![NIMHD — National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities](logo)

2022 NIMHD Health Disparities Research Institute
Scholar Biographies

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Hoda S. Abdel Magid, MHS, PhD

Dr. Hoda S. Abdel Magid is a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health and Center for Population Health Sciences. Dr. Abdel Magid's current research focuses on linking spatial data with social determinants of health and chronic disease data to reduce health disparities. She completed her graduate training in environmental and social epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University and The University of California, Berkeley. For her dissertation, she used spatial hierarchical modeling to examine the effects of adolescents' social and physical tobacco retail environments on their individual use of alternative tobacco products. Most recently, Dr. Abdel Magid received Stanford University's Inaugural Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Champion award and honorable mention at UC Berkeley/UCSF/Stanford's Next Generation Faculty Symposium. She has also received NHLBI's Health Disparities Loan Repayment Program award and the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine Charles E. Irwin New Investigator Award. Dr. Abdel Magid also has a leadership role in an ongoing COVID-19 project for the California Departments of Public Health where she is co-developing an integrated geospatial data ecosystem for CA county public health departments. Her research objective is to use state-of-the-art spatial epidemiology methods to measure social and physical environmental determinants of hypertension disparities in diverse populations. Her long-term career goal is to become a productive, independent scientist at a research-intensive academic institution. Dr. Abdel Magid's long-term research goal is to examine the impacts of socioeconomic and structural spatial social polarization on chronic disparities across diverse populations.

Leslie B. Adams, PhD, MPH

Dr. Leslie B. Adams is an assistant professor in the Department of Mental Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research interests explore the intersections between gender, racism, and public mental health outcomes among people of African descent, with specific focus on identifying and mitigating the role of everyday racism on the mental wellbeing of Black American boys and men. Her externally funded research agenda leverages smartphone-based approaches to bridge gaps in mental health help-seeking behavior among those in crises. She also focuses, domestically and globally, on understanding the influence of racism and its manifestations on mental health outcomes across social contexts, including neighborhoods and healthcare systems. To support her 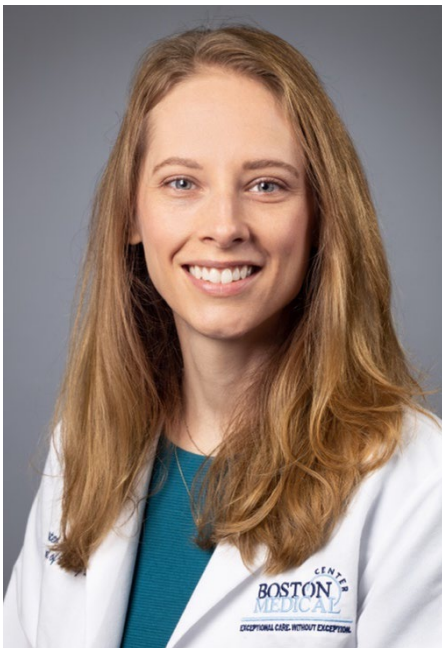research agenda, Dr. Adams has received early investigator funding from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and a loan repayment award from NIMHD. She is currently the principal investigator on a five-year NIMH Career Development Award (K01) to modify and pilot a smartphone-based application to detect proximal risk factors of suicidal thoughts and behaviors among Black adolescents. Dr. Adams uses a variety of mixed quantitative and qualitative methodologies, including latent variable approaches, intensive longitudinal design, semi-structured interviews, and community-engaged research approaches. Prior to her faculty position, Dr. Adams completed her postdoctoral fellowship as a David E. Bell Fellow at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. She earned her doctorate in health behavior at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health (2018) and her MPH (2013) and BA (2010) from Dartmouth College.

Flor Elizabeth Alvarado, MD, MHS, MPH

Dr. Flor Elizabeth Alvarado is an assistant professor of medicine in the Section of Nephrology and Hypertension at Tulane University. Dr. Alvarado is a clinician-investigator interested in addressing health disparities among individuals with chronic kidney disease and cardiovascular disease. She is particularly focused on advocating for historically underserved populations such as Latinx and African American communities. She aims to identify and address social risk factors influencing clinical and patient-centered outcomes. She serves as a co-investigator for two NIH-sponsored intervention studies: "Community Health Worker-Led Church-Based Intervention for Eliminating Cardiovascular Health Disparities in African Americans" and "Maternal Health Diabetes Prevention Project Pilot Study." In March 2022, she was awarded a diversity supplement by NHLBI to evaluate the associations between neighborhood-level social determinants of health and beliefs and behaviors impacting cardiovascular health among church members residing in New Orleans. Dr. Alvarado completed her medical school training and a Master of Public Health at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, followed by an internal medicine residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She completed her Nephrology Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University; during this time, she also obtained a Master of Health Science in cardiovascular and clinical epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She joined Tulane as assistant professor in 2021.

Kirsten Austad, MD, MPH

Dr. Kirsten Austad is an assistant professor of family medicine at Boston University Medical Center and the director of the Family Medicine Inpatient Unit at Boston Medical Center. Her research focuses on the use of implementation science to address health disparities both domestically and globally. She has previously published on her use of implementation science methods to improve care delivery for ethnic minority women in Guatemala. She collaborates with the NICHD's Nagpur India-Boston University team to examine opportunities for de-implementation in global obstetric care. She will be a research fellow in Boston University's Evans Center for Implementation and Improvement Sciences from 2022-2024 which will support her work to improve care delivery to diverse populations served by safety net institutions such as Boston Medical Center, the largest safety net hospital in New England. After graduating from Harvard Medical School in 2013 she completed her residency in family medicine at Boston Medical Center in 2016. She then earned her Master of Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health as part of the Global Women's Health Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital. After fellowship she returned to Boston University School of Medicine as an assistant professor and now works clinically as a hospitalists and reproductive health provider.

Tara Bautista, PhD

Dr. Tara Bautista is a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Medicine at Yale University. Her TL1 fellowship is supported by National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. She was named the 2022 Outstanding Postdoctoral Trainee by the Association for Clinical and Translational Science. In fall 2022, she will start her new position as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Northern Arizona University. Dr. Bautista graduated with a BA in psychology from San Diego State University Imperial Valley in 2012. She earned her PhD in health innovation from the College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University in 2020. Dr. Bautista's research interests include stress and substance use disorders among minority populations and adapting evidence-based interventions to reduce health disparities and promote health equity. Her current work is focused on culturally adapting a mindfulness-based intervention for Latina mothers who drink alcohol to cope with stress. Dr. Bautista is an active member of the National Hispanic Science Network and Research Society on Alcoholism.

April J. Bell, PhD, MPH

Dr. April J. Bell is an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine in the School of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). Her research focuses on reducing health disparities in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) among Black adolescent women and girls through the development and implementation of novel methods and strategies created in partnership with community. A Hoosier by birth, she received her BA in human biology from Stanford University, her MPH with a dual concentration in epidemiology and social and behavioral sciences from the School of Medicine at Indiana University (IU), and her PhD in epidemiology from the IU School of Public Health. She was a predoctoral fellow on the IU CTSI's R25 training grant. Dr. Bell completed her T32-funded postdoctoral fellowship with the California Pre-term Birth Initiative at UCSF and earned certificates in implementation science and mixed methods research. In September 2022, Dr. Bell will become a scholar in the UCSF/KPNC Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health K-12 training program. Dr. Bell's research centers the wellbeing of Black girls. She uses intersectional, mixed methods, and community-based participatory research approaches in her work. She is currently conducting a mixed methods study examining the impact of COVID, experiences of racism, and police brutality on the health care decision-making of Black youth. Her long-term goal is to become an independent investigator focused on SRH research, including the development and testing of interventions for Black youth.

Rachel Bergmans, MPH, PhD

Dr. Rachel Bergmans is a research investigator at the University of Michigan in the Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center (CPFRC) and the faculty co-leader of the CPFRC Health Equity Core. As a social epidemiologist and community-engaged researcher, Dr. Bergmans uses quantitative and qualitative approaches to inform strategies for advancing equity in chronic pain conditions. Her program of work is focused on putting permanent infrastructure in place to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion within pain research at the University of Michigan; establishing sustainable academic-community partnerships; and prioritizing the needs and perspectives of representatives from Black communities in the development of non-pharmaceutical therapies and interventions for pain management. Dr. Bergmans earned her BA in exercise science from Hope College in 2009 and her MPH from the University of Michigan in 2013. In 2017, she earned her PhD in epidemiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, followed by postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan.

Monique J. Brown, PhD, MPH

Dr. Monique J. Brown is an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina (UofSC). Dr. Brown's research focuses on three main areas: trauma, HIV, and aging. She is interested in these areas as separate and intersecting areas of study. Dr. Brown is also interested in health disparities among people living with HIV and aging populations and has published in this area. Her work examining the impact of childhood sexual trauma on HIV using a life course approach is currently funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. In this capacity, she has used qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods to examine the relationship between trauma and HIV treatment outcomes among older adults living with HIV. Her research has also examined adverse childhood experiences, mental health, and their impact on sexual health and behavioral outcomes. Dr. Brown currently teaches social epidemiology, and scientific writing and appraisal of epidemiologic studies. She recently received the Arnold School of Public Health Faculty Award for Excellence in Contributions to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Research or Practice. Dr. Brown earned a Bachelor of Science from Bates College, a Master of Public Health from Brown University, and a PhD in epidemiology from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. She completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of South Florida in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and was a research assistant professor there before joining UofSC.

