

AlumNews '69 and '98

Urologist **Dr. Thomas Moody '69** of Birmingham has been praised by the National Prostate Cancer Coalition as a “major presence in the battle against prostate cancer in Alabama,” in a statement by its CEO Dr. Richard N. Atkins. The group had previously issued a “failing” grade to Alabama—one of only five states so graded in the United States—in its 2006 assessment of prostate cancer management nationwide, based on prostate cancer screening rates, death rate, and whether or not laws were in place to guarantee insurance coverage for prostate cancer screenings.

In response to that report, Moody helped push for new legislation in the state requiring insurers to cover physician-ordered tests for prostate cancer, and he marshaled the resources of his practice at Urology Centers of Alabama (UCA) to offer free screenings to citizens in many parts of the state, particularly in the Black Belt, where incidence of death from the disease is high. Since September 2006, UCA and the Urology Health Foundation have provided free prostate cancer screenings to more than 1,350 Alabama men. And Moody and his colleagues, in partnership with area hospitals, such as St. Vincent's, have begun providing treatment to uninsured patients without resources in whom the disease is detected.

One such patient is Jimmy Love. While driving his log truck through South Alabama, he heard Roscoe Miller of radio station WKXN announcing a free upcoming prostate cancer screening scheduled in a nearby town. Although he felt fine, and had no symptoms of a problem, he decided to take advantage of this free opportunity. When his tests proved positive for prostate cancer, Love was scheduled for surgery at St. Vincent's by UCA's **Dr. Tom Holley '98**, a young colleague of Moody's, who used modern surgery's new, less invasive techniques to restore Love to health.

When prostate cancer is detected early, Moody says, it is almost always curable, but when it is found after it has spread beyond the prostate, it is almost always fatal. Moody, Holley, and their colleagues at UCA plan to continue their efforts in awareness, screening, and early detection to make that critical difference.



(From left) Moody, Love, and Holley pose for a photo following a successful surgery.