In his capacity at CDC, Dr. Jernigan is responsible for oversight and direction of 320 staff members executing a broad scientific program to improve the detection, prevention, treatment, and response to seasonal, novel, and pandemic influenza. The Influenza Division is responsible for national surveillance of influenza and serves as a World Health Organization Collaborating Center for the Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza.

Dr. Jernigan completed training at Duke University and Baylor College of Medicine, and is Board-Certified in Internal Medicine. He joined the CDC in 1994 as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer and has been studying respiratory and emerging diseases since that time. He joined the Influenza Division as Deputy Director in 2006, and was selected as the Director in 2015.

Dr. Jernigan has published numerous articles and book chapters on influenza and other emerging infections, and he has led epidemiology and surveillance teams for national and international responses, including bioterrorism-related anthrax, West Nile virus, SARS in Taiwan, influenza H7N9, Ebola in Sierra Leone, and others. He served in senior leadership for the U.S. Government’s response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, joined the WHO Consultation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to assist in risk assessment for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, and served as the Incident Commander for CDC’s Global Ebola Response for five months in 2015.