Fayth Miles Butler, PhD

Dr. Fayth Miles Butler is an assistant professor and research investigator at Loma Linda University with joint appointments in the School of Public Health and the School of Medicine. She is examining associations of dietary behaviors and race with metabolic and genomic signatures using data from the Adventist Health Study-2 cohort, with the goal of identifying and integrating biomarkers predictive of disease processes. This research, supported by an NIMHD Career Development Award (K01), will elucidate the influence of lifestyle and sociocultural factors on biological pathways relating to health disparities. Dr. Butler's training has placed her at the interface of molecular biology and epidemiology and spans multiple disciplines. She received a Bachelor of Science in biology, followed by a master's degree in biotechnology (Johns Hopkins University), and a PhD in biological sciences (University of Delaware), where she conducted research on cytokine signaling during prostate cancer progression. Subsequently, she completed postdoctoral training in the Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer training program (University of California, Los Angeles), gaining expertise in population-based studies in genetic and nutritional epidemiology, while simultaneously receiving a second master's degree in epidemiology. Dr. Butler's postdoctoral training also included an appointment in the Biobehavioral Cancer Prevention and Control training program (University of Washington/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center), where she gained experience collecting and analyzing omics data in randomized intervention trials for cancer prevention. Dr. Butler is hopeful that her research will translate into lifestyle and therapeutic interventions to prevent and control diseases disproportionately affecting minorities and disadvantaged populations.

Doratha A. Byrd, PhD, MPH

Dr. Doratha A. Byrd is an assistant member in the Department of Cancer Epidemiology at Moffitt Cancer Center. She received a BS in biology and an MPH in epidemiology from the University of Florida. She completed her PhD in epidemiology at Emory University, where her dissertation research focused on the development and validation of novel, inflammation biomarker panel-weighted dietary and lifestyle inflammation scores, and their associations with colorectal neoplasms. In January 2019, she joined the National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, as a postdoctoral fellow. During her time there, she conducted methodologic microbiota studies and investigated associations of the microbiota with cancer risk and diet with the gut metabolome. In January 2021, she joined Moffitt Cancer Center as an assistant member in the Department of Cancer Epidemiology, where she continues to contribute to the reduction of cancer disparities using an integrative, interdisciplinary approach to study microbiome-mediated mechanisms for cancer risk among diverse populations.

Jeffrey Campbell, MD, MPH

Dr. Jeffrey Campbell is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Boston University School of Medicine, and an attending pediatric infectious diseases specialist at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Campbell's research focuses on access to pediatric latent tuberculosis infection care in low-burden settings with large populations of immigrant children. His studies in this area have used both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine facilitators and barriers to care for children at risk for TB infection. Dr. Campbell's broader research interests include strengthening engagement and eliminating disparities in long-term infectious disease treatment at the intersection of primary and sub-specialty care; the use of technology to promote long-term adherence to infectious disease treatment and prevention behaviors; and the ethical and social aspects of conducting long-term research with marginalized communities. Dr. Campbell earned a BA in art history from Princeton University, an MD from Harvard Medical School, and an MPH from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. He completed residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at Boston Medical Center/Boston Children's Hospital, and completed a T32 training grant as part of the Harvard-wide Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship.

Sharon G. Casavant, PhD, MSN, RN

Dr. Sharon G. Casavant is an assistant professor at University of Connecticut. Her earlier research, funded by a Ruth L. Kirschstein F32 via the National Institute of Nursing Research, focused on epigenetic alterations, such as telomere length in preterm infants that resulted from repeated painful procedures. While conducting a secondary analysis on that data she found disparities in the neurodevelopmental outcomes in Black/African American preterm infants. This led her to apply for—and be awarded—a grant from the University of Connecticut Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention and Policy. She is currently examining the associations between individual perceived racial discrimination, neighborhood vulnerability and stress on Black/African American maternal-preterm infant dyads on telomere length. The central hypothesis driving this research is that mothers reporting greater experiences of discrimination, stress, and neighborhood vulnerability will have decreased telomere length trans-generationally among the mother-preterm infant dyads over time (approximately two years). Dr. Casavant will be testing this hypothesis by following 35 Black/African American mother-preterm infant dyads. She also has a larger K23 under review examining the outcomes on telomere length and cortisol levels. Dr. Casavant earned her BS, MS, and PhD from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing.

Billie F. Castle, PhD, MPH

Dr. Billie F. Castle is an assistant professor of public health sciences at Xavier University of Louisiana. Dr. Castle's research interests focus on reducing social, health, and racial disparities in Black communities through community engagement and equitable policy implementation. Dr. Castle has research experience in the areas of youth violence prevention, social justice youth development, health equity policy and practice, and community engagement as a means for community change across the social determinants of health. Before joining the faculty at Xavier in 2021, Dr. Castle served as the Director of Louisville Metro Government's Office of Youth Development and the inaugural Academic Health Coordinator of the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness. Through her work in local government, Dr. Castle was able to connect academia to practice in order to advance equity within the community. This experience of translating research into practice grounds her community-based participatory research approach to creating community centered transformational solutions. Dr. Castle graduated in 2012 with a BS in health sciences from Howard University, MPH in health policy and management in 2014 from Texas A&M University, and earned her PhD in public health sciences with a concentration in health promotion and behavioral sciences in 2017 at the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences.

Lauren B. Covington, PhD, RN

Dr. Lauren B. Covington is an assistant professor at University of Delaware School of Nursing. Dr. Covington's clinical experience as a practicing Pediatric Intensive Care Unit nurse caring for families living in inner city Baltimore, and her graduate training, have centered around her desire to improve sleep and health in under-resourced families. The overarching goal of Dr. Covington's research is to promote lifelong health in socioeconomically disadvantaged groups through the development of sleep and health behaviors in early childhood. She received her BA in biological foundations of behavior from Franklin and Marshall College in 2009 and her MSN and PhD from University of Maryland School of Nursing in 2012 and 2018, respectively. Her graduate work focused on examining the associations between several dimensions of accelerometry-estimated sleep (duration, timing), sleep routines and obesity risk in toddlers living in socioeconomically disadvantaged families. Her most recent work explores associations between family-level factors and child-caregiver sleep health, and the severity of sleep deprivation among under-resourced families. Dr. Covington currently serves on the Journal of Advance Nursing Early Career Advisory Editorial Board, the Sleep Research Society Pipeline Development committee and numerous School of Nursing and University-level committees. She has been nominated for the University of Delaware Excellence in teaching award and Delaware's Top Nurse for Advancing & Leading the Profession.

Fernanda Lima Cross, PhD, MSW

Dr. Fernanda Lima Cross is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Dr. Cross' research program utilizes a strength-based approach to examining family and cultural factors that promote healthy development and mitigate the risk of poor psychological and/or educational outcomes for Latinx adolescents and families. She is particularly interested in examining the role of discrimination and undocumented status on the physical and mental health of Latinx immigrant parents as well as on the health outcomes of their adolescents. In addition, as a co-investigator for the Michigan Communities Conquering COVID (C-3) and the Community-Centered Interventions for Improved Vaccine Uptake for COVID (CIVIC) projects, both funded by NIMHD, she has examined Black and Latinx participants' knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, and concerns about COVID-19 as well as possible ways to improve vaccine uptake in some parts of Michigan most deeply affected by the pandemic. To inform her research, Dr. Cross utilizes qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methodologies, and she draws on not only her personal experience as a Latinx immigrant but also her almost two decades of involvement in the Latinx immigrant community of southeast Michigan as both an advocate and a Portuguese/Spanish interpreter. Dr. Cross graduated with a double major in psychology and sociology from the University of Michigan then went on to receive an MSW from the School of Social Work and a PhD in developmental psychology also from the University of Michigan.

Julie HT Dang, PhD, MPH

Dr. Julie HT Dang is an assistant professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management, Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. Dr. Dang is also the inaugural executive director for the University of California, Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center's Office of Community Engagement and Outreach. Dr. Dang's research interest includes developing, implementing, and evaluating culturally tailored behavioral interventions aimed at mitigating cancer health disparities among diverse and underserved populations using mixed methods and principles of community-engaged research. Dr. Dang has collaborated with diverse stakeholders to address modifiable risk factors for cancer, including studies that have led to increases in cancer screenings and improved uptake of the human papillomavirus (HPV) and hepatitis B vaccine. Dr. Dang has conducted extensive research on understanding and addressing the barriers and facilitators related to HPV vaccine uptake, this includes her PhD doctoral dissertation, two HPV vaccination environmental scans, and leading four HPV vaccination related studies. Dr. Dang graduated with a PhD in health policy from the University of California, Berkeley in 2018 and before that received an MPH in community health from the San Jose State University and a BA in English from the University of California, Davis.

Juan Del Toro, PhD

Dr. Juan Del Toro is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Dr. Del Toro received his PhD in developmental psychology with a concentration in advanced quantitative analyses from New York University. As an applied psychologist, Dr. Del Toro uses social survey data, administrative records, and behavioral genetic approaches to understand how racial discrimination shapes racial disparities in mental health across the life span from childhood to adulthood. Specifically, Dr. Del Toro takes a multi-method, multidisciplinary, and collaborative approach to investigate: (1) why distinguishing between perpetrators of racial discrimination matters for child development, (2) what are the direct and intergenerational consequences of involvement in the criminal justice system, and (3) what are opportunities that peers, educators, and families can leverage to reduce the negative effects of unwarranted involvement in the criminal justice system on children's developmental competencies. This research represents Dr. Del Toro's commitment to examining how institutions perpetuate racial inequalities and to uncover effective strategies that reduce risks and promote positive developmental competencies among racial minority children. As an early career scholar, Dr. Del Toro has produced 36 publications, many of which are first-authored publications in Child Development, American Psychologist, and Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences. Dr. Del Toro's work has received internal funding from the University of Pittsburgh and from external sources, including the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Spencer Foundation.

Janet Diaz-Martinez, PhD, RD, LDN

Dr. Janet Diaz-Martinez is a postdoctoral fellow in the Florida International University Research Center at a Minority Institution (FIU-RCMI) Community Engagement Core and Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work and the part-time director of Clinical and Community Research at Caridad Center, Florida. Dr. Diaz-Martinez's research has primarily focused on understanding and reducing health disparities in CKD/ESRD, HIV and COVID-19. Examples include participation in NIH-funded research to investigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on The Miami Adult Studies on HIV (MASH), various academic/community research collaborations between the FIU-RCMI and Caridad Center to identify and address social determinants of health related to chronic diseases. Dr Diaz-Martinez during her doctoral studies conducted a longitudinal cohort study with hemodialysis patients to investigate the use of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio as a marker of inflammation and its relationship with diet, nutrition status and patient-outcomes. Recently, she received a National Kidney Foundation-Health Equity Award to develop culturally adapted patient education materials to increase awareness and screening for CKD in Latinx. In addition, Dr Diaz-Martinez had been acting as a clinical dietitian consultant for the last 10 years. Dr Diaz-Martinez graduated with a BS in food science from Havana University, Cuba. In 2019 earned a PhD in Dietetics and Nutrition from FIU with the Words Ahead FIU-Graduate Distinction. She is an active member of Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (supported by NIDDK), the International Society for Renal Nutrition and Metabolism, and the National Kidney Foundation Council on Renal Nutrition.

