



## Don't Delay – Schedule Your Medical Exam Today!

*Have you delayed medical care during the pandemic? Now is the time to stay on top of your health.*

Routine exams and other preventive health care can prevent serious health issues in the future and improve early detection of illnesses, particularly for those who worked on DOE sites. The delay in diagnosis or treatment can lead to serious and even fatal outcomes. Those with underlying health conditions—such as heart disease, kidney disease, and lung cancer—are at highest risk for complications from delayed care.

Getting your free BTMed re-screen exam every 3 years is essential for assessing your health and for addressing any new health concerns. Due to the latency period of work-related health conditions, occupational illnesses may not show signs/symptoms for decades after exposure. Ongoing re-screen exams can help identify occupational illnesses at an early, more treatable stage.



In 1944, Dupont posted this sign to encourage Hanford workers to get a medical exam. 78 years later, it's still a good idea.

## Make Your Health a Priority!

To schedule an exam or to check when your last exam was, call us at **1-800-866-9663** or email [btmed@btmed.org](mailto:btmed@btmed.org).

## CT Scan Saves Fernald Worker's Life

Steve Miller wasn't experiencing any symptoms when he went in his CT scan. But after spending 17 straight years at Fernald, a DOE site just outside of Cincinnati, he knew about the hazards that existed on site. What he didn't know was how much his health had been affected by those exposures. What he didn't know was that he had cancer.

Steve had worked throughout the site, going from one building to another and encountering potential exposures without being entirely aware of it. After leaving Fernald in 2005, Steve decided to enroll in BTMed and got his free screening.

When he was eligible for BTMed's Early Lung Cancer Detection (ELCD) program, he enrolled in that, too. He went in for his CT scan, and that's when he found out that there was a lesion on his kidney. After further



examination, doctors confirmed it was cancer. A tumor had been growing on his kidney, yet he experienced no symptoms at all. "If I hadn't gotten that CT scan, I would've never known," Steve said. "That CT scan saved my life."

After receiving his diagnosis, Steve filed a claim with DOL's Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). After he went through the claims process, it was determined that his cancer was—more likely than not—the result of his work at Fernald and his claim was approved.

Meanwhile, Steve counts his blessings that BTMed's ELCD program detected the cancer he didn't know was there. Now, nearly three years later, he continues working—grateful for every moment of the life he now has.

## Meet our BTMed Medical Team!



Amanda McGhee, RN (left) and Betsey Hill, RN.

**Amanda McGhee, RN**, is a BTMed Nurse Reviewer and began with the program last year. She works with the beryllium test results and conducts medical chart reviews.

**Betsey Hill, RN**, is a BTMed Nurse Reviewer and began with the program last year. She works with the lab results for the general health panel, lipid profiles, and thyroid tests. She also conducts medical chart reviews.

### What excites you about joining the BTMed team?

**Amanda:** I am excited to be learning a new area of healthcare and have really enjoyed talking with the participants. I am so happy to be a part of such a great team and program.

**Betsey:** As a nurse reviewer at BTMed, I have learned so much about the program and all the different DOE sites around the country. I love talking to the participants and hearing about their trades. I feel very fortunate to work in an office where everyone has been so kind and willing to teach me new things. I'm just excited in general about my future with this program.

**Janet Shorter, RN**, is the BTMed Medical Program Assistant Manager and has been with the program since 2008. She works primarily with the Early Lung Cancer Detection (ELCD) program and conducts medical chart reviews.

**Janette Keith, LPN**, is the BTMed Health Coordinator and has been with the program since 2020. She works on education, coordination, and scheduling of low-dose chest CT scans for the ELCD program.



Janet Shorter, RN (left) and Janette Keith, LPN.

### What would you say to workers out there about the program?

**Janet:** I would encourage all of our participants to get an exam, it is free and may save your life.

**Janette:** We care about you and your health! You may be eligible to participate if you worked construction on a DOE site. If you have any questions or are due for an exam/CT scan, please call us at **1-888-464-0009** or email [btmed@btmed.org](mailto:btmed@btmed.org). Thank you for entrusting in BTMed.