Debra Dixon, MD, MS

Dr. Debra Dixon is a cardiovascular research fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Dixon's research focuses on social determinants of cardiovascular risk, with the objective of developing and implementing interventions to prevent incident cardiovascular disease, particularly heart failure. Dr. Dixon is interested in identifying innovative solutions to mitigate the burden of cardiovascular disease in historically marginalized populations. She was selected as a 2021-2022 Health Equity Scholar through the Cambridge Health Alliance's Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy. Dr. Dixon is currently the recipient of the 2022-2023 American College of Cardiology/Association of Black Cardiologists Bristol Myers Squibb Research Fellowship Award. This award supports her efforts to examine psychosocial determinants of disparities in heart failure related healthcare utilization and mortality. Dr. Dixon graduated with a BS in biology in 2010 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned her MD from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and her master's degree in clinical research from Case Western Reserve University in 2016. As a scholar in the Harrison Society Physician-Scientist Training program at Vanderbilt, she completed her internal medicine residency before subspecializing in cardiology.

Margaret Mary Downey, PhD, MSW

Dr. Margaret Mary Downey is an assistant professor at the Tulane University School of Social Work. Dr. Downey's scholarship focuses social and structural determinants of health inequities, particularly those in reproductive and maternal health. Her research interests include the role of healthcare workers as "street-level bureaucrats" and structural competency, an emerging education paradigm that trains health professionals in understanding the relationships among race, class, embodiment of health inequities at the patient level, and symptom expression. Her current work uses institutional ethnography to examine how key stakeholders (e.g., frontline social service workers, maternal mortality review committees) understand and intervene upon racial and economic reproductive and maternal health inequities. Dr. Downey completed a BA in English literature at Temple University and an MSW and PhD in social welfare at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a 2022 Tulane University Committee on Research Fellow and the 2018 National Association of Social Workers Health Policy Fellow. She is also a former birth and abortion doula, having practiced in the University of Pennsylvania Health System and Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Sagar Dugani, MD, PhD, MPH

Dr. Sagar Dugani is an assistant professor of medicine at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. His research focuses on eliminating health disparities based on race, ethnicity, and region. He focuses on chronic diseases including diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. Dr. Dugani aims to characterize the burden of chronic disease in the context of health disparities and develop patient-centered interventions. Dr. Dugani's research background spans basic science, translational biology, epidemiology, and public health. His work is based in the U.S. and Middle East. He serves as Principal Investigator of PEARL, a clinical trial on post-discharge video-visits and patient outcomes. He leads Hospital IMPROVE (patient experience in the hospital) and Hospital IMPACT (hospital medicine registry). Dr. Dugani also directs HEXAGON, which is a research network for hospital medicine across all Mayo Clinic sites in Minnesota, Arizona, Florida, and Wisconsin. He received an NIMHD K23 Career Development Award (2021-2026) to study the burden of type 2 diabetes in the U.S. rural Midwest, a diverse region of 12 U.S. states (Rural PREDICT Study) and a Robert and Elizabeth Strickland Career Development Award from Mayo Clinic to study health disparities in U.S. Hispanic adults. Dr. Dugani received his Hon BSc in integrated biology (2003), MSc in cell biology (2005), and MD/PhD in stem cell biology (2012). Following internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School (2015) and Fellowship from the University of Toronto (2017), he joined Mayo Clinic. He has received more than 50 awards and honors for research, academics, and community service.

Hawazin Elani, BDS, MSc, PhD, MMSc

Dr. Hawazin Elani is an assistant professor in the Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, and a research associate in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Elani is a dentist and health services researcher. Dr. Elani earned an MSc and a PhD from McGill University. She then completed a prosthodontics residency training and received an MMSc from Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Her research is focused on social determinants of oral health and the implications of health policies on oral health disparities. Dr. Elani's early work focused on cross-national comparisons of oral health disparities using micro-data from multiple countries. More recently, supported by a Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, Dr. Elani's research has shifted to a more domestic focus investigating the impact of health policies, specifically using econometric methods to identify the causal effect of Medicaid policies on oral health services use and dental outcomes among disadvantaged populations.

Darlingtina Esiaka, PhD, CPG

Dr. Darlingtina Esiaka is an NIH/IRACDA INSPIRE Fellow at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers University. In 2019, she received a dual-title PhD in social psychology and gerontology from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. Dr. Esiaka's research interests revolve around two major themes inspired by the decolonial perspective in sciences. One focuses on the early detection of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD) in older Black men. She studies how to detect progression and conversion to ADRD in Black men long before the presentation of behavioral symptoms. The second focuses on the early detection of cancer in older Black men. She studies psychosocial factors that predict fatal stage cancer diagnosis in older Black men. Dr. Esiaka's research has been funded by government agencies and private organizations such as the NIH and the New Jersey Health Foundation (NJHF). She has received several awards, including the Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett Woman Mentoring Women award from the Emily Taylor Centre for Women and Gender Equity and the Louise Julie Doehring's Excellence in Gerontology award.

Danielle R. Eugene, PhD, LCSW

Dr. Danielle R. Eugene is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Arlington and a licensed clinical social worker in Louisiana and Texas. Dr. Eugene conducts research at the intersection of social work and education, and employs quantitative, qualitative, and community-based participatory research methods to understand social-ecological influences associated with adolescent mental health (e.g., depression and suicidal behaviors) and academic functioning among economically disadvantaged Black and Hispanic youth. Her research program strives to elucidate patterns, processes, and factors within the school context that are drivers or eliminators of mental health and educational disparities confronting minoritized youth, with the aim of developing culturally relevant and responsive models of mental health and well-being in K-12 schools. Dr. Eugene earned her PhD in social work with a minor in educational research and her Master of Social Work from Louisiana State University, and earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology with a minor in biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Heather R. Farmer, PhD

Dr. Heather R. Farmer is an assistant professor of human development and family sciences at the University of Delaware. Her research focuses on understanding the role that stress and coping, as well as that of stress-related physiological mechanisms (e.g., inflammation, blood pressure), have on health and minority aging across the life course. She is particularly interested in examining the biopsychosocial (e.g., chronic stress, resilience) and structural factors that contribute to health and well-being among older Black Americans. She has received numerous awards and honors, including the Junior Investigator Diversity Fellow award from the Gerontological Society of America and recently, she was selected to be a scholar in the Michigan Integrative Well-Being and Inequality training program. She earned her PhD in biobehavioral health with specialization in demography from the Pennsylvania State University. She then completed a T32 postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University in the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development and Department of Population Health Sciences.

Angela Fernandez, PHD, MPH, LCSW

Dr. Angela Fernandez is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing. She is a citizen of the Menominee Nation of Wisconsin, and a member of the campus Native American Environment, Health, and Community faculty cluster. Her research program is built on over two decades of combined national and international social work and public health research, practice, teaching, and service experience with Indigenous, Latinx, and other marginalized communities in inpatient and outpatient health care settings, academic settings, non-profit organizations, and the Peace Corps. As a clinician, she has worked with interprofessional teams in inpatient and outpatient care and holds clinical social work licenses in the states of Wisconsin and Washington. As an instructor, she has developed and taught courses on historical trauma and healing and critical social theories in population health. As a prevention scientist, she examines the role of cultural practices and human interconnectedness within Nature as potential protective factors in the prevention of chronic and co-occurring diseases (e.g., mental health, substance abuse, diabetes) among Indigenous peoples. Dr. Fernandez earned her PhD in social work and her MPH in global health from the University of Washington in 2019, and her MSW in social work from the University of Washington in 2007. Dr. Fernandez was named one of Wisconsin's most influential Native American leaders in 2022.

Felicia Gomez, PhD

Dr. Felicia Gomez is an assistant professor at Washington University School of Medicine. She is a human geneticist who focuses on translational cancer genomics. Dr. Gomez is currently leading a deep sequencing analysis of Hodgkin lymphoma genomes with the goal of describing somatic events characteristic of this malignancy. She closely collaborates with several faculty members at Washington University School of Medicine on projects related to the genomics of Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin lymphomas. Dr. Gomez's research goals include developing strategies to translate genomic data into improved patient care. She also has a longstanding commitment to genomic research and community involvement that increases the presence of underserved and underrepresented populations in biomedical research. She is dedicated to developing a program of research that incorporates diverse human populations in translational cancer genomic research. Dr. Gomez's background spans basic and translational biomedical research, population genetics, evolutionary genetics, and bioinformatics. She also has a history of educational roles that expose students (K-12 and beyond) to genetics and bioinformatics. Dr. Gomez graduated with a BA in biology and anthropology from Skidmore College and earned her PhD from The George Washington University where she focused on human evolutionary genetics. Dr. Gomez has received several academic awards from organizations such as Phi Beta Kappa and the Ford Foundation. Most recently she was awarded a position on the Washington University School of Medicine Paul Calabresi K12 Career Development Award.

Abdi Gudina, PhD, MPH, MS

Dr. Abdi Gudina is a research assistant professor and a T32 fellow at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Division of Supportive Care in Cancer. He graduated with a BS in 2003 and with an MS in 2008 in forestry from Hawassa University, Ethiopia. Dr. Gudina received a Master of Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in biostatistics from Kent State University in 2013. He earned his PhD in epidemiology from the same institution in 2020. Dr. Gudina has a strong background and training in large epidemiological data analysis to answer questions about cancer disparities. His primary research interest focuses on cancer health disparities among underserved populations, with particular emphasis on the Black community. Dr. Gudina's short-term goal is to develop culturally tailored interventions that address barriers to screening to promote lung cancer screening in high-risk black individuals. His long-term goal is to become an NIH-funded independent investigator in cancer disparities research, with a focus on reducing disparities and inequities among underserved populations.

Nicole B. Halmai, PhD

Dr. Nicole B. Halmai (formerly Coggins) is a postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Luis Carvajal-Carmona at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). Her research interests include molecular epidemiology, cancer functional genomics, and cancer heath equity, with a specific emphasis on addressing health disparities for American Indian and other indigenous communities. She graduated from Denison University in 2013 with a BS in biology and earned her PhD from UC Davis in 2019 in molecular, cellular and integrative physiology, where she developed a novel genome editing platform for the functional modeling of cancer risk-associated variants. During her time as a graduate student, Dr. Halmai was an NIH-Initiative for Maximizing Student Development and an NIH-Molecular and Cellular Biology T32 training fellow. She co-founded the student-led organization Equity in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Entrepreneurship at UC Davis, with the purpose of promoting diversity and equity in the STEM disciplines. Her current research as an NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities diversity supplement awardee is now focused on the generation and characterization of pre-clinical models of gastric cancer from racial/ethnic minority populations in the U.S. As part of a multi-cancer center initiative, Dr. Halmai has helped to determine unique molecular patterns of cancer development in racial/ethnic minorities to inform more effective therapies and address the cancer health disparities currently afflicting these communities.

Iman Hassan, MD, MS

Dr. Iman Hassan is an assistant professor and director for community and population health initiatives in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Hassan completed her residency training in primary care/social internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY and then went on to complete her fellowship in the Academic Clinician-Educator Scholars program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, receiving a master's in medical education. She oversees the internal medicine residency social determinants of health curriculum and is working on initiatives to promote and further social determinants of health training in residency education. Dr. Hassan's research interests include trainee and faculty development in structural competency, cross-departmental curriculum development in the social determinants of health, assessment tools in structural competency, and clinical workflow and training in social needs screening and community resource referral. She has received medical education grants to support research on the use of home visits to teach about social determinants of health and the use of critical race praxis methodology in social medicine curriculum development. Dr. Hassan has also participated in the development of a number of social determinants of health curriculum toolkits and resources.

Lynn N. Ibekwe, PhD, MPH

Dr. Lynn N. Ibekwe is an NCI-funded T32 postdoctoral research fellow within the Harvard Education Program in Cancer Prevention at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She holds a dual academic appointment within the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Kraft Center for Community Health at Massachusetts General Hospital. She is also an affiliate-Health and Human Rights Fellow within the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University. Dr. Ibekwe's primary research interest is to reduce the disproportionate burden of cancer morbidity and mortality among Blacks and African Americans in the United States. To that end, she pursues research geared towards (1) documenting individual and contextual level determinants of racial and ethnic cancer-related disparities, including investigating racism as a fundamental cause of such disparities; (2) developing and testing culturally relevant cancer prevention and control interventions in community and clinical settings; and (3) using implementation science, through a health equity lens, to improve implementation of evidence-based interventions (EBIs) in real-world settings, including explicitly focusing on structural racism as a determinant of inequitable adoption, implementation, and sustainability of EBIs. Dr. Ibekwe earned a PhD in behavioral sciences from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health, where she was also an NCI-funded T32 predoctoral research fellow. She earned an MPH in social and behavioral sciences from Boston University and a BA in medicine, health, and society, as well as sociology, from Vanderbilt University.

Akilah A. Jefferson, MD, MSc

Dr. Akilah A. Jefferson is an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Allergy and Immunology at the UAMS College of Medicine. She is also an asthma researcher at the Arkansas Children's Research Institute. Her research is focused on asthma, health disparities, health policy, and ethics. She has a special interest in novel approaches to health policy and social determinants related to disparate asthma health outcomes. Her current research involves use of large administrative databases to better understand children at-risk for asthma poor outcomes across Arkansas. Her studies are aimed at developing innovative approaches to assessing, understanding, and eliminating asthma health disparities through investigation of individual- and population-level determinants such as social determinants of health. She was recently awarded two intramural research awards, the UAMS KL2 Scholars Program Award, and the Marion B. Lyon Award for New Investigators. Additionally, Dr. Jefferson has a background in health policy and bioethics, completing post-graduate training in both fields. She has a joint appointment in the UAMS Department of Medical Humanities and Bioethics. Dr. Jefferson earned her medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine, completed internal medicine residency at the George Washington University Hospital, and completed her Allergy and Immunology Fellowship at the National Institute of Allergy and infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. She joined the UAMS faculty in 2020. She is a member of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, and American Academy of Pediatrics.

Karen Jennings Mathis, PhD, MS

Dr. Karen Jennings Mathis (she/her/hers) is an assistant professor at the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing. Dr. Jennings Mathis's research interests include eating disorder psychopathology among Black individuals while considering the heterogeneity of this population. Ultimately, Dr. Jennings Mathis aims to refine and enhance eating disorder conceptual models to integrate culture-related factors, which will then inform evidence-based assessments and interventions. She completed a NIMH T32 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at The University of Chicago under the mentorship of Dr. Jennifer Wildes and was adjunct clinical faculty at Rush University College of Nursing. Dr. Jennings Mathis earned her BA in psychology from Amherst College, and her MS and PhD in nursing from Boston College. She is certified as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in the specialty of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing. As an early career researcher, Dr. Jennings Mathis has received several awards and recognition for her leadership and research and is active in leadership positions for the Academy for Eating Disorders and American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

Lee Ann Johnson PhD, RN

Dr. Lee Ann Johnson is an assistant professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. Dr. Johnson's research interest includes both palliative and end-of-life care in cancer. Within this field, she typically focuses on individuals diagnosed with lung cancer and rural dwelling individuals. Another interest she has is how to improve equity in the access to and delivery of palliative and end-of-life care. Dr. Johnson has examined the use of palliative care, hospice, and comorbidities in both rural and Black populations with lung cancer. Her research background includes both quantitative and qualitative studies though she has more recently focused on how data from electronic health records and national datasets can identify and improve, for underserved populations with lung cancer, the delivery of palliative and end-of-life care. At present, she is investigating comorbidities and how multiple comorbid conditions contribute treatment and survival outcomes among those with lung cancer. Dr. Johnson earned a BA in psychology and a BA in English from the University of Mississippi Sally Barksdale Honors College. After completing her time as a Fulbright Scholar in Malaysia, she earned her MSN in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (2009) and PhD in Nursing Science (2015) from the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. In 2016, she joined the faculty at East Carolina University and in 2020, then joined the faculty at the University of Virginia.

Meera Kotagal, MD, MPH

Dr. Meera Kotagal is an assistant professor of pediatric general and thoracic surgery and director of trauma services at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Kotagal's research interests include the ways in which social determinants of health, including poverty and racism, impact surgical outcomes for children, including risk of injury and long-term effects of these injuries. She believes strongly that all children should have the same surgical care and outcomes, no matter where they live or who they were born to. This principle drives her clinical and research career aspirations. Her work centers on a place-based, community-focused approach to understanding—and then mitigating—neighborhood factors that drive inequities in outcomes for children. Dr. Kotagal's background spans surgical outcomes research, community organization, as well as clinical care in resource-limited settings. Dr. Kotagal graduated with a BA in political science in 2003 from Stanford University. She earned her MD from Harvard Medical School in 2009 and her Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2014. She completed a T32 research fellowship at the University of Washington Surgical Outcomes Research Center (SORCE). Dr. Kotagal completed her general surgery training at the University of Washington (2009-2016) and her pediatric surgical training at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (2016-2018). She is a future trauma leader with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma.

Eric Kyere, PhD, MSW

Dr. Eric Kyere is an assistant professor of social work and adjunct professor of Africana studies at the Indiana University, IUPUI. Dr. Kyere's interest in health equity research stems from his experiences related to cultural trauma associated with the legacies of colonial racism in sustaining structural and environmental conditions and practices that aggressively affect health in both the United States and Ghana. Dr. Kyere's research seeks to examine and identify (1) how structural racism revives itself to produce inequities that contribute to health and educational disparities toward persons of African descent, (2) ways to disrupt the mechanisms through which structural racism persists, and (3) design racially transformative structures (e.g., schools) and practices that foster positive health, including mental health of youth and young adults of African descent. He applies research tools and skills from tran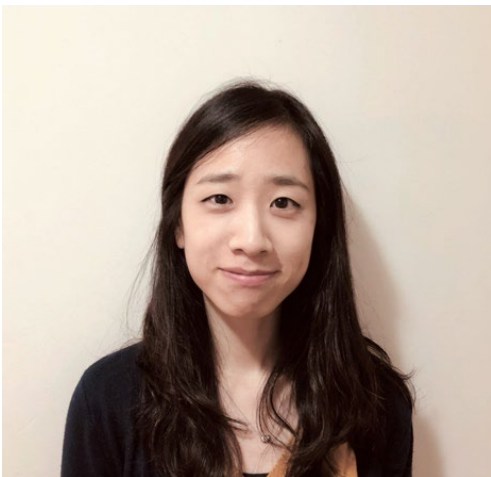sdisciplinary perspective especially social science and humanities to integrate historical data related to racialized slavery with social science methods such as, mixed methods, and participatory action research (e.g., photovoice and group concept mapping) to generate innovative ideas that address structural racism and the negative health impacts on the youth and young adults of African descent. He lectures on diversity, human rights, and social justice relative to health and overall well-being. Dr. Kyere graduated with BA in social work from the University of Ghana in 2006. He received MSW from the Kutztown University of Pennsylvania in 2011 and earned a PhD in social work and Graduate Certificate in African Studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017.