## BTMed welcomes Sammy Almashat to the Medical Team

Sammy Almashat, MD, MPH, is a Preventive Medicine/Occupational Medicine physician and a new member of the University of Maryland's BTMed team. He has previous experience in research and policy work at Public Citizen's Health Research Group, in areas such as occupational health policy. His occupational health focus areas have included DOE site-related illnesses, such as chronic beryllium disease.





# CT Scans now offered at St. Luke's Hospital in the Kansas City

Former DOE construction workers at high risk for lung cancer may be eligible for BTMed's Early Lung Cancer Detection (ELCD) Program. BTMed uses low-dose CT scans to detect lung cancer at an earlier stage, more treatable stage. BTMed now offers lung cancer screening to eligible participants at St. Luke's in Kansas City and other locations.

## Are you eligible for a CT scan?

If you're between the age of 50-79 with significant smoking history or scarring in lungs (asbestosis-related findings on chest x-ray) or pulmonary fibrosis you may be eligible for a free CT scan.

Call our medical team at **1-888-464-0009** for more information.



## In Memory of Glenda Jernigan

*May 25, 1947 – November 26, 2021*

Glenda Jernigan worked for a decade at Savannah River Site (SRS) as a member of the International Union



of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 470. She was one of the first female crane operators on SRS, and it was there that she met her husband, Charles, who worked on site for 20 years as an electrician.

Glenda and Charles worked for BTMed informing and

interviewing thousands of former SRS workers. Her warm, sweet personality was loved by everyone at BTMed and all participants who were fortunate enough to have crossed paths with her.

"Glenda always put her faith into practice by helping others, which included many Savannah River Site workers," said Trish Quinn, BTMed Director. "She was always available with a warm southern smile and a kind and encouraging word."

## In Memory of Ron Bush

*March 18, 1944 – February 6, 2022*

Ron Bush worked as BTMed's outreach coordinator for 14 years in the Portsmouth, OH office. He conducted thousands of work history interviews for former Portsmouth construction workers, helping them receive their free medical screening exam.

A boilermaker by trade, Ron worked for 30 years as a member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (IBB) Local 667 in Winfield, West Virginia, eventually serving as its business agent. He was known for his kind and ever-gentle demeanor—a soft-spoken worker advocate who was a friend to all.



"I got to know Ron in the 1980s, and each of us worked as boilermakers and retired at the same time," said Joe Hudson, a member of IBB Local 270 who worked with Ron. "Ron was as good a guy as you'll ever meet. You could count on him for anything."

**Building Trades National  
Medical Screening Program**

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## HAS IT BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE YOUR LAST BTMED EXAM?

If it has been 3 or more years since your last BTMed screening exam, you may be eligible for a free re-screen exam. Don't wait — appointments are filling up quick! To schedule an exam or check when your last screening was, call **1-800-866-9663** or email [btmed@btmed.org](mailto:btmed@btmed.org).

*"This program saved my life. If it hadn't been in place and I hadn't taken the initiative to participate, I wouldn't be here today. My advice to any worker is: Don't Wait."*

- Guy Sands, IBEW Local 575, Portsmouth GDP



Construction work at Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Photo Courtesy of DOE.

### Meet our new BTMed Assistant Director Miles Fisher

BTMed welcomes back Miles Fisher as our new assistant director. Miles worked with BTMed for nine years before moving on to work as an Editor-in-Chief for a national magazine. Last month, he returned to BTMed and is excited about being a part of the team once again. Miles has a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University's School of Industrial & Labor Relations and a Master of Arts in Writing from Johns Hopkins University. In his free time, he enjoys playing and coaching baseball and recently began building a batting cage in the backyard with his father—25 years after they constructed their first one. He lives in Silver Spring, MD, with his wife, Evelyn, and their half-Bulldog/half-Australian Shepherd, Lulu.



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