Ashley L. Landers, PhD

Dr. Ashley L. Landers is an assistant professor of human development and family science in the Department of Human Sciences at The Ohio State University. Dr. Landers is a community-engaged family scientist who conducts research in partnership with First Nations Repatriation Institute that focuses on the health and well-being of American Indian/Alaska Native families in child welfare, specifically American Indian/Alaska Native children's behavioral health disparities. Findings from a decade-long partnership with the First Nations Repatriation Institute translate into policy and practice by providing support for the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and Tribal efforts to address the detrimental health impact of the systematic removal of American Indian/Alaska Native children. Research from the collaborative partnership was recently cited in a Tribal Amicus Brief for an ICWA case in the Supreme Court of the United States and by the World Health Organization in a report on preventing violence against children. Dr. Landers graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2005 and a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2007 from St. Cloud State University. She earned her PhD in family science, with specialization in couple and family therapy from the University of Minnesota in 2016. Dr. Landers was an Eyes High Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Calgary in the Faculty of Social Work from 2016 to 2017. Dr. Landers is an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Clinical Fellow, Approved Supervisor, and Minority Fellowship Program Alumna and Mentor of the Year.

Eun Kyung Lee, PhD, MPH

Dr. Eun Kyung Lee is a postdoctoral research associate at the Boston University School of Public Health. Dr. Lee's research interests lie primarily in understanding how the neighborhood physical (i.e., proximity to industrial facilities and landfills, access to healthy foods, health care and green space) and social environments (i.e., poverty, racial segregation, gentrification) shape spatial patterns of racial and health inequities, and how they disproportionately affect different population subgroups. Dr. Lee's background and training span from data-driven approaches to understand causal inferences of exposure-health relationships, to community-driven approaches to understand the lived experiences and intervention strategies that are reflective and adaptive to community's needs. Her recent research has focused on strategies to enhance access to: (1) health care, including the impact of health care policies and care delivery models on Medicaid, low-income and safety-net populations in the context of quality and racial equity of care; and (2) health-promoting environments for preventing chronic diseases and its risk factors (i.e., improving access to healthy foods, reducing air pollutant exposures). Prior to her current position, Dr. Lee was a Postdoctoral Scholar at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, where she was involved in community-based participatory research projects aiming to address systems level change for leveraging community's nutrition and environmental health equity in racialized and marginalized communities. Dr. Lee obtained her PhD in environmental health sciences from the University at Albany, State University of New York, and received her MPH from Tufts University School of Medicine.

Humberto López Castillo, MD, PhD

Dr. Humberto López Castillo (he/él/il) is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Sciences, College of Health Professions and Sciences (CHPS) at the University of Central Florida. His research focuses on cardiometabolic health disparities in sexual minority men. Using a biobehavioral approach, his research identifies potential links between minority stress and metabolic syndrome outcomes (namely, obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and dyslipidemias). Other lines of inquiry explore the potential mediation roles of HIV infection and antiretroviral therapy use in the development of cardiometabolic disease and behavioral aspects driving sexual health risk-taking among sexual minority men, especially the link between substance use and HIV transmission. Dr. López Castillo's background spans from clinical practice with adolescents and young adults, public health methods, and biobehavioral intervention development, implementation, and evaluation. Besides research, Dr. López Castillo teaches undergraduate classes on human disease, earning the 2022 CHPS Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award. He also hosts The Sex Café Podcast, where clinicians, researchers, and community advocates meet over coffee to discuss issues and provide local resources for the sexual and reproductive health of the Central Florida community. Dr. López Castillo graduated with an MD (2001) and completed his residency in pediatrics (2009) at the University of Panama. He also has an MSc in clinical sciences and an MEd in higher education. He completed his PhD in public health (2016) and postdoctoral fellowship in adolescent risk behaviors (2018) at the University of South Florida. Dr. López Castillo is Certified in Public Health and a Certified Medical Interpreter.

Ping Ma, PhD

Dr. Ping Ma is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Behavior at Texas A&M University School of Public Health. Dr. Ma's research focuses on two lines: 1) examining social and environmental determinants of disparities in health outcomes and risky health behaviors through mixed methods (e.g., survey, interview) and community-engaged approach, and 2) developing innovative and empirically based cancer-related intervention programs to address modifiable contextual risk factors, change unhealthy behaviors, and ultimately reduce health disparities among vulnerable populations, including communities of color. Specifically, as an interdisciplinary scientist, Dr. Ma's recent research examines how psychosocial, familial, neighborhood environment, cultural and social media factors impact substance use and mental health in underserved populations (e.g., low-income rural maternal women, racial minority populations, adolescents/children, older Asian adults). Dr. Ma also has research expertise in developing and evaluating smartphone-based health behavior intervention using ecological momentary assessment strategy. Dr. Ma earned a bachelor's degree in social welfare and an MA in demography from Liaoning University, China. She then applied her passion for public health, earning her second MA in dynamics of health and society from the University of Linkoping, Sweden, and her PhD in public health from Tulane University. Dr. Ma completed a two-year joint postdoctoral fellowship training in population health at UT Southwest Medical Center and UT Health Sciences Center Dallas Campus.

Jason Mallonee, DSW, LCSW

Dr. Jason Mallonee is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Work at The University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Mallonee brings to his position over seven years of direct social work practice experience as a mental health clinician and program administrator working with individuals with more serious mental health conditions, survivors of sexual abuse and assault, children and adults in crisis, adolescents and adults with substance use disorders, LGBTQ individuals, and Veterans. Dr. Mallonee received a BA in visual art from Oberlin College in 2001. He earned an MA in education from Antioch University in 2007 and an MSW from the University of Southern California in 2013. Dr. Mallonee earned a Doctorate in Clinical Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania in 2020 where he received the Dr. Ram Cnaan Award for meritorious scholarship. Dr. Mallonee's research interests include mental health treatment disparities, help-seeking, treatment engagement, therapeutic alliance, therapist empathy, and food insecurity. Dr. Mallonee is currently implementing three funded research studies exploring food insecurity and food pantry outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health help-seeking and treatment utilization for Hispanic adults in the U.S.-Mexico border region, and the development and pilot testing of a community-grounded mental health engagement program.

Laura Reid Marks, PhD

Dr. Laura Reid Marks is a tenure track assistant professor of counseling psychology at Florida State University (FSU). She was previously a tenure track assistant professor at University of Memphis. Dr. Marks' research interests include racial discrimination, alcohol use, and risky sexual behaviors in Black emerging adults. She aims to design mobile health (mHealth) behavioral interventions that are culturally tailored for Black emerging adults to address alcohol-related health disparities. Dr. Marks currently directs the Global Research On Working To ameliorate Health disparities (GROWTH) Lab at FSU. Presently, she is working on developing a culturally tailored mHealth mindfulness intervention for Black college students to reduce stress, and ultimately alcohol use. She was recently selected by the Florida Education Fund to be a McKnight Junior Faculty Fellow for 2021-2022. Dr. Marks graduated with a BS in psychology from the University of Florida in 2005. She also graduated with an MAE and an EdS in school counseling with a dual track in clinical mental health counseling from the University of Florida in 2010. She completed her PhD in counseling psychology at Purdue University, and a predoctoral clinical internship at Arizona State University Counseling Services in 2015. While at Purdue University Dr. Marks was selected for a competitive Ross Doctoral Fellowship and Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship. At FSU, Dr. Marks teaches courses on psychopathology, diversity science, vocational psychology, and counseling theories. She values mentoring and actively mentors undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students.

Keith J. Martin, DO, MS

Dr. Keith J. Martin is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is a board-certified general pediatrician and attending physician in the Johns Hopkins Harriet Lane Clinic and the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Children's Medical Practice, where he serves as faculty affiliate of the Center for Salud/Health and Opportunity for Latinos (Centro SOL). Dr. Martin's research focuses on the identification of best practices for screening for and addressing trauma among children in immigrant families within pediatric primary care settings using participatory, community-based, mixed-method approaches. He was awarded an Academic Pediatric Association Young Investigator Award to conduct a qualitative study of immigration-related trauma and resilience among Latinx children and parents. At the start of the pandemic, he received a COVID-19 Critical Community Challenge Grant from the Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Learning at Cincinnati Children's to identify critical knowledge gaps about how COVID-19 prevention behaviors and quarantine practices impact the health and well-being of Latinx adults in Greater Cincinnati. His recent publication on shared reading attracted national attention through the American Academy of Pediatrics' podcast Pediatrics On Call. A graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (2015), Dr. Martin completed a residency in pediatrics at Children's Mercy Kansas City (2018) and a fellowship in general pediatrics research at Cincinnati Children's (2021). He holds a MS in biomedical sciences from Tufts University (2010) and a MS in clinical and translational research from the University of Cincinnati (2021).

Jacob Martinez, PhD, RN

Dr. Jacob Martinez is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Dr. Martinez earned a PhD in nursing from the University of Miami, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a minor in health promotion at UTEP. As a community health nurse scientist, Dr. Martinez aims to continue his work addressing health disparities affecting vulnerable Latinx populations in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region. His research has predominantly focused on understanding previously neglected areas of men's sexual and reproductive health while explicitly focusing on the intersecting roles of gender, culture, and stress on sexually transmitted infections, substance use, and violence. Dr. Martinez's research is supported through a Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, where he is part of an interdisciplinary research team addressing HPV associated cancer disparities, along the U.S.-Mexico Border. He aims to use his background and experience in working with vulnerable populations on those who are disproportionately affected by HPV, while promoting HPV prevention measures in men. Dr. Martinez is also funded by an internal UTEP award where he aims to explore factors that have inhibited HIV preexposure prophylaxis uptake during the COVID-19 pandemic. His long-term goal is to become an independently funded investigator with expertise in creating sustainable interventions that address health disparities in vulnerable Latinx populations.

Amanda C. McClain, PhD, MS

Dr. Amanda C. McClain is an assistant professor of nutrition at San Diego State University. Dr. McClain's mixed methods research employs community-based and social science perspectives to investigate how the stress of marginalization, especially food insecurity, shapes food choice and dietary intake and gets 'under the skin' to impact allostatic load and cardiometabolic risk among low-income and historically marginalized populations, particularly Hispanics/Latinos. Simultaneously, her research aims to identify and leverage existing cultural, social, human, and material capacities (i.e., assets), as a part of behavior-change interventions embedded in existing infrastructure (e.g., federally qualified health centers, food assistance programs), to mitigate the stress of marginalization and promote food security, nutritious diets, and cardiometabolic health equity. Dr. McClain earned her PhD from the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University in 2016 and completed a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of Nutrition at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 2018. She is the primary investigator for several research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. McClain serves on the advisory committees for two San Diego community-based organizations addressing food access and food insecurity, including Project New Village, a BIPOC-led, grassroots nonprofit. Dr. McClain is also a core member of Project New Village's Urban Agriculture Workgroup, which has developed necessary infrastructure to promote equitable access to local produce in an historically marginalized area of San Diego through support from Danone Institute and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Colleen McGovern, PhD, MPH, RN

Dr. Colleen McGovern is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina—Greensboro, School of Nursing. Dr. McGovern's program of research focuses on the intersection of chronic physical conditions and mental health in children, particularly those facing health disparities. Her prior experience as a school nurse contributed to her special interest in optimizing health outcomes for historically marginalized children. Dr. McGovern's doctoral training focused on intervention research and the adaptation of an evidence-based program for children which was implemented in multiple schools. During her postdoctoral work and current research, Dr. McGovern redeveloped and tested a behavioral and educational intervention for children with asthma and comorbid anxiety and/or depression. Both funded projects indicated promising results. She currently serves as a co-investigator on a dissemination and implementation grant funded by NHLBI evaluating the School-Based Asthma Therapy program where she has conducted focus groups with children, caregivers, and school staff and will be involved in the qualitative analyses. She has expertise in the development and implementation of theory-based, culturally relevant interventions for children with asthma and anxiety or depressive symptoms in addition to training and mentored research experience in quantitative and qualitative methods. Dr. McGovern earned bachelor's degrees in education and nursing. She completed an MPH in 2015 and a PhD in 2018 as a predoctoral NRSA fellow at The Ohio State University. Her postdoctoral training as an NRSA fellow at UNC School of Nursing focused on the development and testing of theory-based interventions for preventing and managing chronic illness.

Yeeli Mui, PhD, MPH

Dr. Yeeli Mui (she/her) is a Bloomberg Assistant Professor of Obesity and the Food System in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHBSPH). Dr. Mui's research, teaching, and practice are driven by a focus to restructure structural systems—cultural norms, policies, institutions, and practices—that are consequential for the distribution of resources vital to public health. To this end, she directs research projects that harness food/food systems as a lever for cross-sector, integrated solutions and broader social, environmental, and policy change toward health equity. Ongoing projects include using novel systems simulation modeling and systems science (e.g., system dynamics and social network analysis) to identify and test solutions that promote healthy and sustainable food systems. Dr. Mui leads a study evaluating the current state of community health and food systems planning in the United States. Results from this study will offer recommendations to public health practitioners on opportunities for strategic alignment with other local government sectors influencing food systems, including urban planning, housing, and transportation. She is also examining the role of social capital and collaborative governance models to drive food systems policy through the lens of urban agriculture in the cities of Buffalo, NY and Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Mui completed her postdoctoral training in food systems planning at the University at Buffalo's School of Architecture at Planning, earned her PhD in human nutrition from JHBSPH, and her MPH in health policy from the Yale School of Public Health.

Alexandra Nowak, PhD, JD, RN

Dr. Alexandra Nowak is an assistant professor at Loyola University, Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing in Chicago. Dr. Nowak's research interests include structural racism and multi-omic investigations of perinatal health in Black American women and is aimed at decreasing the aberrant disparities in preterm birth and maternal mortality that exist for Black women in the U.S. Dr. Nowak received a Bachelor of Science in legal assistant studies from Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan and earned a Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University in Detroit. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan before earning her PhD in nursing from The Ohio State University. Her dissertation research entitled "Neighborhood Disorder and Epigenetic Regulation of Stress Pathways in Preterm Birth" examined the relationships among neighborhood disorder, psychological distress, DNA methylation of stress-related pathway genes, and gestational age at birth in a cohort of pregnant Black women. She was granted six foundational research grants in support of her dissertation work. Dr. Nowak also received predoctoral and postdoctoral funding through the National Institute of Nursing Research T32 Institutional training grants from both The Ohio State University College of Nursing and Columbia University School of Nursing. She was also a recipient the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NINR F31) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship from NINR. Dr. Nowak has several publications in peer reviewed journals and has presented her work at both regional and international conferences.

Abiodun Otolorin, MD, MS

Dr. Abiodun Otolorin is an assistant professor at Howard University in the Department of Community and Family Medicine. Dr. Otolorin's research interests include primary care, data science, biomedical informatics, and health disparities. He is interested in the development of machine-learning-based predictive models to identify individuals within health disparity populations who lack guide directed preventive care. Examples of such models include the development of machine-learning-based predictive models to identify African Americans at risk of nonadherence to statins prescribed for primary prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Dr. Otolorin has expertise in health information technology including software development and systems integration. Dr. Otolorin graduated with a BS in computer science in 2004 from Georgia Institute of Technology. In 2008, he earned his MS in bioengineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from Eastern Virginia Medical School in 2013. He completed his family medicine residency at Howard University in 2017. He is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He completed the North American Primary Care Research Group Grant Generating Project fellowship. In February 2022, Dr. Otolorin joined Howard University Department of Community and Family Medicine.

Kelly Palmer, PhD, MHS, CCRP

Dr. Kelly Palmer is an assistant professor of public health at the University of Arizona and the associate director of the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center for Health Disparities Research. Dr. Palmer spent over a decade managing studies translating the evidenced-based diabetes prevention program and has extensive experience with lifestyle modification interventions for cardiometabolic disease risk reduction. She has demonstrated success with community outreach and engagement and strategies for effective participant recruitment and retention. Broadly, Dr. Palmer's research seeks to understand sociocultural influences of health behavior and to design and implement culturally informed interventions to achieve health equity for vulnerable and underserved populations. She is interested in understanding how to better engage these populations, particularly Black women, in chronic disease screening, intervention, and research. Dr. Palmer's work is centered on the experiences and perspectives of underserved racial and ethnic minority patients. She draws on the socioecological model and community and asset-based approaches to address health disparities. Her training in qualitative inquiry solicits comprehensive personal accounts and contextual information that can help to improve chronic disease interventions. Her research has examined the physical, cultural, and social environment of the hair salon as a health promoting setting for Black women. Dr. Palmer graduated from the University of Akron in 2003 with a BS in microbiology and in 2005 with a BS in natural science. She earned a MS in health sciences from Indiana University, and a PhD in health behavior health promotion from the University of Arizona.

Yue Pan, PhD, MS

Dr. Yue Pan is a research assistant professor at the Biostatistics Division, Department of Public Health Sciences, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami. Dr. Pan's research interests focus on examining social determinants and health disparities of substance use and HIV sexual risk behaviors among vulnerable populations, such as substance users, hospitalized HIV patients, men who have sex with men, and ethnic minorities. In addition, he is also interested in quantitative epidemiology, by adapting advanced statistical techniques such as Bayesian and machine learning approaches to evaluate STD/HIV prevention intervention, health behaviors, and health outcomes. Dr. Pan's research interests also include clinical epidemiology and applied biostatistics analysis for chronic diseases such as alcohol use disorders, drug abuse, breast, and ovarian cancer, cardiovascular disease, and their comorbidities. Dr. Pan serves as a research investigator in the National Institute on Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network Florida Node Alliance, Clinic HIV/AIDS Registry of Miami (CHARM) Center focusing on mental health and HIV research, and the Center for Latino Health Research Opportunities (CLaRO).

Michael Park, PhD, MS, AM

Dr. Michael Park is an incoming assistant professor at the School of Social Work and the Chancellor's Scholar for Inclusive Excellence in Racial Minority Health at Rutgers University. His current research focuses on understanding how racial stereotypes contribute to disparities in mental health and mental health service utilization among Asian American immigrant youth and identifying protective factors (e.g., family racial and ethnic socialization) that can mitigate the harmful effects of racial stereotypes. His long-term goal is to develop interventions to alleviate the psychological burden of racial stereotypes on Asian American youth. His interest in examining racial and ethnic disparities in mental health care stems from his desire to improve mental health outcomes among racial and ethnic minority immigrant populations. Through his experiences working with North Korean refugees, he witnessed the critical impact of social conditions on the health of stateless North Korean families. His continued field experience in Asian immigrant-serving agencies in Chicago solidified his commitment to studying mechanisms underlying racial and ethnic disparities in mental health and mental health service utilization. Before joining Rutgers, Dr. Park completed a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) T32 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Mental Health Services Research at Washington University in St. Louis. He earned his PhD in social work, his MS in public health sciences for clinical professionals, and AM (master's degree) in social work from the University of Chicago.

Yong-Moon Mark Park, MD, MS, PhD

Dr. Yong-Moon ("Mark") Park is an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health. Dr. Park's research interests include the etiology and prevention of breast and other cancers and cardiometabolic diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and metabolic syndrome, focused on the influence of dietary, epigenetic, and socio-environmental factors on risk and prognosis of these conditions. Another interest is to investigate the influence of health disparity on cardiovascular complications and prognosis following diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. Dr. Park's background spans preventive medicine, nutritional epidemiology, epidemiology of cancer and cardiometabolic disease, genetic epidemiology, and clinical epidemiology. Dr. Park earned his MD and PhD in preventive medicine at the Catholic University of Korea in South Korea. Then he received an MS in genetic epidemiology from Washington University in St. Louis and his PhD in epidemiology from University of South Carolina. Dr. Park joined the UAMS in 2021 after his postdoctoral research fellowship at the epidemiology branch of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

José G. Pérez Ramos, PhD, MPH

Dr. José G. Pérez Ramos is a tenure track assistant professor of public health sciences, pediatrics, in the Center for Community Health and Prevention, and obstetrics and gynecology in the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester in New York. Dr. Pérez Ramos's work focuses on designing and implementing technological, community-oriented research initiatives to reduce health inequities and address socio structural determinants of health in under-resourced communities globally. Dr. Pérez Ramos graduated with a BA in political science in 2005 from the University of Puerto Rico. He earned his Master's in Public Health in 2015 and his PhD in translational biomedical sciences in 2019, both from the University of Rochester.

Sangita Pudasainee-Kapri, PhD, DNP, RN

Dr. Sangita Pudasainee-Kapri is an assistant professor at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, School of Nursing-Camden. Dr. Pudasainee-Kapri's research interests include maternal and child health disparity, social determinants of health, and chronic illness management among children/adolescents from low-income and minority families. Her research incorporates both qualitative and quantitative methods. As a health scientist with expertise in interdisciplinary research along with substantive clinical experience, she draws inspiration from questions she faces in her clinical practice and research. These questions cultivate her passion and motivation for her research to reduce the gap of health disparities in childhood asthma and improve the lives of low-income minority children with asthma. Her current research project focuses on identifying the unique social determinants of health impacting asthma control in adolescents and understanding adolescents' and parents' perspectives related to asthma self-management in low-income minority families. Dr. Pudasainee-Kapri graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing Science in 2007 from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. She then earned her MS (2012) and PhD (2017) in child and family studies and the Certificate of Advanced Study in Global Health (2014) from Syracuse University. With her passion for nursing science, she obtained her DNP from Rutgers University-Camden in 2020. She is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and a Certified Pediatric Nurse. Dr. Pudasainee-Kapri's work has been recognized through the receipt of numerous fellowships, scholarships, and awards including the 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health Award, Johnson & Johnson-AACN Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars, and the Doctorate Award for Research Excellence.

Yina M. Quique, PhD

Dr. Yina M. Quique is a postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University in the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab. She is committed to improving rehabilitation outcomes for stroke survivors with aphasia, a debilitating language disorder—caused by stroke and other brain injuries—that severely affects verbal expression, comprehension, reading, and writing abilities. As a Latina clinician-scientist, she is especially interested in developing culturally sensitive and language-specific interventions for Spanish speakers with aphasia, an underrepresented and underserved population in the global picture of aphasia rehabilitation. Dr. Quique completed her doctoral studies in communication science and disorders at the University of Pittsburgh with a prestigious Fulbright scholarship. Before that, she was trained as a speech and language pathologist and music therapist in Colombia, where she practiced for more than seven years working with people with aphasia. Her role as a practicing clinician motivated her to work on the development of a solid evidence base for aphasia rehabilitation in her native language and culture, and to find ways to close the long-standing gaps in rehabilitation access for people with aphasia.

Jahanett Ramirez, MD, MPH

Dr. Jahanett Ramirez is a research assistant professor at the Steve Hick's School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin. She obtained her medical degree from Wake Forest School of Medicine and completed her family medicine residency at the UCLA Family Medicine program, followed by a T32 fellowship at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work/Dell Population Health Department. Prior to her clinical training, Dr. Ramirez earned an undergraduate degree in neuroscience from Amherst College and an MPH from Columbia Mailman School of Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology. Dr. Ramirez' research focuses on health equity and primary care in underserved populations. She has worked with people experiencing homelessness in central Texas and is currently the principal investigator on a project that characterizes sleep health disparities in day labor workers. Her long-term goal is to become a clinician-scientist that effectively bridges the gaps between research and practice to implement clinical and community-based programs that have a significant impact on advancing health equity, improving health outcomes, and reducing health disparities in primary care for communities facing systemic barriers to care. She is currently a physician volunteer at a free medical clinic in central Texas that offers primary care services to uninsured patients.

Anna Rivara, PhD, MPH

Dr. Anna Rivara is an associate research scientist in the Department of Chronic Disease Epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health. Dr. Rivara's research interests include examining the factors influencing loss to care in people living with chronic diseases, particularly type 2 diabetes, in underserved communities globally and within the U.S. Another interest is in implementation science and using existing and future research to reduce evidence to practice and gaps and improve chronic disease healthcare retention and engagement in high-risk populations. Dr. Rivara graduated with a BS in anthropology from the University of Oregon, an MA in African studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and an MPH in infection control from the University of South Florida. Dr. Rivara earned her PhD in applied anthropology (biological) with a concentration in biocultural medical anthropology in 2017 from the University of South Florida. Dr. Rivara joined the Yale School of Public Health in 2018 as a Global Health Equity Scholar, through the Fogarty International Center's Global Health Postdoctoral Fellows program and spent the 2018-2019 year in Samoa examining associations between inflammation and adiposity in adult Samoans, and the factors influencing physical activity in Samoan women. Dr. Rivara is currently implementing a discrete choice experiment within Samoa to identify preferences for diabetes care, is currently a co-investigator on a diabetes intervention in American Samoa and is an adjunct lecturer in the University of New Haven's MPH program.

Mayra Sánchez González, PhD

Dr. Mayra Sánchez González is an assistant professor in the Division of Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She earned a doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from Texas A&M University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Rehabilitation Psychology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Sánchez González's research interests focus on two broad, yet related areas: 1) investigating modifiable health and healthcare factors that contribute to disparities in healthy aging in older adults from minoritized communities, and 2) creating and evaluating interventions that improve and maintain psychological adjustment and functioning in older adults. She is the awardee of a Diversity Supplement Grant through the National Institute of Aging to investigate the effectiveness of an intervention to maintain the wellbeing of older adults following a disability prevention intervention. Further, she is adapting the psychosocial intervention to be piloted with older adults with multiple chronic health conditions and/or disability. As part of the Diversity Supplement research, she collaborates closely with the Disparities Research Unit in the Department of Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. In addition to her research roles, Dr. Sánchez González dedicates a small portion of time to an outpatient pain psychology clinic at Johns Hopkins and supervises community health workers delivering a psychosocial intervention to Spanish-speaking immigrants. Dr. Sánchez González is the awardee of the 2021 Achievers Award by the Johns Hopkins office of Diversity, Inclusion and Health Equity for her dedication to health equity in Latinx communities.

Natalicio Serrano, PhD, MPH

Dr. Natalicio Serrano is a postdoctoral fellow in the Cancer Education and Career Development Program (NIH/NCI T32) at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute for Health Research and Policy. His research focuses on creating equitable and sustainable environment and policy strategies for physical activity promotion and chronic disease prevention. Dr. Serrano utilizes a systems approach to understand inter-related factors and sectors (e.g., transportation, planning, housing) impacting or being impacted by environment and policy strategies for physical activity. He is particularly interested in understanding and addressing issues related to neighborhood development, racial and economic segregation, gentrification, and displacement. Dr. Serrano is an active member and former fellow of the CDC funded Physical Activity Policy Research and Evaluation Network's Equity and Resilience Work Group and is also a selected fellow in the Society of Behavioral Medicine's Diversity Institute for Emerging Leaders (2022). Dr. Serrano graduated from San Diego State University with a BS in public health and an MPH in health promotion and behavioral sciences. He then completed a PhD in public health sciences at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis where he was supported by a predoctoral fellowship in cardiovascular disease and obesity (NIH/NHLBI T32).

Nasser Sharareh, PhD, MSc

Dr. Nasser Sharareh is a research assistant professor in the Division of Health System Innovation and Research (HSIR) within the Department of Population Health Sciences at the University of Utah. Dr. Sharareh capitalizes on his expertise in systems science and GIS methods to study complex healthcare problems. Specifically, he is interested in addressing social determinants of health, including food insecurity and access to services, to reduce health disparities. Dr. Sharareh obtained his MSc (July 2015) and PhD (December 2017) in industrial and systems engineering, with a focus on health systems, from Binghamton University, NY. As a graduate student, he received scholarships from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through AcademyHealth to introduce systems science methods to health services research. In January 2018, he joined the HSIR division as a postdoctoral fellow. During his postdoc, Dr. Sharareh collaborated with community organizations including United Way of Salt Lake and the Utah Department of Health to explore food insecurity and the opioid epidemic—problems that impact vulnerable populations at a higher magnitude. Given his consistent record of high-quality research, he was recruited to continue in the HSIR division as a member of the faculty. Dr. Sharareh is serving on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee in the Department of Population Health Sciences to increase diversity through recruitment. In addition, he is a 2022-2023 Vice President's Clinical & Translational (VPCAT) Research Scholar; VPCAT is a comprehensive career development program at the University of Utah that offers mentorship and leadership training to junior faculty to transition into funded investigators.

Stephanie Si Lim, MD

Dr. Stephanie Si Lim is an assistant professor of pediatrics oncology at Kapi'olani Medical Center and University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. She graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed both her residency and fellowship training as a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her clinical and research passion is in cancer immunotherapy, specifically chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy. Here in Hawaii, one of Dr. Si Lim's most important initiative is to bring CAR T-cell therapy to the community, so that patients from Hawaii and neighboring Pacific Islands can have access to this life-saving product without having to travel thousands of miles away from their family and friends. From a translational research perspective, her current goal is to explore whether there are differences in the immuno-oncologic landscape between patients of different races and ethnicities. Knowledge gained from her collective research may lead to tailoring of effective, ethnically based immune therapies instead of the current "one size fits all" approach.

Ana Tergas, MD, MPH

Dr. Ana Tergas is an assistant professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Gynecologic Oncology and the Department of Population Science, Division of Health Equity at City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center in Duarte, CA, and an affiliate member of the Weill Cornell Medicine, Center for Research on End-of-Life Care. She went to medical school at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Chicago, and a gynecologic oncology fellowship and master's degree in public health at Johns Hopkins University. She is a physician scientist whose research focuses on health inequities among marginalized groups, particularly in end-of-life care delivery and HPV/cervical cancer screening and prevention. Dr. Tergas has worked to promote equity, social justice, anti-racism, and inclusion throughout her career. She is a dedicated mentor to high school, college, and medical students, as well as ObGyn residents and Gyn oncology fellows. She enjoys getting to know her mentees and helping them find and develop their unique passions and visions for their careers. Dr. Tergas is an active member of national professional organizations in the field of gynecologic oncology. She currently serves as the Society of Gynecologic Oncology's (SGO) Health Equity Subcommittee Chair. Previously she was one of the inaugural co-leaders of the Gynecologic Oncology Fellows Research Network, a member of the Quality and Outcomes committee, and the SGO 2022 Annual Meeting Program Committee. She was also a member of the Foundation for Women's Cancer Patient Education Committee.

Andrea Titus, PhD

Dr. Andrea Titus is an assistant professor in the Department of Population Health at NYU's Grossman School of Medicine. As a social epidemiologist, Dr. Titus focuses on the social determinants of disparities in chronic disease, including applying methodological tools from econometrics and epidemiology to examine the impacts of public policies and neighborhood environments on health. Much of her prior research has focused on tobacco control, including investigating the extent to which tobacco control policies—such as smoke-free air laws and cigarette taxes—contribute to downstream health equity. Other research interests include examining the impact of outdoor air pollution on cardiovascular and respiratory health disparities, particularly in the context of changing climate conditions. At NYU, she is a co-facilitator of a departmental working group on causal inference, as well as a co-instructor for a graduate-level course in advanced epidemiologic methods. She has previously served on the Program Committee (Health Equity Track) for the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco. Dr. Titus graduated with a BA from Brown University in religious studies, followed by a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She graduated with her PhD in epidemiological science from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, where she received the Harburg Award for Excellence in Social Epidemiology. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Population Health Science Scholars Program at the NYU School of Medicine.

Tina Tran, PharmD

Dr. Tina Tran is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Temple University School of Pharmacy. Dr. Tran's research focuses on three primary areas: (1) Implementation of innovative community-based interventions through addressing social determinants of health; (2) development of resilient and integrated health delivery systems for communicable and non-communicable disease management through health systems strengthening; and (3) development of novel medication delivery systems to improve medication adherence and health outcomes. Through transdisciplinary collaboration and research, her long-term goal is to create sustainable care delivery strategies that address both physical and social well-being of marginalized and vulnerable populations. With her practical experiences building community-based care programs for HIV and cardiovascular diseases in Kenya and Vietnam, she aims to adapt and translate research findings from these global settings to inform common health challenges in the United States. Dr. Tran received her Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and cell biology from the University of California San Diego in 2008. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of California San Francisco in 2014. She later completed two clinical pharmacy practice residencies at the University of Pittsburgh and Purdue University. Between 2017-2018, she was a Fogarty International Fellow with the Vanderbilt-Emory-Cornell-Duke Consortium and was based at the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare in Eldoret, Kenya. At Temple University School of Pharmacy, she teaches Economics of Pharmacy Practice and Social/Economic Aspects of Healthcare to first- and third-year Doctor of Pharmacy students.

Puja J. Umaretiya, MD

Dr. Puja J. Umaretiya is an instructor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, a pediatric oncologist at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorder Center, and affiliate faculty in the Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She earned an MD from Mayo Medical School in 2015 and completed pediatric residency in the Boston Combined Residency Program at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center. She subsequently completed fellowships in pediatric palliative care in the Harvard Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship Program and pediatric hematology/oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. She has pursued advanced methodologic training through a postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and will complete a master's in epidemiology through the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in fall 2022. Dr. Umaretiya's research broadly focuses on identifying and addressing social determinants of health that drive inequities experienced by children and families during childhood cancer care. She is currently completing a mixed methods study focused on the experiences of Black and Hispanic families during childhood cancer care and aims to understand parent- and clinician-perceived barriers and facilitators of research and clinical trial participation. Ultimately, she aims to enhance the well-being and receipt of goal-concordant care among historically marginalized children living with cancer and their families through the development of interventions that address social determinants of health in the clinical setting. Dr. Umaretiya currently has funding from Pedals 4 Pediatrics at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the Boston Children's Office of Faculty Development Career Development Fellowship, a Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group Pilot Award, and an ASCO Young Investigator Award.

Bukola Usidame, PhD, MPP, MPA

Dr. Bukola Usidame is an assistant professor of public health at Purdue University, West Lafayette Campus. Dr. Usidame's research interests include examining the impact of tobacco control policies on tobacco-related outcomes. Some of her current work includes the assessment of retail policies on tobacco product use and differences across race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status in the state of California. Dr. Usidame's background spans public health, public administration, and public policy. She has examined the impact of national and global policies such as point-of-sale bans in Canada, graphic warning labels on cigarette packages in Canada, and smoke-free policies in Nigeria on tobacco-related outcomes including health disparities. Some of Dr. Usidame's past and present lectures include Interdisciplinary Research Methods with a focus on African Americans and Introduction to Public Health. Dr. Usidame graduated with a BS in physiology from the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She earned her MPA from Clark University, Worcester MA, and her MPP and PhD from the University of Massachusetts, Boston MA in 2018.

Jun Wang, PhD

Dr. Jun Wang is an assistant professor at Texas A&M University. Dr. Wang's research focuses on the healthy development of youth from diverse migrant, immigrant, cultural, and racial/ethnic backgrounds in their specific sociocultural context. She pays specific attention to the manifestation and influence of culturally specific socialization processes during childhood and adolescence with the central goal of promoting inclusion and diversity in youth-centered research and practice. Dr. Wang graduated with a BS in applied psychology from Nanjing Normal University in 2006 and an MEd in developmental and educational psychology from Zhejiang University in 2008. She earned a PhD in applied developmental science from Colorado State University in 2013. Dr. Wang also worked as a postdoctoral fellow and then a research assistant professor at the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development of Tufts University from 2013 to 2017. Dr. Wang joined Texas A&M University to teach youth development courses and to conduct basic and applied youth development research. She was selected in 2019 as an ADVANCE Scholar by the Office for Diversity at Texas A&M University.

Bethany A. Wattles, PharmD, MHA

Dr. Bethany A. Wattles is a clinical research pharmacist and assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Child and Adolescent Health Research Design and Support Unit. Her research is focused on improving antibiotic prescribing to children, with a focus in the outpatient setting. Dr. Wattles has reported on antibiotic prescribing variations using Medicaid claims data and electronic health record data. These quantitative studies have consistently identified racial differences in antibiotic prescribing to children and she is now exploring additional methods to study these variations, including the Child Opportunity Index. Future efforts will be focused on mixed methods to study primary care visits and interventions to improve experiences for minority families. Dr. Wattles has received research support from a Medicaid State University Partnership Contract, the Merck Investigator Studies Program, and the Society for Infectious Diseases Pharmacists. Dr. Wattles completed her PharmD from University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy in 2014 and earned a Master of Health Administration from Western Kentucky University in 2020. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Critical Care Pharmacy Residency at Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville, KY.

Melissa Wholeben, PhD, RN, CNE, TCRN

Dr. Melissa Wholeben is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at El Paso's School of Nursing. Research interests of Dr. Wholeben include trauma mitigation, emergency preparedness, and disaster management. Her work has included the validation of trauma-informed care tools, geospatial research on intimate partner violence, and the training of healthcare professionals in trauma-informed care. Prior to becoming a nurse, Dr. Wholeben was a licensed paramedic who spent over twelve years in the EMS field. Dr. Wholeben has over sixteen years of experience as a registered nurse. She has worked extensively in the emergency department with a focus on trauma, taught trauma nursing courses for the Emergency Nurses Association, and is a member of local community organizations that educate health care professionals on trauma preventative care. In her current role as an assistant professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, Dr. Wholeben possesses expertise in clinical simulation, management, and teaching/training at the university level. In 2004, Dr. Wholeben earned a BSN from the University of Texas at El Paso. She then earned her MSN from the University of Texas at Tyler in 2007 and a PhD in nursing from New Mexico State University in 2013. In research and practice, she continues to work to enhance trauma education among health care students and professionals and improve trauma care across communities.

April Wilhelm, MD, MPH

Dr. April Wilhelm is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and the Program in Health Disparities Research at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Wilhelm's research focuses on adolescent tobacco-related health disparities and determinants of tobacco use behaviors in marginalized and underserved populations with a particular focus on refugee and immigrant populations. The ultimate goal of her research program is to develop, test, and implement multilevel interventions aimed at reducing tobacco-related health disparities among U.S. refugee and immigrant groups. Her work to date has analyzed the impacts of adolescent tobacco prevention policies, characterized determinants of behavioral health outcomes and inequities in health care access and quality among U.S. refugee and immigrant populations, and utilized and adapted implementation science frameworks to assess and refine participatory health interventions. Dr. Wilhelm completed her undergraduate training at Carleton College and then served in the U.S. Peace Corps in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. She is board certified in Family Medicine and is a graduate of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. After finishing her residency training at United Family Medicine (a federally qualified health center in St. Paul, Minnesota), she completed a T32-funded Interdisciplinary Child and Adolescent Primary Care Research Fellowship (T32) and a Master of Public Health at the University of Minnesota.

Yunyu Xiao, PhD

Dr. Yunyu Xiao is an assistant professor in the Division of Health Informatics in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Weill Cornell Medical College. Her research leverages large, longitudinal, nationally representative, complex population-based, and electronic health records datasets to understand racial/ethnic, sex, gender, socioeconomic, and other disparities in suicide and mental health, taking a life-course and multilevel perspective to explore structural, social, and individual-level factors to reduce suicide and mental health. Then, this understanding informs social/behavioral and policy interventions to reduce disparities and improve health equity. She is leading two projects that use existing data to study social determinants of health and resilience factors relevant to mental health (broadly) and suicide (specifically) among health disparity populations. Her work has been published in top-ranked journals, such as JAMA Psychiatry, JAMA Network Open, Pediatrics, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, and Journal of Affective Disorders. She is a recipient of seed funds from the Gates Foundation, the Institute of Artificial Intelligence, the Racial Justice Research Fund, the Center for Social Health & Wellbeing, and an NYU University-Wide Outstanding Dissertation Award in Public Health (1 awardee per year). She received her MPhil in social work and social administration from the University of Hong Kong and her PhD in social work from New York University.